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CS 151
Section 1

To Whom It May Concern:

I believe, with the EFF, that the DMCA 'strongly favors the rights of copyright holders over all others, and may interfere strongly with fair use rights, the right to reverse engineer, the right to conduct cryptographic analyses, and many other rights held by individuals and by companies in other industries than information and entertainment content. The law could even thwart libraries' and museums' ability to archive information, and interfere with education and research in our schools and universities' (www.eff.org).

It is a difficult decision to make on whether or not one should support the DMCA, and on a private level it does not seem to benefit the common person at all. The DMCA seems to hold big business at a higher level than the consumer does, but that does not seem logical when the consumer is the one that should matter in all business-society relationships. In response to the concern with the DVD players – I agree that decryption should be allowed because decryption is necessary to view the content of the DVD. When a person purchases a DVD they should be allowed to do whatever they choose with it, within the area of their own home (or personal computer).

I feel that the Internet provides the common person with a huge arena of new technology, and this technology has its own regulations. The Internet is shared by many nations and for the U.S. to enforce regulations on it would be extremely asinine because the regulations would not be able to be enforced in other countries; therefore, anyone who would want to break these regulations could merely do so in another country.

It is also important to note that no amount of regulations will ever stop people from duplicating digital media. When files are made in digital form they are done for a reason, namely to be able to achieve an exact replica. Companies that are intending on making a profit from digital software need to acknowledge that regulating the public's use of their software will make each program less consumer savvy. Once the businesses realize that their companies have a different playing field they will understand that they cannot apply normal business regulations to the digital realm.

In conclusion, I would like to note that the prohibition of access to certain forms of digital technology would be of great disadvantage to the new technology. These new regulations should only be enforced if they affect something that is bad for society, but if there is a positive aspect on the situation then it should not be prohibited. Once the consumer has purchased the product (software) it should be his/her business what is done with it.

Thank you –

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