

Regarding reception of the digital broadcast signal, the NPRM seeks comment in the following areas:

- Should the FCC mandate that consumer electronics devices recognize and give effect to the broadcast flag (or other content control mark)?

*** No, this will have the effect of allowing broadcasters to veto any feature in consumer electronics they don't like and make illegal the construction or modification of consumer electronics by hobbyists.

- What is the appropriate point in a consumer electronics device at which digital broadcast copy protection should begin?

*** Protection should begin at the site of broadcast and end in a supplied tuner encryption card. This card would be like a GSM phone SIM card, I would be able to transfer it between any equipment of my choosing on the same cable/satellite network. It would be a standard that would allow for consumers to build and develop their own hardware, computer based or otherwise.

- Would a digital broadcast copy protection system be effective in protecting digital broadcast content from improper redistribution?

*** No. As the MPAA has finally noticed, there is plenty of insider distribution. Even if it is difficult to hack, there will be a small set of core pirates that will succeed and distribute data anyways.

- Would digital broadcast copy protection work for digital broadcast stations carried on cable or direct broadcast satellite systems? How?

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- Should the FCC mandate the use of specific copy protection technologies (such as DTCP/ SC or HDCP) in consumer electronics devices that are designed to respond to the broadcast flag? And, if so, how would a particular technology receive approval for use and who would be the appropriate entity to make that decision?

*** No. There is no feasible rights scheme that does not make the broadcasters, or a conglomerate of them, kings over all hardware regardless of manufacture.

As to the impact of the broadcast flag or other digital broadcast copy protection mechanism on consumers, the NPRM asks the following questions:

- Will requirements to protect digital outputs interfere with the ability to send DTV content across secure digital networks?

N/A

- What is the impact of digital broadcast copy protection mechanisms on existing and future electronic equipment?

*** It will eliminate the ability of consumers to assemble their own consumer goods using the coming convergence of computers and media. For example there are several PVR software packages that publicly available that far outstrip the commercial products in features and ease of use. This measure would kill this option, leaving all hardware and software in the hands of large businesses that have conflicting self-interests.

- Will digital broadcast copy protection have an effect on the development of new consumer technologies?

*** Very much so, this is my largest fear regarding your proposal. It says that Disney, Viacom, and TW get to control my living room. That is not promoting digital television, that is hindering it. People will be forced to stay with analog television if they wish to use it in a flexible manner.