“Cyberanarchy,” broadly refers to the idea that legal regulation of the Internet is an infeasible objective. One prime example is current online enforcement mechanisms’ inability to quell copyright infringement. These mechanisms do little more than perpetuate a technological arms race between copyright holders and infringers. Moreover, with notable public relations failures, such as the RIAA lawsuits and digital rights management schemes, society has taken on a nonchalant attitude towards online infringement. Examining traditional justifications behind obedience to the law, this blasé attitude takes root in societal feelings of inadequacy both in “normative” and “instrumental” perspectives of justice. Normatively, there lacks a cohesive societal idea of justice and obligation. Instrumentally, there lacks proper infrastructure and administrative ability to enforce online copyright laws. This leads to unfettered digital copyright infringement. Focusing on copyrights as human rights strikes a balance between instrumental and normative considerations of copyright enforcement. Ostensibly, this would obligate lawmakers to bring end-users into the legislative discussion, while furthering the creation of a legal framework that resonates with societal perspectives of justice. When these perspectives serve as the cornerstone to the existing legal framework, legitimacy of and obedience to digital copyright law becomes attainable.
“CYBERANARCHY” IN THE DIGITAL AGE: DEVELOPING A SYSTEM OF HUMAN (COPY)RIGHTS

MICHAEL L. BOYLE

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MICHAEL L. BOYLE*

INTRODUCTION

Though “Cyberanarchy”1 may sound like the title to the latest high-budget, CGI blockbuster, its legal referent—the theory that governments cannot feasibly regulate the Internet— is far from science fiction. Skepticism regarding Internet regulation is neither new nor limited to the United States.2 Rather, courts, commentators, and the popular press worldwide have grappled for years over the question of how to impose rules on cyberspace.3

While current law establishes a framework for penalizing digital copyright infringement,5 to date, online enforcement mechanisms remain ineffective.6 The impact of widespread digital infringement goes beyond obvious economic implications,7 fostering a pervasive, almost blasé cultural attitude towards online copyright infringement.

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3 The impact of widespread digital infringement goes beyond obvious economic implications, fostering a pervasive, almost blasé cultural attitude towards online copyright infringement.
Private efforts have been just as unsuccessful as government attempts to effectively stem the tide of infringement. What exists now is an archetypal arms race between copyright owners and those who consume and distribute unauthorized copies of copyrighted material. Copyright owners collaborate with programmers to create better copyright protection software. Infringers “crack” these protective measures allowing once-protected material to be copied, downloaded, reproduced, etc. The rampancy of online copyright infringement raises a difficult question of fundamental motivation: Why are consumers partaking in unbridled copyright infringement over the Internet? This question can be answered by exploring the disparity between personal and societal standards; myriad factors are certainly at play. This paper posits that several key factors, including the lack of a legitimate governing enforcement body, the lack of peer disapproval of copyright infringement via cyberspace, and the anonymous nature of conduct on the Internet, contribute to the current state of anomie in this area.

Part I of this Comment explains the evolution of copyright regulation in cyberspace. Further, it examines the attempts of traditional sociological theory to explain why people obey the law. Part II analyzes the technical difficulties the Internet poses for enforcing copyright infringement. It also explores the legal framework that copyright owners and governments have scrambled to create in the wake of this descent into “cyberanarchy.” Part III proposes a bottom-up transformation of the law, starting with governmental recognition of copyrights as a human right. Additionally, it proposes increased accountability on rights holders attempting to overexert their copyrights. Finally, it suggests that shifting the focus from legal deterrence to a targeted and meaningful education program would legitimize current copyright laws and radically improve enforcement rates.

Costs associated with patent, trademark, and copyright litigation have increased forty-eight, thirty-eight, and seventy-three percent, respectively. Id.; see also Don. E. Tomlinson, Intellectual Property in the Digital Age: The Piracy/counterfeiting Problem and Antipiracy and Anticounterfeiting Measures, 8 CURRENTS: INT’L TRADE L.J. 3, 3 (1999) (indicating that the U.S. economy loses anywhere from $2.8 to $12.4 billion a year in piracy and/or counterfeiting of America’s intellectual property).


