

Elizabeth Blanco

My name is Elizabeth Blanco and currently I am a sophomore civil engineering student at Vanderbilt University. As one of my required courses, I am taking a computer ethics class where we study how people's interactions with computers vary and what rules/laws people should by when dealing with computer systems, including the enforcement of Section 1201 (a) (1) of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act.

After reading several of the comments and especially exploring the EFF's opinion on the matter, I have come to support the pro-freedom argument. As the law is stated and I have come to interpret it, the enforcement of any act would restrict any freedom that I as a user of copyrighted materials have had in the past. There are already copyright laws in place which restrict the use of non-copyrighted materials; permission to play materials on unauthorized devices and in which country playing copyrighted material is permitted. Is there really anything else left to restrict?

Students and professors will be affected tremendously by the restrictions that would be put in place on copyrighted materials that this code would inflict. As part of presentations, class discussions and enrichment of knowledge there are certain non-infringing activities that we need to continue performing. As for example, many have commented on the future uses of DVD's. As our technology continues to evolve, DVD's have become a more common resource as compared to VHS tapes. It is quicker, allows easier access to the information on a video that is needed for a particular discussion and adds a different route to accessing a broader range of subjects out there. Restrictions that could be placed on this technology and others similar to it will deny our right of freedom to knowledge as students and speech as law-abiding citizens.

As far as I see it, more restrictions placed on copyrighted forms of technology will negatively affect the economy of those who complain of illegal uses. People will get discouraged with the many barriers placed on different forms of technology that it will force them to take infringing actions with copyrighted material. If audio, software and hardware companies expanded the availability of copyrighted materials on different systems and countries, they would gain money instead of losing it with the black market of materials available to the public.

The enforcement of this code, in my opinion, should be waited out for the extra three-year period that is offered to the library of congress. This will add more opportunity for a different representation on the topic of copyrighted material and further technological advances. I hope that my opinions have offered a different perspective on the topic and you will consider them when making your final decision.