

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty
Subject: Re: Comments on the Joint Strategic Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Copyright was never intended to protect original works indefinitely, and some of our most treasured creations are derivations from the creative works of others. (Walt Disney did not invent the stories of Sleeping Beauty, Snow White, or Cinderella, for example)

Individuals and Corporations wishing to maintain control of their creations indefinitely are exercising creative stagnation, which does not progress our society forwards. Everyone is entitled to reap the benefits of their creative work, of course, but they should also still be alive when others are able to extend that work into new and exciting directions & media.

Below is the boilerplate from the website that alerted me to this issue. I stand behind it.

Aaron

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

Dear Ms. Espinel:

Any strategic plans for enforcement of intellectual property should measure all of the costs and benefits involved. Enforcement has its own costs to citizens and consumers, especially when legal uses of copyrighted works can be mistaken for infringement.

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.

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 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.

Sincerely,