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Subject: Re: evil mp3s..sharing  
Posted by [lon](#) on Wed, 16 Jun 2004 03:32:43 GMT  
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I have read most of this thread. I am a P2P user...probably not the conventional kind that that's looking for the latest hits of Avril Lavigne though. I am an archivist. The link below is to a speech given by Lawrence Lessig who writes for Wired magazine. His current book is called Free Culture. Most of it is about Open Source software. But he also discusses P2P file sharing and the 'terrorist war' that record companies are waging on the public in the form of malicious software. Lessig says that free culture is the only way that creativity of all kinds advances. His criticism of the copyright laws is extensive and shows that never before in history has intellectual property been controlled in these ways. It is the right of the copyright holder to withhold intellectual property... in this example, discontinued music, which is out of print and will not return to print because of royalty issues that are held by the heirs sometimes 3 generations removed from the actual artist or performer. So as an archivist, the material I share on the net and receive in return (on a \_good\_ day) is a way of keeping art in the culture to be shared by the current generation rather than hoarded away by a generation thrice removed from the original period of availability. The Lessig speech points out that the MCAA (whatever) has gotten away with their terrorist behavior with the consent and in some instances from the courts because we have not stopped them. And that's that.

Lawrence Lessig on Free Culture

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