

20-Nov-2002:
From Christopher Longmire.
To the Librarian of Congress

Class of works to be protected:

Musical, literary and cinematographical works in digital formats.

Brief Summary:

According to the way that I understand the DMCA, the DMCA would make it illegal to make copies of Digitalized materials even for private use.

I would like to give an example of copying for personal use and a few common ways that this private is implemented that I feel should be protected:

Purpose of copying: Making copies of digitalized works for archival and backup purposes.

Uses of the copies:

Back-up: Often the medium upon which digitalized products are shipped is of low quality, regular use of the medium often leads to deterioration of the medium making it either unusable or making the use of the product less enjoyable than was planned. By archiving the product, the information therein can be used/enjoyed without the risk of further damage to the original medium. It is common knowledge the well cared for LP's last much longer than music CD's.

Personal use over home-networks: According to the DMCA it would be illegal to make copies of the protected works no matter what the intended use. If I want to enjoy a music file, that is protected, through my PC, by following the DMCA I would have to block my CD-ROM to use the file. If I could archive the files, I would still have access to all of the functions that the PC allows, and be able to enjoy the music/film etc.

I am a US citizen an a registered voter, currently living in Germany, living outside of the US does not relieve me from my responsibility to voice my concerns when I feel that the rights of US citizens are being infringed upon.

Thank you for this forum in which I can raise my voice and be heard (read).

Christopher Longmire