10 See Tomlinson, supra note 7, at 10.


13 See EMILE DURKHEIM, SUICIDE: A STUDY IN SOCIOLOGY 44 (J.A. Spaulding & G. Simpson trans., Free Press 1951) (the term “anomie” literally translates to “without law” and refers to “social instability caused by erosion of standards and values); accord Robert K. Merton, Social Structure and Anomie, 3 AM. SOC. REV. 672, 682 (1938).
I. BACKGROUND

This section explores the evolution of copyright regulation in cyberspace. Additionally, this section explores the traditional, sociological justifications behind legal compliance.

A. Evolution of Copyright Regulation in Cyberspace

In the United States, the Copyright Act of 1976 (hereinafter the “Copyright Act”)\(^\text{14}\) and the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (hereinafter the “DMCA”)\(^\text{15}\) govern online copyright infringement. Because Congress enacted the Copyright Act far before the advent of the Internet, it has several shortcomings with regard to technology in the digital age.\(^\text{16}\) Congress passed the DMCA in 1998 as an effort to harmonize the traditional copyright protections offered in the Copyright Act with modern technologies, while compromising between the interests of content holders and online service providers.\(^\text{17}\) The DMCA aimed to provide adequate copyright protection with new and emerging digital age technologies.\(^\text{18}\) Section 103 of the DMCA added chapter twelve to the Copyright Act.\(^\text{19}\) As the Copyright Office points out, this section of the DMCA imposes liability on those who circumvent


\(^{17}\) S. REP. NO. 105-190, at 2 (1998) (“Title II clarifies the liability faced by service providers who transmit potentially infringing material over their networks.”)

\(^{18}\) See WIPO One Year Later: Assessing Consumer Access to Digital Entertainment on the Internet and Other Media: Hearing Before the S. Comm. on Telecomm., Trade and Consumer Protection, 105th Cong. 12 (1999) (statement of Jack Valenti, President and CEO of the Motion Picture Association of America (“MPAA”)). According to Mr. Valenti, the danger of Internet copyright infringement can be summarized as follows:

Downloadable media piracy has two characteristics: One... [a] single pirate with a single copy of a film can download thousands of copies to be downloaded in a matter of hours. In analog, quality is degraded with each copy, but in digital the thousandth copy is as pure and pristine as the original. These copies can be mirrored, as the term of art, at sites all over the world, making even more copies possible. Thus, with a single keystroke a pirate can do millions of dollars worth of damage to the potential market for a motion picture, even though the pirate may not make a nickel... [T]he equipment required to be an Internet pirate is inexpensive, and it is portable. One of the most recent innovations in obtaining illegal downloadable files is through the use of video and audio search engines.

technological measures used to protect copyrighted materials.\textsuperscript{20} The statute divides “technological measures” into two categories: measures preventing unauthorized access to a copyrighted work and measures preventing unauthorized copying of a copyrighted work.\textsuperscript{21} The Copyright Act does not completely outlaw measures preventing unauthorized copying due to fair use considerations.\textsuperscript{22} Rather, there are several exceptions to its general provisions preventing unauthorized access to a copyrighted work.\textsuperscript{23}

Beyond these added protections against new “technological measures,” the DMCA revised Title 17 of the United States Code to protect against the unauthorized alteration of “copyright management information” (hereinafter “CMI”).\textsuperscript{24} CMI is the identifying information of a copyrighted work.\textsuperscript{25} Section 1202 “prohibits the knowing provision or distribution of false CMI, if done with the intent to induce, enable, facilitate or conceal infringement.”\textsuperscript{26} It “bars the intentional removal or alteration of CMI without authority, as well as the dissemination of CMI or copies of works, knowing that the CMI has been removed or altered without authority.”\textsuperscript{27}

