

Matthew Duing
5154 Ridge Drive
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15236
2/17/00
DMCA Comment

Dear Sirs,

I would like to comment on the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. I, in no way, condone theft or piracy, but the DMCA's regulations on access control are too extensive. It limits the ability of the user to understand the inner workings of a product he or she legally purchased. In the case of DVD software, a lawsuit by the MPAA prohibits the distribution of a DVD player for the Linux operating system. Linux is not supported by a corporate entity, yet it is currently the fastest growing operating system on the market. No DVD players are currently available for Linux. The MPAA states that the player, DeCSS, is a piracy tool. This is not true. DVD pirating was possible months before this software was released. Also, pirating these discs is hardly profitable. In fact, it cost more to pirate a DVD than to purchase it legally. It also prohibits the making of "fair use" copies.

Reverse engineering is an important step in technological development. This is freedom both corporations and hobbyists deserve to have.