
Subject: Information piracy is a question of ethics NOT logistics

Posted by [brad](#) on Mon, 20 May 2013 00:18:43 GMT

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Many people on this net advocating piracy say things like

"It can be copied for \$2, so it is worth \$2" or

"If they broadcast HBO through my land then I can take it if I want!"

These are statements of what you CAN do, not what you should do.

We should all be aware that the value of software is not in the media, it's in the message. The same with all forms of valuable information.

You have to reward the people who spend the time in R&D. Since their information is their property (if you don't think so I would like to see you in the not-to-distant future when a large portion of the population spends its time producing nothing but information) and in a free market they can charge what they like to recoup losses and make a profit.

And you can't just sell for a little bit more. A programmer costs about \$100,000 a year when you include the office you had to build for him/her, the computers you had to buy, the support staff you had to pay, the phone bill and the salary. Same with people in marketing, sales and support, although their cost is not quite as high as a programmer's

If you only make a few bucks per program, a typical system would have a lot of broke software companies, unless everybody wrote something with mass market appeal. About the only programs that can make a profit at low prices through volume are games, and many game companies are using red pens anyway.

Just because you CAN take something doesn't mean you should. If you leave your door unlocked, I CAN come in and lift your TV set. Nothing physical stops me if I am not seen. If we want a free market system for information (and I do although you may not) you have got to let people make money of it. Only this will encourage people to make the best. Otherwise you get nothing but mass market pap. Consider network TV - it appeals to the lowest common denominator and mostly sucks. Newer technology allows pay-as-you-play TV where quality is judged not on market surveys but on how much the individual

subscribers want to pay. This results in superior TV. But if people aren't willing to set up some rules and obey them, we will get pure pap.

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