The DMCA also limits liability for copyright infringement by Internet service providers (hereinafter “ISPs”).\textsuperscript{28} It does so by protecting certain types of conduct in which ISPs commonly engage, including: “transitory communications,” “system caching,” “storage of information on systems or networks at direction of users,” and provision of “information location tools.”\textsuperscript{29} Under certain circumstances, the DMCA bars monetary damages, as well as various forms of injunctive relief.\textsuperscript{30} The DMCA also established guidelines for copyright holders to obtain subpoenas against ISPs to disclose the identities of its allegedly infringing users.\textsuperscript{31} Nonetheless, “to ensure that service providers are not placed in the position of choosing between limitations on liability on the one hand and preserving the privacy of their subscribers, on the other,” section 512 of Title 17 explicitly states that there is no requirement that “a
service provider . . . monitor its service or access material in violation of law (such as the Electronic Communications Privacy Act) in order to be eligible for any of the liability limitations.”

In his definitive work, *Why People Obey the Law*, Tom R. Tyler isolates several justifications behind a populous’ obedience to the law. Tyler separates these justifications into two separate “perspectives”—instrumental and normative. Instrumental perspectives are those known as “deterrence literature”: If people break the law, the state has the power to fine, imprison, and otherwise make their lives a little less pleasant. Traditionally, sociologists took these instrumental perspectives into consideration when analyzing what motivates people to obey laws. Tyler’s study, however, focused more on the normative perspectives of legal obedience. In short, his study “is concerned with the influence of what people regard as just and moral as opposed to what is in their self-interest . . . [with] examin[ing] the connection between normative commitment to legal authorities and law-abiding behavior.” This “normative perspective” focuses on peoples’ internalized norms of justice and obligation. Coupled with instrumental factors, these normative factors show that beyond the legitimacy of the government making the rules, obedience to a set of laws is dependent upon the populous’ view of morality.

This observation is not a new one. Past scholars wrote extensively about the mixture of legitimacy and personal morality required to create a legal system with high compliance rates. As H.L.A. Hart observed, peoples’ obedience to the law derives “from a variety of motives: some from prudential calculation that the sacrifices are worth the gains, some from a disinterested interest in the welfare of others, and some because they look upon the rules as worthy of respect in themselves.” In the context of digital copyright law, however, several questions are

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32 DMCA SUMMARY, supra note 20, at 9.
33 See TYLER, WHY PEOPLE OBEY THE LAW, supra note 12, at 3; Tyler, Compliance with Intellectual Property Laws, supra note 12, at 234 (discussing the effectiveness of the threat of punishment to enforce intellectual property rights).
34 TYLER, WHY PEOPLE OBEY THE LAW, supra note 12, at 3.
35 Id.
36 Id.
37 Id.
38 Id.
39 Id. at 4.
40 Id. at 165.

The instrumental perspective is clearly insufficient to explain people’s views about the legitimacy of authority and their behavioral compliance with the law. Citizens act as naïve moral philosophers, evaluating authorities and their actions against abstract criteria of fairness. The instrumental conceptions of the person that have recently dominated discussions of legal issues are incomplete.

Id.

bound to arise: What is the general view of morality for such a diverse community? Can an online governing body provide the legitimacy needed to properly enforce copyrights? Do the aforementioned “instrumental” perspectives provide insight in catalyzing deterrence when copyright holders have stopped relying on codified models of enforcement?

B. The Problem of Cyberspace Anonymity

Before the Internet, never was there such a readily available communication medium geared towards anonymous use. Scholars have examined this issue from a multitude of angles. The idea of anonymity and lawlessness has also been discussed by academics to an encompassing extent. In relation to a legal obedience model such as Tyler’s, an arena that allows effortless anonymity drastically alters the question of consequences. That is, if an undesirable consequence occurs (in our case, copyright infringement) in an anonymous-user system, a user is less likely to be held responsible for their actions. If there is no positive identity, there is no one person (or entity, or corporation, etc.) to hold responsible for the action.

A recent case, Liberty Media Holdings, LLC v. Does 1–59, illustrates the conflicting interests of anonymity and copyrights. Under the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, Internet service providers cannot release subscriber information without a court order.

