

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?

Yes. Think about this: if this were done for desktop publishing technology because the book and newspaper industry lobbied for it, we'd have lost a multi-billion dollar industry. Why can't I cut and paste a good clip from a favorite show and send it to others? It'd be good for the show, for the culture and for the business. Don't limit innovation, encourage it.

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? The point is that sharing is good for the ecology of content and society. To not be able to share - like when I give a book to someone, or a CD so they can listen to it - means that the word of mouth for content dies, and artists lose.

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. Try to use any old version of Windows with new applications.

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

Of course. Can you say early lockdown?

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

Innovation costs.

Other Comments:

Please stop assuming that all consumers are criminals. And that piracy is bad for artists. In fact, piracy often pushes "marginal" content into the mainstream, as does widespread word of mouth. I now pay more than \$100 a month for cable TV. I would pay more if I could cut and paste video and make (fair use) versions of it for creative expression. It's crazy to lock down innovation and creativity in a black box controlled by the content industry. It's in fact the worst thing one could do for those very industries. Again, imagine if we applied these same rules to text on the internet? Why is video different?