

Reply Comment

From: Eli Snyder (snydere@ucsub.colorado.edu)

To whom it may concern,

I am writing you regarding your request for comments about the DMCA, specifically, the provision prohibiting the circumvention of copy protection.

Throughout its history, the protection of copyright has been intended as an incentive to creativity. The potentially restrictive and detrimental aspects of copyright protection have always been tempered by the doctrine of fair use. However, this provision of the DMCA goes far beyond the original intent of copyright, and severely compromises the doctrine of fair use. Copy protection technology does not distinguish between illegal copying and fair use. Thus the prohibition on circumvention of copy protection technology prevents all forms of copying, including those which would previously have been considered fair use, such as the creation of backups and the excerpting of passages of text.

The DMCA is in direct contradiction of the original intent of copyright. I strongly urge you to do everything possible to preserve the doctrine of fair use.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Eli Snyder