The court, in attempting to balance the plaintiff’s injury against the right to anonymous speech, cited to Columbia

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44 See, e.g., McBride & Smith, supra note 6.

45 See generally Kraig J. Marton et. al., Protecting One’s Reputation—How to Clear a Name in a World Where Name Calling is so Easy, 4 PHOENIX L. REV. 53, 68 (2010) (discussing the “difficulty of verifying users’ identities” in light of both online anonymity and the ease of posing as someone else); see also Jay Krasovec, Cyberspace: The Final Frontier, for Regulation?, 31 AKRON L. REV. 101, 102, 102 (1997) (highlighting the tension between First Amendment rights to remain anonymous and to “share and receive information that otherwise may be harmful or embarrassing to the sender” with the harm anonymity causes by allowing “cyber-criminals to shield themselves from accountability and responsibility”).

46 See Dr. Dan Jerker B. Svantesson, Borders on, or Border Around—The Future of the Internet, 16 ALB. L.J. SCI. & TECH. 343, 377 (2006) (“Today’s technology with its portability and high level of anonymity provides a perfect environment for so-called fraudulent evasions or fraud à la loi.”).


48 See Svantesson, supra note 46, at 377–78.


Insurance Co. v. Seescandy.com, which articulated a four-part test. First, the plaintiff should attempt to identify the defendant with enough specificity so that the court can determine the defendant is a person or entity subject to the court’s personal jurisdiction. Next, plaintiff would identify previous attempts to locate the anonymous defendant. Plaintiff should then show, “to the Court’s satisfaction,” that the complaint can survive a motion to dismiss. If the plaintiff satisfies the aforementioned requirements, then the plaintiff can request limited discovery to ascertain the identity of the defendant.

The plaintiff in the Seescandy.com case first identified a connection between the multiple named webhost entities and an individual named “Ravi.” Next, the plaintiff exhibited a good faith effort at locating “Ravi” through attempted telephone calls and emails to the numbers and email addresses listed on the domain registrations. Third, the plaintiff demonstrated that its complaint would survive a motion to dismiss by exhibiting that “an act giving rise to civil liability actually occurred,” that is, an entity infringed upon the plaintiff’s trademark at the time the plaintiff filed the complaint. Therefore, the court found the plaintiff’s request for limited discovery proper.

While the court ultimately sided with Liberty Media Holdings, requiring the ISP to disclose the identities of named Does, courts have gone both ways on this issue.

Moreover, because citizens’ right to anonymous speech is not absolute, a secondary market exists offering myriad services and protections to protect consumers’ identities. Services such as proxies allow for users to hide their Internet Protocol (IP) addresses or reroute their information through an anonymous IP address nowhere near the user’s physical location. This back and forth between the desire for anonymity and copyright holders’ expectation of copyright enforcement

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52 Columbia Ins. Co., 185 F.R.D. at 578.
53 Id. at 579.
54 Id.
55 Id. at 580.
56 Id. at 576, 579.
57 Id. at 579.
58 Id. at 580.
59 Id.
60 Compare Indep. Newspapers, Inc. v. Brodie, 966 A.2d 432, 434–35 (Md. 2009) (holding circuit court judge inappropriately denied a motion to quash/motion for protective order regarding subpoena requiring plaintiff to identify five Internet forum participants by name), and Mobilisa, Inc. v. Doe, 170 P.3d 712, 715 (Ariz. Ct. App. 2007) (remanding decision by superior court that ordered defendant to provide identity of one of its account holders), with Sony Music Entm’t Inc. v. Does 1–40, 326 F. Supp. 2d 556, 557 (S.D.N.Y. 2004) (holding that person who uses the Internet to engage in copyright infringement is engaging in exercise of speech only to a limited extent and that such person’s identity is not protected from disclosure by the First Amendment).
62 Abbott, supra note 61, at 22.
63 Id.
creates yet another barrier to content owners’ efficient monetization of the digital markets for their works.64

C. YouTube: A Vehicle of Content Sharing

The ebb and flow of copyright infringement in a digital context can best be examined through an analysis of YouTube.65 YouTube allows users to upload and share videos.66 The social impact of this service has been enormous.67 Never before have individuals had the power to self-produce and self-publish to a worldwide audience at such a low cost.68

While anyone with a registered YouTube account can post videos, the company enacted a series of measures to ensure compliance with its internal “Community Guidelines” (“CGs”) and copyright laws.69 The YouTube CGs prohibit several types of videos.70 During the upload process, YouTube issues a warning to users not to upload

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66 Id. at 171.

