

Dear Congress representative(s):

My name is Justin M Ward, I am an 18 year old college student from New York City, currently going to school at the University of Rochester in upstate New York.

My permanent, home address (where I'm registered to vote, etc) is:

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and my email address, regardless of where I am or what time of year it is, is justin@yossman.net

I have included the above information because I am told that I should do so when sending email to Congress.

At any rate.

I wish to relate how I feel regarding the DMCA and this whole DVD and DeCSS thing.

I'm not a lawyer. I'm not even an expert on law. I readily acknowledge this. But so far as I can tell, the MPAA has made the claim that DeCSS, the program which evades the digital encryption of DVD, breaks some law which restricts people from evading electronic devices meant to protect copyrights.

or something like that.

but here's the thing. i can record the encrypted stuff on a DVD and copy it -- still encrypted -- and later on write it to another DVD -- still encrypted -- and have a perfect duplicate. in other words, the encryption does not stop me from making (legal or illegal) copies of the disc.

all that the encryption does is stop me from *playing*, not copying, the DVD. In order to play the DVD, I need to have a player that the MPAA has approved. Now. Quite simply. This is bogus.

Let us take, for example, the issue of a DVD that has actually been copied -- legally copied -- as a personal backup, or some other situation in which I have made a legal copy of a DVD which I legally purchased. But, because the blank DVD onto which I would put the copy costs nearly \$50, I keep it as a file on my computer, and would like to play this computer file. The MPAA says I can't. Why not? I have the right to view that movie, that I paid for.. It's a legal copy.. why not?

Here is another example. I own a PC (ie, non-mac) computer. However, I do not use Windows. That's right.. I have a modern, state-of-the-art (or thereabouts) Pentium-based computer. Without Windows. Can I play my legally purchased DVD in my legally purchased DVD drive? No. No I cannot. Why? Because the only player programs that the MPAA has authorized by giving proper decryption capabilities are written for Windows. Not Linux, not BeOS, not Joe's new operating system that does nothing but play DVDs. Only Windows. And that's not fair. I have the right to view my DVD any way I want. That's what DeCSS is for.

DeCSS does not break any laws. DeCSS just decrypts the DVD so that people can view it. The same as the viewer programs that the MPAA authorizes.

Please... vote against the DMCA and other acts which would stop people from freely watching DVDs. This isn't about piracy, it's about freedom. Piracy has always been possible, as I explained early. While piracy ought to be stopped, outlawing decryption will not stop piracy, it will only stop my freedom.

Thank you

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