

Mandating copy protection (or any inhibiting feature for that matter) into technology is counter to innovation, denies the fair use of technology and media by consumers, and threatens open public discourse.

The benefit to content owners concerned about "piracy" does not outweigh the cost to technologists who will suffer both higher barriers to market entry due to the added expense of implementing the mandate and restrictions on their ability to create new and novel technologies. Nor does it outweigh the potential to harm honest consumers who will be denied their fair use rights, and the broader intellectual sphere of the society, which stands to suffer tremendously from a corporate lockdown on information access and control.

Our nation has laws to punish criminals who infringe on copyrights. There is a dangerous trend recently to forgoe enforcement of these laws in favor of embedding electronic nannies in our technology. Protecting the intellectual property of the content industries by crippling technology is counterproductive. Enforce the existing statutes and it will also be unnecessary.