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To: David O. Carson, General Counsel  
Copyright GC/I&R  
P.O. Box 70400  
Southwest Station, Washington, DC 20024

Re: DMCA and DVD/DeCSS

Hi,

I hope I can make a difference tough I recognize how small a voice I have in the decision making process in this country.

Though I am not 100% knowledgeable about the above issues, what I'm thinking is, every time anything 'never done before' has been accomplished, the question arises in some people, "How'd he do that?" To keep it simple, That is why we have such a diverse community where innovation thrives.

Intellectually many people can arrive at the same thought at the same time. And they don't have to know one another to do so. While reading and article or listening to a sound, a contraption, or even the quiet, Must be careful someone may have coined the phrase I was about to use ... you would then require me to pay them for using it, right? How ridiculous you say yet the above bills, issues would likewise stymie people's ability to use knowledge simply because someone else sent it to a patent or copyright office first.

Am I on point?

When I discover how something was done, I can duplicate it but more importantly, I can adapt it for uses perhaps not even imagined by the original certifier. I mean that's where innovation begins. However, if regulations say, because I did not come up with a concept, on paper submitted to a patent or copyright office, first, then I am barred from utilizing, modifying or improving upon any idea which happens to have been registered, that would severely hamper my thought processes.

They maybe newer and more powerful operating systems, browsers, systems and the like, they will be available to consumers of various taste and in competitive fashion but, only,

if the government doesn't make it illegal to use ones knowledge toward that which is already in existence.

I can't explain my point any clearer so I'll sign off now.

Geoffrey A. Jones, Proprietor