

The Dean's List Music, Copyright and New Technology In the News 9/22/06

Digital Content Spurs EU Licensing Fight

As the digital music business grows, the levy system of traditional European "collecting societies" is the target of fierce lobbying efforts. European songwriters' rights have been managed by "collecting societies" who grant distribution licences for record labels and online shops, collect royalties of a few cents per download, gather levies on products like MP3 players used to make private copies of songs and sponsor cultural projects. With the spread of digital rights management (DRM) technology, the major record labels and computer firms are pushing Brussels to break-open the rights monopolies and scrap the levy system. The lobbying is fierce, with software firms describing most collecting societies as pointless, self-serving bureaucracies that violate EU law.

Music Piracy Breaks into Global EU Politics

By Andrew Rettman -- It's hard to imagine how a schoolboy in Berlin ripping a Crazy Frog tune off the Russian website allofmp3.com could impact EU energy security, but with 20 billion songs downloaded illegally in the world last year compared to 420 million legally, intellectual property is becoming big politics in both internal and foreign EU policy.

Managing in Chaos

By Geoffrey Colvin -- The great challenge of our era? Get companies to change quickly enough to survive a world that's crazier and riskier than ever.

BitTorrent Takes on Movie Download Rivals: Q&A

Ashwin Navin, co-founder and president of file sharing software developer BitTorrent, thinks that advertising-supported content will win out over DRM (digital rights management) in the long run for movie and TV show downloads. But his company is embracing DRM as it opens a new movie download Web site that will compete with the Unbox store launched by Amazon.com and Apple Computer's iTunes Store. In an interview with IDG News Service, he presented BitTorrent's views on DRM and its online movie store plan.

Is This The End Of The Cinema?

UK -- AOL announced recently that it will start offering film downloading, and Apple is expected to follow suit through iTunes. This means we will be able to watch films wherever and whenever we want. The cinema has survived many new formats down the years, but will this new technology mean that going to the pictures will become a thing of the past? IC Wales.com asked two people - Is this the end of the cinema?

[Brazil: Larry Lessig's home away from home.]

It's Time Brazil Learn There Is Something Called Intellectual Property

The government of Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva seems to be working diligently to appear as a political moderate and a dependable market-friendly force within a highly volatile populist region of the world. However, international business, trade and regulatory expert **Lawrence A. Kogan of the ITSSD (Institute For Trade, Standards and Sustainable Development)** says that **Brazil,**

under Lula's leadership, is actually working to undermine exclusive private property rights and free enterprise globally.