

To Whom It May Concern:

The EFF's argument against the copyright protection laws for DVD's are based on fact and are legitimate points. However, some of their arguments are outweighed by the fact that companies are losing billions of dollars to pirated media. While this is true, other points made in the article are a clear violation to societies right to freedom of information. Overall, the new protective measures are a necessary addition to the current copyright laws.

The first point on the CSS code to prevent DVD's from being viewed on unauthorized machines is clearly an attempt by the DVD producers to control the market unfairly. They can limit the type of viewing devices and the functionality of the devices. The eight major movie companies are also in the wrong when they decided to sue web sites that posted software to bypass these CSS protections. The fact that these web sites simply posted programs capable of breaking the CSS protection is not a crime.

The use of regional codes by DVD producers is another example of an unfair use of their power. The ability to prevent one regional market's DVD media from playing in another region is preventing the consumer from using his property legally. By moving from region to another, any new DVD's that are purchased will require a separate player.

One example of an unfair statement made by the EFF, concerns the use of coded information on DVD's. The EFF's claim is that consumers will not be able to make backup copies of their DVD's. This is true, but it is necessary to prevent the mass copying and reselling of DVD's on the black market. The information needs to be protected even if this prevents the production of legal backups.

Another EFF claim is that the new law will hurt the educational, research, and news reporting services in America. They claim that these institutions will be hindered

by not being able to copy the information on a DVD. This is simply not true due to the fact that most information packaged and sold on DVD's is also available in other forms of media that can be copied.

The new law proposed by Congress is an imperfect solution to a complex problem that technology has created. The ideal solution is far from being realized. This copyright law is a necessary step towards the prevention of copyright infringement. Until better solutions can be thought of that better serve both the producer and consumer, the imperfect solutions need to be implemented. This will help encourage the continued production of DVD media and also stimulate the creation of better solutions that can be implemented in the future.

Sincerely,

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