

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)  
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Ask people nicely not to steal, rather than using overly threatening ,legalistic terms and commercial/business jargon. I think most people are basically honest. I know that I am and most of my friends are. I'm 43 years old. When I was in college, did I copy a few cassette tapes from friends? Yes. But I've also bought thousands of dollars worth of music, movies and software. Now that I'm an adult, I buy all my content. I'm very technically savvy and could certainly download bittorrents of anything I'd like to get my hands on. But I don't. Because I believe artists, programmers and publishers deserve to get paid for their work.

I am, however, cheesed off by bad DRM and DVDs that make me sit through FBI warnings (and unwanted trailers, btw) as if I somehow forgot that copying stuff is illegal. I bought a whole bunch of eBooks from Mobipocket over the years. My new Droid phone can't read DRM mobi files. So now I can't read 30-or-so books I bought. Quite a pain.

People are good on the whole. If you treat them like honest people, they'll behave as such. Treat us like crooks and we're more likely to become them. Get rid of the DRM, get rid of the faux-scary FBI warnings and just put a small statement up front that says, "Good people spent time creating this material. Please don't steal it."

You can't stop the real digital pirates. And many of them are doing it just for the lolz. Treat the rest of us like people, please.

-- Andy Havens  
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