From:
To: FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty

Subject: Re: Comments on the Joint Strategic Plan

Date: Monday, March 15, 2010 6:17:24 PM

Victoria Espinel
Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator
Office of Management & Budget
Executive Office of the President
Filed via email

Dear Ms. Espinel:

All strategic plans for enforcement of intellectual property should measure all of the costs & benefits involved. Enforcement has costs to citizens & consumers, especially when legal uses of copyrighted works can be mistaken for infringement. I believe that backing up digital works is important to the preservation of the media. I have quite a few out of print works that, if ruined, would be a dying breed.

The Joint Strategic Plan should carefully examine the basis for claims of losses due to infringement, & measure credible accounts of those losses against all of the consequences of proposed enforcement measures, good & bad.

Measures like cutting off Internet access in response to alleged copyright infringement would do more harm than good. Internet connections are not merely entertainment or luxuries; they provide vital communication links, often including basic phone service. This is even more clearly unfair in cases where users will be falsely or mistakenly accused.

Internet service providers should not be required or asked to violate users' privacy in the name of copyright enforcement beyond the scope of the law. Efforts to require or recommend that ISPs inspect users' communications should not be part of the Joint Strategic Plan.

The anti-circumvention provisions of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act can criminalize users who are simply trying to make legal uses of the media they have bought. Breaking digital locks on media should not be a crime unless they are being broken for illegal purposes. The government should not spend its resources targeting circumventions for legitimate purposes.

Any plans or agreements on IP enforcement, like the proposed Anti Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) should be made open & transparent. In dealing with questions of copyright & the Internet, too much is at stake for our country's laws & policies to be made out of the public eye.

Sincerely,

Tom & Rachael Bradshaw