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If large companies are allowed to use the Digital Millenium Copyright Act to its full extent, not only will monopolies proliferate, but support for their products and technologies will be increasingly hard to obtain. For example, the recent deCSS fiasco. The point of that program was not to copy DVDs, as the media claims. Copying DVDs would not only take a huge amount of hard drive space, the DVD-ROMs that could be used to 'burn' illicit copies cost much more than simply buying the real DVD. It is absurd to think that this program would be used to make copies of a DVD movie. The real point of this product was to allow open-source programs to have DVD support. To let the masses create their own DVD movie players and products. Because of the CSS encryption, DVDs could not be played under the various Linux and BSD operating systems (as well as many others) and open source projects involving DVD movies could not be started. Because of this excryption, the large companies were the only ones who could afford to make DVD players and any other DVD movie interfacing software. Now that the encryption has been broken, support for many systems other than Windows can now be created. This is only one of many areas where such laws give large corporations the edge.

If this Act is allowed to prosper, many companies (such as the RIAA and MPAA) will be able to exploit consumers for support for technology such as DVD movies and will be able to corner the market under the guise of protecting their intellectual property. Because of this Act, monopoies could grow and competition stagnate.

I urge you to reassess what has been done and think from the consumers' point of view.