

All forms of digital media should be exempted. Period. Hard working people pay hard earned money for these "works" as the Register likes to call them. Movie Dvd's, Music CD's, computer games and software, etc, all cost money to purchase. And sometimes, a lot of money. The purchaser should have the right to make backup copies of ALL forms of media FOR THEIR OWN USE. I do not advocate piracy of any form of software. DVD's and CD's will deteriorate and scratch thru normal handling and usage. Much sooner than the industry says they will. Once damage is done, since it is currently illegal to make backup copies of modern media, the consumer must then purchase another copy, or live without their original purchase.

Now I'm all for protecting so called "intellectual property" and the creators rights. However, making it illegal to make a backup copy of a movie that grossed \$250 million while costing only \$35 million to make is insane. Add to that the average cost to produce a DVD of the same movie is around \$20,000 (<http://www.dvd-software.info/dvd-faq/51.php>), and costs about a dollar to reproduce it. So, if 300,000 (VERY low-ball figure) copies are made, they have about \$320,000 invested. Selling all 300,000 copies at \$3.95 (approximate reseller price) provides another profit of \$1,185,000. The first half of 2002, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone sold 6.55 million copies generating \$111.5 million in revenue (<http://www.boxofficemojo.com/dvd/2002/sales.htm>). That equates to about \$17 per dvd sold, believable since the price of a dvd has been about \$20 for a few years now, allowing retailers a \$3 profit per unit sold. At the box office it took in \$317.6 million, which more than tripled it's \$100 million approximate budget. For a total gross profit of \$429.1 million.

Again, I'm not saying they should not be allowed a profit. But, many people who see the movie at the box office also buy the movie on DVD. So they have now paid twice for it. And even those who only buy the DVD have contributed to profits of an overly bloated industry. NOBODY should be prohibited from making copies of media they have purchased. The Fair Use should include the right to back up your media purchases for your own use.

In a perfect world, consumers would make the back up and use it while storing the original to use to make future backups when the copy fails (and it will fail). Making people pay again for music or movies or software, when media becomes unusable is a very poor practice. It's just as bad as making it illegal to make personal backups of what you purchased.