

From: [REDACTED]
To: FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty
Subject: Copyright Law Suggestions
Date: Sunday, February 28, 2010 9:58:37 PM

The copyright laws in this country are already outrageous and I will not support any law that wishes to add additional enforcement, or expansion of copyright laws. I urge you to seek assistance from parties on both sides of the issue, including the United States Pirate Party.

In regards to part one, I feel that any alleged losses due to the sharing of files online are negligible in comparison to the record gains from the increase of popularity, free advertisement, and additional sales. There are numerous artists who have gained profit and popularity despite, and even in thanks, online file sharing, including Eminem and Nine Inch Nails. I am of the believe the largest negative impact of piracy stems from the copyright industries attempting to enforce outdated laws specifically by pursuing costly legal battles where the tax payers foot the bill. I would like to point you to this Dutch government report where their study concluded piracy in fact had a positive impact on their economy http://www.tno.nl/content.cfm?context=markten&content=publicatie&laag1=182&laag2=1&item_id=473. Further I would like to point to a study that concluded that those who pirate are about 10 times more likely to purchase music than those who don't indicating piracy's positive impact. <http://www.michaelgeist.ca/content/view/2347/125/> To this date I have yet to see any study where copyright infringement has had any effect on the public health and safety except for the health of those involved in the costly legal battles mentioned above.

Concerning part two, I feel that the government should update its objectives and start looking for ways to work with businesses to adopt a better model that includes the free sharing of ideas (which is what this country is founded on). If that is not possible, then I request that you look for forms of enforcement that do not go against the consumer, and the rights of consumers, such as, but not only, the ability to backup media that you already own. I support authors' rights to own their content, but I also want this to be done in a way that does not impede my ability to use the content that I own in a way of my choosing. I further recommend outlawing suing and claiming statutory damages that far exceed any real damages that caused to the owner of the copyright. Instead I propose that when copyright industries sue for damages they must prove what damages they have suffered. For instance if 1000 people pirate a song and copyright industries prove 10% would have bought it otherwise than the total damages claimed should be number of lost sales*cost per sale in this example 100*\$1 or \$100. Further each party should be responsible for its own legal costs. In addition, any further intellectual property enforcement would certainly be a dire violation of my privacy.

Thank you for your time,

The views expressed in this E-mail are the oppinions of the author only and do not reflect the Air Force, The United States Government or any of their affiliates or organizations.

//Signed//
Cadet Third Class Kody Wilson
Cadet Squadron 34
United States Air Force Academy