



HR 107, The Digital Media Consumers Rights Act

HR107 is an answer to six years of confusion that have grown out of changes to the nation's copyright laws.

As originally written, the Digital Millennium Copyright Act was supposed to protect producers of music, video and other digital products from the ravages of massive, illegal copying.

Others have found ways to misuse the DMCA to stifle innovation of all kinds. If passed, HR 107 will block those abuses, while simultaneously assuring that illegal copying and distribution stays that way.

The need for HR 107 is clear. In the last five years alone:

- DVD makers have found that they can force captive audiences to sit through as many commercials as they want by simply making it impossible – and effectively illegal – to fast forward through commercials at the beginning of the disks they sell.
- A prominent computer-security researcher was threatened with legal action because he intended to publish a paper on how he broke a badly executed copy-protection scheme *in response to a public contest to do so sponsored by the very companies that designed it*.
- A garage door opener company is suing a competitor simply because it designed a remote control that would work with its product, too.
- A computer games company is suing a group of individual programmers because they wrote a program that will interoperate with the company's products.
- Numerous computer security researchers have reduced the amount of research they perform, and cut back even more on the research they are willing to publish.
- Lawyers have become intimately involved in computer security, passing judgment on the direction of research before it happens.

CCIA (www.ccianet.org), OSAIA (www.osaia.org) and more than two dozen other companies and organizations are committed to seeing that fair use and innovation are again respected in the United State. We urge passage of HR 107.