From:
To: FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty

Subject: Comment for the Joint Strategic Plan

Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 4:09:04 PM

I am writing with several comments, as requested.

As far as I can tell, it isn't "intellectual property violations" that are hurting the economy, it's "intellectual property". Copyrights, patents, and so on discourage innovation by making it illegal for people to build on most existing work. In the case of copyrights, these monopolies last many decades after those responsible for the original works are dead. There is absolutely no possible justification for that. I think "intellectual property" law needs to elliminated or substantially reformed and reduced, but failing that, ceasing to enforce it would be a step in the right direction. Don't punish people for sharing, tinkering, and increasing the total of human knowledge!

Ben Miller-Jacobson