

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Copyright balance
Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2010 3:58:12 PM

Re: Comments on the Joint Strategic Plan

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

Dear Ms. Espinel:

I appreciate an opportunity to provide my comments on the enforcement of copyright in the United States.

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

Measures like cutting off Internet access in response to alleged copyright infringement can 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 are falsely or mistakenly accused. (Some countries are moving to declare internet access as a human "right", clearly recognizing how critical being informed and involved in public discourse is.)

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. We do not require such measures for the postal service or for the telephony common carriers; data is just a variant means of communication.

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 and transparent. In dealing with questions of copyright and the Internet, too much is at stake for our country's laws and policies to be made out of the public eye. The cloak which has been kept over these discussions to date leave a sense of totalitarianism and uninformed citizenry, which have no place in the United States.

Sincerely,

Alan D. Gant, Ph.D.



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