

As a private citizen I pay for my cable, my premium channels, my HD service and my DVR. I pay for all of these things so that I can watch the programs and movies that I want to watch, whenever I want to watch them. I work a lot of hours, and I have a lot of activities I engage in, so I rarely have time to watch things on TV without the ability to time shift the content.

The MPAA wishes to try and abuse the system to create new revenue streams for themselves, and in doing so, disenfranchise their customers. Blocking DVR recordings is a spurious action on their part to simply generate more money. If they don't want anyone to record their movie, then they should not show it. They control the release schedules, so it's the MPAA that's deciding to put the movie out there. They have many other options such as moving up the release of the DVD, pushing back the release on TV, etc, without interfering with the ability to record.

As the content holders it's up to them to make their DVD's a more attractive option and than a burned copy of a movie off of television. They have done this in the past through special features, multiple screen formats, foreign language and subtitle support, documentaries, director's commentaries, etc... Let them continue along this path to protect their investment, rather than hiding behind a "possibility" that someone could infringe content that they're only putting out there in an attempt to double dip.

Additionally, there already is an outlet for them to distribute a movie in HD prior to release without allowing the consumer to use a DVR, it's known as "On-Demand". Both Comcast and AT&T, and I'm assuming all the rest of the cable operators, block DVR recordings of On-Demand movies. Some of these movies are pay-per-view, but there's a wide selection of free movies. The MPAA could just as easily release their movies to On-Demand for a limited run and lock out recordings without getting a waiver to interfere with DVRs.

The fact that they seem to have "forgotten" this route of distribution worries me greatly. Why seek to interfere with our ability to record when this other option exists? In 10 years will the MPAA use their victory in getting this waiver as fodder for an argument to try and disable recording of ANY movies? Afterall, anytime I'm recording a movie on TV I could "potentially" cause them to lose a DVD sale. Even after a movie comes out on DVD someone could "potentially" copy it and distribute it. There must be a balance between the industry's interests and the consumer's.

Thank you for your consideration of my comment. I hope that the FCC is not persuaded by the MPAA's transparent attempts to disenfranchise consumers when other options are available to them.