

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

It would prohibit my viewing the "Late Show With David Letterman" at a reasonable hour, as well as prohibiting my (yet to exist- but planned) child from viewing their favorite cartoon later after an early Saturday outing.

Also, since I don't own a DTV set, what happens if I don't happen to have the 500 dollars (or whatever) to go out and buy the new TV set? I lose the ability to watch TV? That is precisely what will happen to many poorer americans.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices? Most likely. Even a well-implemented copy protection system will no doubt cause havoc with related systems' ability to properly handle the data. Also, the signal will likely consume higher amounts of bandwidth, thereby reducing overall performance on the systems.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

If the 'flag' is encoding of some form, or a signal overlay, then YES it would. The older equipment would at the very least see a deterioration of quality, and at worst be rendered non-functional.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

In one sense, yes. The limit will be that developers must then work \*within\* the constraints of the 'flag' system, and abandon other avenues of progress.

And in another sense, no. Because as soon as a system such as this is implemented, and even beforehand, many people will be working on technology to 'burn the flag'.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

No offense, but \*DUH\*!

Yes, it will. This is due to the necessity that the manufacturers redesign and retool to meet the new standard. It is basic economics: they will pass their increased costs to the consumer.

Other Comments:

Specifically with regards to "over-the-air" T.V.:

If it provided free of charge in the homes of millions of americans, how can any legal 'claim' be made on that which has been given away?

Specifically with regards to "cable" T.V.:

Consumers are paying for the programming. Perhaps the rights of the consumer of the programming have been forgotten in this process - the new 'flag' will deny many paying consumers the rights that they currently possess regarding 'personal-use' copying.

Additionally, I would like to point out the futility of implementing this

type of technology-based copy protection. Any and all similar methods previously deployed in other media have been defeated by the public, either through deliberate evasion (via other technological means) or through abandonment of the medium. It is an incredible waste of taxpayers' money to pursue this further.