

My comments on the "Exemption to Prohibition on Circumvention of Copyright Protection Systems for Access Control Technologies."

One good example is the DeCSS court cases of recent times. The decryption software is being used for system compatibility. Only device drivers for the Windows Operating system is provided. The DeCSS code had been developed to allow people to use DVDs under the Linux operating system. Linux competes with Windows, and operating system that the Department of Justice determined is a monopoly.

Despite the MPAA complaints, DeCSS does not aid in making infringing copies. The most efficient way to make an infringing copy is to perform a bit by bit duplication of the media, not requiring any reverse engineering or decryption.

Reverse engineering allows people to learn and build compatible systems.

Back when VCRs became popular, the MPAA claimed without copy protection and taxes on blank tapes, the film/TV/movie industry would go bankrupt because of VCRs and illegal copies. Now most of the US population have VCRs and there is a video rental store in every neighborhood. VCRs are legal.

In the early 80s many companies had copy protection in place. They claimed that if the protection was removed, they would all become bankrupt. Today, when there is very little copy protection, software companies are more successful than ever.

William Silverstein
<http://www.sorehands.com>