

Price Wilson

Extra Credit

Though I too would like to view free DVD's at my will, I unfortunately have to side with the Motion Picture Companies. They are the ones who put money into making movies, and therefore they should be the ones to reap the benefits. Though the DMCA might infringe on some areas of free speech, the owners of the movie have a right to property which in my opinion seriously outweighs the free speech argument. The movies are theirs and if one wants to view them they should have to pay the asking price. The DMCA affords these companies that right. Therefore, I support most of the DMCA.

The only part I have a problem with is the creation of a system that would disable all DVD's including those which are meant to be free. These include non-profit DVDs and educational ones in which the creator intends for the user to view free of charge. This however, is my main hindrance to the DMCA.

The EFF argues against the DMCA. However, I disagree with most of their arguments. They believe that the viewing of DVDs falls under fair use which is legal under United States law. They argue that if the user was charged by the motion picture companies for a machine with which to view their DVDs that the user would be victimized by a monopoly. Unfortunately, I disagree with these assertions. First, free viewing of DVDs should not be considered fair use because one is viewing one's work for free without their permission. I don't understand their point here. As I read it, it is as if they believe that one should not be charged to watch a movie in a theater. What is the difference between that and viewing a DVD for free? Furthermore, if free DVD viewing is accorded, then why would a company ever make a movie if any benefits they might

receive would be stolen by the Internet. Also, I disagree with their argument about a monopoly. A monopoly is when one company dominates an industry. This of course would be multiple companies and would therefore negate the monopoly argument. Therefore, I am against the EFF's position and with the noted exceptions, agree with the DMCA.