67 Id.

68 Id.

69 See YouTube Community Guidelines, YOUTUBE, http://www.youtube.com/t/community_guidelines (last visited Mar 7, 2013). In relevant part:

We’re not asking for the kind of respect reserved for nuns, the elderly, and brain surgeons. We mean don’t abuse the site. Every cool new community feature on YouTube involves a certain level of trust. We trust you to be responsible, and millions of users respect that trust. Please be one of them. . . . Okay, this one is more about us than you. YouTube staff review flagged videos 24 hours a day, seven days a week to determine whether they violate our Community Guidelines. When they do, we remove them. Sometimes a video doesn’t violate our Community Guidelines, but may not be appropriate for everyone. These videos may be age-restricted. Accounts are penalized for Community Guidelines violations and serious or repeated violations can lead to account termination. If your account is terminated, you won’t be allowed to create any new accounts. For more information about how the Community Guidelines are enforced and the consequences of violating them, please visit the Help Center.

Id.

70 Id. These include copyrighted materials uploaded without the holder’s consent, pornography, animal abuse, and certain other “shock videos.”
copyrighted content that is not under their control.\textsuperscript{71} YouTube also has a takedown notice posted pursuant to the DMCA.\textsuperscript{72}

This has not stopped lawsuits against YouTube by a number of high profile organizations.\textsuperscript{73} The most notable lawsuit is Viacom International \textit{v.} YouTube, Inc.\textsuperscript{74} In this lawsuit, Viacom sued YouTube for $1 billion dollars for copyright infringement.\textsuperscript{75} The district court, ruling in favor of summary judgment for YouTube, found that YouTube was protected under the safe harbor provision of the DMCA.\textsuperscript{76}

That court concluded that

\begin{quote}
the critical question is whether the statutory phrases "actual knowledge that the material or an activity using the material on the system or network is infringing," and "facts or circumstances from which infringing activity is apparent" in \textsection 512(c)(1)(A)(i) and (ii) mean a general awareness that there are infringements (here, claimed to be widespread and common), or rather mean actual or constructive knowledge of specific and identifiable infringements of individual items. \ldots The phrases "actual knowledge that the material or an activity" [infringes a copyright, and] "facts or circumstances" indicating infringing activity, describe knowledge of specific and identifiable infringements of particular individual items. Mere knowledge of prevalence of such activity in general is not enough.\textsuperscript{77}
\end{quote}

Viacom appealed.\textsuperscript{78} The Second Circuit took the opportunity “to clarify the contours of the 'safe harbor' provision of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) that limits the liability of online service providers for copyright infringement that occurs 'by reason of the storage at the direction of a user of material that resides on a system or network controlled or operated by or for the service provider.'”\textsuperscript{79} Judge Cabranes substantially affirmed the district court’s interpretation of “actual knowledge.”\textsuperscript{80} Although the body of case law interpreting the knowledge provisions of the DMCA safe harbor provision is sparse, other jurisdictions agree with Judge Cabranes’ analysis.\textsuperscript{81}

