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News wire

MPAA pleads Congress to go after home theaters

posted by: [Scott Tobias](#)
December 7, 2006 - 11:42am

Anxious to show off your awesome new home theater system to a group of friends?

Not so fast, says the MPAA. Courtesy of our friends at [Screengrab](#) comes the startling news that the MPAA is currently lobbying Congress to help regulate home theater systems that too closely recreate the theatrical experience without sharing revenue with the studios. According to [this report](#), the bill "would require any hardware manufactured in the future to contain technology that tells the MPAA directly of what is being shown and specific details on the audience. The data would be gathered using various motion sensors and biometric technology." The MPAA defines a home theater as any home with a TV larger than 29" with stereo sound and at least two comfortable chairs, and they're asking that home theater owners pay them a \$50 registration fee or face fines of up to \$500,000 per movie shown.

Here's the money quote from MPAA chief Dan Glickman: "Just because you buy a DVD to watch at home doesn't give you the right to invite friends over to watch it too. That's a violation of copyright and denies us the revenue that would be generated from DVD sales to your friends," said Glickman. "Ideally we expect each viewer to have their own copy of the DVD, but we realize that isn't always feasible. The registration fee is a fair compromise."

Hard to know what's scarier here: The notion of having future televisions fitted with sensors that report directly back to the MPAA (a hilariously blatant violation of privacy rights) or the \$500,000 fine that Joe Six-pack might receive for screening *Larry The Cable Guy: Health Inspector* to his buddies. It would seem that the MPAA's fight to preserve the theatrical experience has reached an irrational level of desperation.

Comments

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The Onion has been Onioned

That article gave me a heart attack, but apparently it's just a satire.

<http://www.techdirt.com/articles/20061128/080742.shtml>

Still, do a google search on it and you find pretty much everyone commenting on how scarily plausible that sounds.

Comment by: KingBiscuit at December 7, 2006 - 12:02pm

Hoax

So I just called the MPAA, and as soon I started reading the quote, the lady told me it was a fake-ola, like she'd heard it a million times already.

Comment by: pmadavi at December 7, 2006 - 12:12pm

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