Subject: Re: Another DRM Issue Brewing
Posted by lon on Mon, 09 Jan 2006 21:02:14 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Lessig is a clever guy too.What the books do is challenge the assumption of 'what is right'or legal.I truly believe this has to do with things we are are taught frompaternalistic households. And so the questions such as "Isn't copying stealing?" and "Well doesn't the author deserve to control all aspectsof his product forever (96 years currently under the Sonny Bonocopyright law)?" The answers here Lessig carefully deconstructs to show how creativity in the commons of human discourse and the foundingprinciples in the Constitution based on English Common Law providefor sharing information in ways that have been legislated out of existence by our toadies in Congress.The central concept is Fair Use.If the heirs of Stan Getz refuse to release the musician's worksfor reprint simply because the royalties are enough to live off of indefinately then those works stay out of the public domain--you and I can't hear them. Limiting copyright and the renewal of copyright (93 percent of which is _lost_ to time) means thatarchivists have Fair Use of the remaining original works andduplication for non resale purposes such as the internet makespossible at the expiration of copyright is not illegal.Lessig has a webite called Creative Commons in which newcopyright schemes allow for greater freedom of the creative artist.You will see (cc) turn up on various documents on the net.Lessig's point in doing this work is that a great amount of created material (that 93 percent up there) is willfully heldout of the public domain which is not in the spirit of the law.He also tells how Walt Disney built the character of Mickey Mouseon the filmwork from Buster Keaton. Needless to say Buster Keatonwho played Steamboat Bill never got a dime from Disney's interpretation called Steamboat Willie with a mouse as the steamboatcaptain.