

To the Legislative Committee on Bill C-32,

1. I would like to add my voice to the masses insisting that Bill C-32 be altered so that fairdealing provisions take priority over the protection of digital locks. Prohibiting circumvention in cases where copyright infringement is not taking place completely undermines any notion of user rights that the bill is purportedly meant to uphold. It is completely impractical in the case of most modern technology, such as DVDs and Bluraydiscs
2. More importantly, though, I strongly recommend that the Committee ensures that a provision is added to the bill which will allow the digital lock provisions to be reevaluated every 2-3 years. The DMCA in the United States carries such a provision which just this past year granted Americans the freedom to circumvent technologies which are currently restricted in Bill C-32, which by all logic should be a more modern piece of legislation. Without similar provisions, there is no way that Canadian copyright laws can be flexible in the face of evolving technologies, especially compared to those in the United States and most other countries. This needs to be done, regardless of what other changes are made to the bill as it stands now.
3. Digital locks are not designed to protect copyright, they are designed to create artificial scarcity among digital commodities. Not only does it work against the rights of users who will be locked into various technologies, it works against the entire nature of a free market environment. The overzealous protection of digital locks in this legislation is nothing more than an industry deception, and those interpretations should not be forged into the backbone of our laws.
4. Regardless of what decision is made, allowing constant review and revision in coming years is the only way to ensure that Canadian copyright law will be able to endure the turbulent and unpredictable evolution of technology in years to come.
Thank you for taking the time to consider these comments.

Sincerely,

Jesse Betteridge