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Michael Buendia
Vanderbilt University
Box 2777 Station B
Nashville, TN 37235
m.buendia@vanderbilt.edu

David O. Carson
General Counsel, Copyright GC/I&R
P.O.Box 70400
Southwest Station
Washington DC 20024
1201@loc.gov

Dear Copyright Office,

I am writing to post comments on the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. From my personal views on this issue, I believe that this Act needs to be reviewed and revised before fully becoming law.

I take for example the issues regarding Digital Versatile Discs (DVDs). These DVD videos are made so that they will only play on certain players and machines and they also cannot get copied. Also, if you purchase a DVD video from a different part of the world, it may not work either because of region codes. For the purchaser of DVD videos it is illegal for them to make copies for their own personal use. Take a person that buys a DVD movie. They can only watch it on their DVD player. They are not allowed to make a copy for their own personal use to transform it to VHS to play it on their VCR. In fact it is impossible to make a copy of the DVD movie into VHS format. That makes it so if you want to watch the same movie you own on DVD on your VCR, you have to go out and buy the same movie on VHS. It should not be this way. As the owner of the DVD you should be able to copy it for your own personal use instead of wasting your money and giving more money to the motion picture industry by buying a VHS movie.

This instance with DVD disks is also seen with the Scandinavian boy who has suit against him for developing the DeCSS software for his linux computer. DVDs do not play on linux computers. There is no software for the linux computers so he developed his own software to run them. The copyright laws prohibit this. Should this be prevented? He bought the DVDs so therefore he should be able to do what he wants with it. He should have the right to do this reverse engineering to make it work on his computer. He does not harm the motion picture industry in doing this. They should in fact be in favor for him creating this software so people with linux machines can watch and therefore buy more DVDs for their computers. Why are they pursuing this boy? This boy is in no harm to this billion-dollar industry. They will continue selling their

movies and as of now, a DVD recorder and blank DVD disks are expensive. This boy did not mean for this software to be use to pirate these movies. What the motion picture industry needs to focus on is to pursue the people that copy and resell the movies. That as in the older law is illegal and shall remain that way. Once you buy the movie you should be the owner of it and you should know your own fair use of it to suit your needs.

As a college student and hooked up to very fast internet connection speeds, downloading large movie files in .mpg, .avi, or .asf extensions is very easy. Very few people have the fast internet speed right now so downloading these files in a normal home with a 56k or 28.8k modem would take hours even days, making it unattainable to most. Even the most movies that I have seen on networks which are made from transforming DVD movies into the file extensions named above have a small frame size and when maximized have very poor quality. The movies on the networks take up around 500Megabyetes of space so a person would also have a huge hard drive to store them. This does not keep me or anyone else from buying the DVDs. If a movie is really good and you want to see it on your own big screen with good quality, you would buy the movie, not just download it from the internet.

I conclude that these laws take too much power away from the consumer buying the DVDs. The owner knows their right to fair use and unless they're making copies and selling them, they should have the right to copy or use reverse engineering for their own personal use.

Sincerely,
Michael Buendia

Sophomore Computer Engineering Student
at Vanderbilt University