SPC. John W. O'Brien III (MAARNG)
201 Grinnell st.
New Bedford, MA. 02740
(508)996-1603
jwob3@efortress.com

1201@loc.gov
David O. Carson, General Counsel
Copyright GC/I&R
P.O. Box 70400
Southwest Station, Washington, DC 20024

To whom it may concern,
I am writing in response to the call for comments on the DMCA, and the DVD/DeCSS
issue.
I am a student studying to become an electrical engineer, I served for 6 years in the MA
national guard, and am a veteran having served in Bosnia in '97-'98.
I have also been called a "hacker."

I own a DVD drive for one of my computers which I use to watch movies I have
purchased legally. I am outraged that my rights to view my movies, using whatever
operating system I choose are being threatened. I do not wish to use microsoft products, I
choose to use Linux, a free operating system.
Linux was created by "hackers" for their own use, and has now become a viable
alternative for people who do not wish to support microsoft's desktop monopoly.

What does this have to do with DeCSS?
DeCSS was written to allow "hackers" the ability to write DVD player applications for
use under linux.
The hardware vendors who produce DVD drives have no interest, yet, in developing
versions of their commercial DVD playing software for the Linux "community" so we
have taken it upon ourselves to create our own software.

The notion that DeCSS is going to be used to pirate movies is absurd.
It would be easier, and far more practical for a person to buy a DVD "burner" and copy
the DVDs bit-for-bit to a blank disc.
No decryption is necessary for this because an exact copy of the disc is made.
Also, the size of the decrypted movie files is so large as to make them impossible to mass
repoduce and copy from the internet.
For example, when I first saw the DeCSS program, I was curious, so I popped my
"Trainspotting" DVD into my drive, and decoded one of the video files, the file was just
under 10 minutes worth of the movie, the quality was poor to say the least, and that 10
minutes took up over 700Megabytes of space on my harddrive!

I have a 56k modem, I've downloaded free CD images of Linux distributions, files that

are 650Meg in size, and it took DAYS to download that one file. If the average movie is, say, 1.5 hours - that's 90 minutes.
That's 9 * 700Meg for about 6.3Gigabytes of information.
That much information... which is contained on one DVD, would take a month, if not more to download via 56k modem.

I'd rather pay the 15-20 bucks for the movie than tie up my computer for a month.

This law is absurd, the lawsuit filed against the creators and distributors of DeCSS is even more absurd.
In my opinion, it is an attempt by the movie industry to control WHO is allowed to make players to watch their movies.
It's in the language of their case, and it goes against everything that I believe in.
I've fought for the freedom of people eight thousand miles away in Bosnia, rest assured I'm going to fight for my own freedom, and that of my fellow "hackers."

Our goal is not world domination, like the MPA and microsoft.
Our goal is to live in a truly free society, where the exchange of information is not illegal, and where people have the right to choose what programs go on their computers.

Thank you for your time,

SPC. John W. O'Brien III