

1789 SW Harvey Way
Aloha, OR 97006
503-591-5316

General Counsel Copyright Office
Washington, DC

**Re: Exemptions to Prohibition on Circumvention of Copyright Protection Systems
for Access Control Technologies**

Dear Sir:

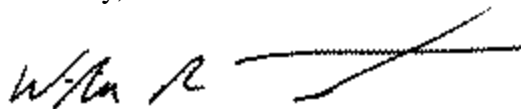
I am writing you this letter to support adding exemptions to the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. The current DMCA restrictions on circumventing access control mechanisms are directly in conflict with doctrine of fair use and are thus directly harmful to the public at large. They also interfere with the development of useful and legitimate computer software (one of the "arts and sciences" the copyright and patent clause in the constitution was designed to promote).

My own situation is a good example. A few months ago, I purchased a new computer on which to run the FreeBSD operating system (the OS I choose to use whenever possible). Had I purchased a computer with a DVD drive as I had considered doing, I would have shortly discovered that I would be unable to use the DVD drive in my computer to play DVD's for which I had paid. In short, the computer hardware I had purchased would have been unusable by me simply because of my choice of operating system.

Recently, software to permit play of DVD's under operating systems like FreeBSD and Linux has been made public. The DVD Copy Control Association and the Motion Picture Producers Association have responded by filing numerous lawsuits against the distributors of this software. The actions of these entertainment trusts are, in my view, a direct attempt to prevent people like me from using materials we legitimately own.

I encourage you to seriously consider how the prohibition against a person decoding materials they have purchased harms legitimate users, stifles development in the art of computer software, and drastically curtails fair use.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. R. Trost', followed by a long horizontal line that extends to the right and then curves slightly upwards.

William R. Trost

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