

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?

I strongly believe that it will. I have yet to see a protective security technology that allows one to make a single, full-fuctional copy, but yet not make another copy after that.

Also, I suspect that any replacement for 'fair use' lost would be heavily proprietary, restrictive, and quite possibly, expensive. As a consumer, I refuse to pay \$50 (or \$40, or \$30.....) for something that costs \$5 right now.

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?

Yes. New devices can -easily- be constructed that filter on the presence of that broadcast flag. Current technology does not allow it, but that will change once the flag is in place, because the content producers will certainly pay for it.

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?

Yes, indirectly. One possibility is that the broadcasting flag might be totally incompatible with a few choice devices, for "technical" reasons.

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

Most definately.

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

Manufacturers would certainly raise prices to cover the mandated technology.

Other Comments:

It is crucial to remember that regulation and technology, when combined with market effect, can have unforeseen consequences. Laws can be broken indirectly; buried in a chip that consumers, and regulators, would not comprehend.