

COMMENT DMCA

By:  
Ed Bianchi

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RE: Exemption to Prohibition on Circumvention of Copyright Protection  
Systems for Access Control Technologies

To the Copyright Office:

I am writing to you today to share my thoughts on the Exemption to Prohibition on Circumvention of Copyright Protection Systems for Access Control Technologies.

This addition to the copyright laws prohibits fair use in that someone who has legally purchased a copy of a copyrighted work may in some circumstances not be able to view that work because of the limitations of their equipment.

As an example in another area, I own several hundred legally purchased copies of books, all of which are written in English. Say I now manage to adopt a Russian child. To this child, all of my books are encrypted, though they can certainly legally look through them and make copies for their own, non-commercial use. Now, because I am a computer programmer, I manage to write some translation software that allows me to scan the book and translate it from English to Russian. Now my child can read my legally purchased copies. Note that I have no intention of selling or distributing those copies, as I realize that would be a copyright infringement. However, I can give away the software I developed so that other Russian speaking owners of English books may view their legally purchased copyrighted works.

I see no difference between this and DeCSS. DeCSS is only for use in viewing a legally purchased copy of a work, a work that was previously not viewable to the owner of the work. It is not designed for distribution of that work, and has no commercial use whatsoever.

Please do not allow our constitutionally provided freedoms to be trodden on simply because a money laden lobbying effort managed to get Congress to write a law; congress writes many laws, and many of them, like this one, violate our rights as citizens.

Thank you for listening.  
Ed Bianchi