

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 would ask if the 'public' is best served by this 'broadcast flag' restriction... or is it more likely a special interest group that benefits. It is the public which 'should' be the benefactor of an FCC ruling.

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? Advocates of this digital flag are not in a position to say what degree of interference that the flag will introduce in a •home digital network•. They can assume what components, protocols, and function a •home digital network• has~ but since what •I• put in my home is my prerogative, not theirs~ only •I• (the public) will be in a position to ascertain the degree of •interference• this flag will introduce.

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?

~ again I mention that the proponents of this digital flag have no idea what •I• have in the way of home equipment nor do they know how I use it. They are not in a position to say the their proposed use of the flag will not •limit• my use of my equipment.

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

You know what promotes •development of future equipment (technology)?•~ the free enterprise system and the competitive spirit that drives it. The broadcast flag approach smacks of a •closed system• rather than an open one. Having open access to the technology will spawn innovative spin-offs of both concepts and technologies.

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

A broadcast flag is a digital •key• or filter~ it not an inherent part of a DTV design~ it is, therefore, an proposed add-on circuit which will have to be integrated into the DTV design to be implemented. Of course there will be a cost impact.. how else do you expect to recover design and component costs~ of course, they will most likely not •itemize• the cost so that you will be able to identify which of the \$•s were responsible for the •digital flag• intrusion~. But the public will be expected to pay the burden of the increase costs never the less.

Other Comments:

Gentlemen~ what would your gut reaction be if a special interest group proposed that they be allowed to (with your blessings) introduce •digital flag• technology and •intent• in all existing RF receiver technology. Somehow the thought of •their• digital switch controlling my AM radio reception~ or FM radio reception~ or VLF or UHF reception somehow does not sit right~ why should DTV be an exception?? Remember the old •Outer Limits• show?~ •..we will control the horizontal~ we will control the vertical...~ let•s not go there.