

Fritz Attaway of the MPAA is quoted as saying "the marketplace requires the ability to time-shift."

I think it's obvious that the market is not free and competitive, but rather, tending toward monopoly. It's not like we can switch cable providers, or get the same movie from a different studio. Given the economic realities, MPAA members will have little incentive \*not\* to use copy protection. They give every indication of wanting to use copy protection whenever possible.

It's also obvious that "free riders" of digital content do not make the copyright holders worse off. VCRs -- far from killing the movie industry -- created a boom. More money was spent consuming film, even while more film was consumed without paying.

With respect to using copy protection to prevent counterfeiting and rebroadcast, I'd say the MPAA has already proved that this is not their true concern: the encryption on DVDs was purposefully weak. It is not at all an attempt to prevent outlaws from redistributing material, but rather only to thwart flexible personal use.

Since the corporations in this instance cannot agree, I urge you to decide this issue in favor of the public good, which is to promote flexible use of content, and not force manufacturers to build copy protection schemes into their hardware.

Thank you for your attention,

John Robert Boynton