

[REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2010 11:55 AM
To: FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty
Subject: Copyright laws should protect users, not criminalize them

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Please take a long look at the vendor-driven and Draconian copyright bills being promoted by large lobbying groups.

Yes, copyright laws should be designed to protect holders of intellectual property from those who would steal this information to make a profit. For example, counterfeiters on the Pacific rim wholesale-duplicating Microsoft Windows CDs to sell as legal copies take a substantial slice of the profit from that company and should be pursued and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

However, grandmothers who's grandchildren visit for a weekend and who download a song or two illegally off the internet should not be placed in the same category. Likewise, cable users who download a TV show or movie that already appear on their cable subscriptions but who simply want to time-shift their watching habits should not be lumped into the same category as criminal enterprises, along with the same penalties.

There should be some sanity in these laws, not a rush to judgement that all who use the internet to provide personal entertainment are thieves.

Criminals are not deterred from these policies. Only law-abiding citizens are harmed.

Respectfully,

Harry St.Ours