

<http://www.andrew.cmu.edu/~psa/-h>

WELCOME to the first issue of -h. This newsletter is an effort that involves the Progressive Student Alliance, Earth, People for Workers Rights - USAS, and the CMU branch of Amnesty International. Each issue will have articles and editorials on topics that aren't covered anywhere else on campus. Why the name -h? If you are printing from an Andrew Unix machine, adding -h to the lpr command will suppress the header page. If you know that you don't need the header, you can save paper this way. The simplicity and usefulness of this tip are something we hope will embody each issue of -h.

Freedom of Speech in the Digital Age

As you read this article, a criminal case against Dmitry Skylarov, a native of Russia, is being prosecuted by the United States Government. His crime? He is the author of software that can break the encryption of the popular Adobe eBook format. An eBook is an electronic book that can be purchased and downloaded online.

Dmitry's is being charged under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, a law quietly enacted by Congress in 1998. The DMCA, meant to reform copyright law, has been widely criticized as restrictive of free speech and fair-use rights. Although there have been civil lawsuits brought under the DMCA, most prominently against the creators of the DeCSS DVD decryption software, this is the first criminal case.

Although the software in question, Advanced eBook Processor, was created for Elcomsoft, Dmitry's Russian employer, Dmitry is the only individual currently facing charges. It works by converting the proprietary eBook format into the standard PDF format, and can be used only on legitimately purchased eBooks. The software's cost, \$99 USD, makes it unlikely to be used to pirate \$10 eBooks. Elcomsoft created the software to allow legitimate owners

to move the book from one computer to another, print portions of the book, and to allow blind users to use screen reading software with the electronic book. Breaking encryption is not illegal in Russia.

Copyright law has traditionally allowed fair-use exceptions to copyright, upheld in the 1982 Betamax case. The DMCA makes it illegal to circumvent any software protection, no matter for what purpose. This means that a company can restrict your fair use rights, and you can do nothing to regain them. Want to record an HDTV broadcast for later viewing? Although you have that legal right, in order to record it you would have to break the encryption, making you a felon. Want to make a backup of your book or software? Also illegal. Even if a copyright has expired, if the work is encrypted, breaking the encryption is a felony.

Dmitry Skylarov is facing a penalty of up to \$500,000 and 5 years in prison. But the American people face a far greater risk: the constant erosion of our rights as copyright laws are strengthened ever more at the demand of media conglomerates. Now is a great time to pressure your elected representatives to end this law. Check our website for details.

-Progressive Student Alliance

The Armchair Environmentalist: Saving Paper

When you are printing a long document and don't need it to be single-sided, you can print duplex on a Windows 2000 machine with most printers. Choose File|Print, click properties, then select layout, and then choose one of the 2-sided printing options. Macintosh and Unix machines print duplex by default.

Ever get frustrated while waiting for your output to come from the printer? It is possible to check the printer queue and find out when your job will be done.

On a Unix machine, or from a telnet session on a Mac, type "print -q -P[printer-name]" to check the queue. Delete a job by typing "print -P[printer-name] -cancel [jobname]".

On a Windows machine goto Start | Utilities | WinKlpg, then select the printer queue you want to view by clicking on the drop-down box. You can delete a job that you own by selecting it and hitting the [Delete] key. The links on the right have more tips.

Visit the website for a complete archive of tips!

Calendar and Events

September 11, 5pm McConomy. Crowded Fire - Learn more about politics on campus!

September 12, 7 pm. Forum on Global Justice. 121 David-Laurence Hall. University of Pittsburgh.

Ongoing - International Socialist Organization Movie series. contact socialis@pitt.edu

Calendar policy: email psa@andrew.cmu.edu at least one week prior to your event.

Resources and References

"Current Issues: The Digital Millennium Copyright Act" Educause 1998-2001.

<http://www.educause.edu/issues/dmca.html>

Criminal Complaint: US v Skylarov.

http://www.eff.org/IP/DMCA/US_v_Skylarov/20010707_complaint.html

<http://www.freesylarov.org>

http://www.angelfire.com/vi/dmca_pittsburgh/

<http://www.cmu.edu/computing/clusters/faq.html>

<http://www.cmu.edu/computing/documentation/unix/PrintingOnAndrew.html>