

From: Kevin Schneider  
Sent: January 28, 2011 2:22 AM  
To: ~Legislative Committee on Bill C-32/Comite législatif chargé du  
Cc: Lake, Mike - M.P.  
Subject: Bill C-32

I am writing to voice my opinions on this bill. This bill is a reasonable start to reforming Canada's copyright laws, but it needs some amendments.

My main concern with the bill is the digital locks provisions. This bill is supposed to be about balance between content creators and consumers, digital locks unfairly benefit the content creators. It should not be a crime to break a digital lock if there is no copyright infringement. It should be legal for me to remove the DRM from purchased content so it can be played back on other devices (ie rip a DVD to play back on my ipod).

My second concern is the private copying levy (ipod tax). I use my ipod for listening to podcasts, not music, why should I be paying a levy when I am not copying copyrighted music. The same goes for the levy on blank CD's & DVD's, they are used for computer backups, not copying music. The levy assumes that everyone is a thief, which is not the case.

I am in favor of the notice-notice approach as it applies to infringing content on the internet. It is fair system, I am happy to see that you are pursuing this system instead of the 3 strikes rules other country's are proposing.

I would like to see changes to copyright terms. I would like to see a system where copyrighted works are protected for a fixed time after publication (eg 25 years). After the term expires, the copyright holder would have the option to file for an extension to their copyright or it would go into the public domain. This would allow companies to protect their copyrighted works indefinitely and would also allow orphaned works to come into the public domain.

The current system of 50 years after the death of the author only is an unworkable system. It creates a liability issues for organization such as Project Gutenberg and others who are trying to digitize and make content available to the public. The long copyright terms are only to benefit a few corporations and individuals, while deny Canadians access to content that should be in the public domain. The very least that can be done is to provide safe harbour protection for organizations that are not intentionally infringing on copyrighted works.

Kevin Schneider