

Just because something *could* be used in an illegal manner, doesn't make it illegal. There countless examples of this, OpenDVD being just one of them. People have been capable of recording videos and albums onto VHS tapes and audio cassette tapes for years. Yet, what a suprise, people still pay for the official copy. Step aside cynics, the world does believe in compensating artists for their work. Despite the incredibly easy reproduction of these media forms, the associated entertainment industries reap in billions of dollars in profits each year. DVD will be no different. If anything, DVD is even less accessible. Consumer DVD recorders are far beyond the horizon, and any storage method in the foreseeable future would result in the abuser spending MORE money for a copy of the tape. At 4 or 5 gigs per video, each video would cost a pirate:
Assumed 200\$ for a 20 gig hard drive, 5 gigs per digital video,
 $(5 / 20) * 200 = 50\$$ per movie.

Compared to 10-15\$ to buy the official DVD, this is somehow a threat? Only an idiot would pirate DVDs.

There are many benefits to allowing reverse engineering of this software. Free DVD players for consumers, since there are plenty of people willing to do the work without compensation. Portability: most of the reasoning behind this particular reverse engineer was to allow DVDs to play under an operating system OTHER than Windows. Reverse engineering promotes competition in all markets. Meanwhile DVDs remain just as secure as they ever were, and the entertainment industry continues pulling in just as much, if not more profit than ever before.

Other important points:

The DVD encryption wasn't very effective to start with. It was no suprise when the encryption was reverse engineered.

Circumvention is necessary in order to gain fair use priviledges of the copyrighted work without using licensed players. The absolute denial of fair use priviledges without a license (or licensed player) from the DVD consortium should not be supported by law. Nowhere in the DMCA does it restrict fair use priviledges explicitly in this way.

Please take the public's view on this issue into consideration over the opinion of a few people in high places.

Sincerely,

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