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Certain measures need to be taken to protect the intellectual property rights of the creative artists, the consumers, and the industry. The Digital Millennium Copyright Act has attempted to protect these rights, but is failing to protect the rights of the consumer.

Large corporations are able to encrypt creative works and claim that this encryption exists purely for copyright purposes. The DMCA prevents an individual that has legally purchased a creative work from reverse engineering the encryption scheme and disseminating it. Therefore, a company could create an encryption scheme that is for the sole purpose of controlling the media that the people have purchased, and preventing them from copying their media for archival purposes.

The DMCA has enabled one company, in particular, to exploit the copyright laws included in the document, and control the creative works that their customers legally purchase. The Motion Picture Association of America has made it impossible for their customers to buy a DVD disc in one region and play it on a DVD player purchased in another. For instance, If you visit France and see a movie that you really like and decide to buy it, you will be very disappointed when you bring it back to the US, because it will not play on your DVD player there.

Also, the MPAA controls what Operating System their customers may view their legally purchased DVD discs on. The only Operating Systems currently supported are Microsoft Windows, and Apple's MacOS. A customer will not be able to play a DVD movie on one of the alternate Operating Systems, such as GNU/Linux, FreeBSD, Solaris, or any of the other various Unices.

The DMCA enables companies like the MPAA to file numerous lawsuits against their customers, because they have broken the encryption on DVD discs. The DMCA does specifically state that it is legal to reverse engineer an encryption scheme for the means of interoperability, but because this encryption scheme appears to exist as copyright protection, the MPAA will win these law suits.

Some of the fundamentals of the DMCA are not bad ideas. However, I am forced to question the integrity of these laws when a corporation is able to blur the line between copy protection and intellectual property control. I think that some of the laws in the DMCA should be reconsidered, especially the laws that prevent a legal customer from reverse engineering encryption algorithms that exist on media that they purchased.