Beyond the legal protection proffered by the courts, YouTube utilizes several internal safeguards to mitigate any claim of vicarious liability and to ensure lower

\begin{footnotes}
\item Id.; 17 U.S.C. \textsection 512(c) (2012).
\item Id. at 519, 523.
\item Id. at 519, 523. Viacom Int’l Inc. \textit{v.} YouTube, Inc., 718 F. Supp. 2d 514 (S.D.N.Y. 2010).
\item Id. at 529.
\item Id. at 25 (quoting \textsection 512(c) (2012)).
\item Id. at 25 (quoting \textsection 512(c) (2012)).
\item Id. at 30.
\item UMG Recordings, Inc. \textit{v.} Shelter Capital Partners LLC, 667 F.3d 1022, 1041 (9th Cir. 2011).
\end{footnotes}
instances of copyright infringement on its website. Through its algorithmic juggernaut, YouTube’s Content ID “let[s] rights owners:

- Identify user-uploaded videos comprised entirely OR partially of their content, and
- Choose, in advance, what they want to happen when those videos are found. Make money from them. Get stats on them. Or block them from YouTube altogether.

YouTube accomplishes this by allowing rights holders to upload audio and video content they own, describe the uploaded content with holder-defined metadata, and direct YouTube towards a course of action when Content ID technology discovers potentially infringing material.

Content ID is a powerful technology. According to YouTube, Content ID “scans over 100 years of video every day.” Over three thousand content owners use Content ID to safeguard their copyrights. Over one-third of monetized views on YouTube come from Content ID flagged video. Upon first introduction, when Content ID flagged a potentially infringing video, the content owner chose from three modes of action: take down the video, attach advertising with the video for a profit, or allow the video to remain online while receiving up-to-date viewing statistics about the video.

The main criticism of this approach was that users had no effective remedy to challenge suspect takedown requests. Little, if any, consideration was given to users protected by fair use, which the Supreme Court has categorized as an affirmative defense. Accordingly, under certain circumstances, use of a copyright that would otherwise be infringing is protected as “fair use.”

With regard to complaints by users of overreaching takedown notices, perhaps the most public, if not the most famous example occurred when Universal Music Corp

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83 See How Content ID Works, YOUTUBE, http://support.google.com/youtube/bin/answer.py?hl=en&answer=2797370 (last visited Mar. 7, 2013). Content ID works by scanning videos uploaded by rights holders to an internal catalog. Id. Afterwards, when a future video is uploaded, Content ID compares the newly uploaded video to content within its catalog. Id. When Content ID matches a video to third-party content, the “copyright notices” section of the uploader’s YouTube account page will include an entry notifying her of the development and of the copyright owner’s policy. Id. If she disagrees with the match, she can dispute it. Id. Then the normal appeals process starts.
84 See Content ID, supra note 82.
85 Id.
87 Id.
88 Id.
89 See Content ID, supra note 82.
93 Id. at 594.
Developing a System of Human (Copy)Rights, (“Universal”), acting on behalf of The Artist Formerly Known as Prince (“Prince”), filed a takedown notice with YouTube demanding that a mother, Stephanie Lenz, remove a video of her infant dancing to Prince’s song, “Let’s Go Crazy.”94 YouTube complied.95 Outraged, Lenz filed a DMCA counter-notification with YouTube demanding her video be reposted,96 which YouTube did six weeks later.97 Following the repost, Lenz filed suit against Universal claiming misrepresentation under “17 U.S.C. § 512(f) and tortious interference with her contract with YouTube.”98 Surviving Universal’s motion to dismiss, the court found that Lenz pleaded sufficiently to survive a motion to dismiss.99

In the time since Lenz initially filed her suit against Universal, YouTube made several changes to its takedown policy. To further coax a free market option to traditional litigation, YouTube recently introduced a more comprehensive appeals process for those users who believe that their uploaded content either: (a) does not infringe any copyright, or (b) would be infringing but for the defense of fair use.100 Prior to this this new process, a user whose appeal was denied by the allegedly affected copyright owner was left with little recourse.101 Under the new system, if a user challenges a takedown notice filed directly with YouTube by a copyright holder, the holder now has two options: (1) release the claim or (2) file a formal DMCA notification.102 If the holder files a formal DMCA notification, “the video will be taken down and the uploader will receive a copyright strike.”103 Multiple strikes can lead to the suspension of a user’s YouTube account.104

Although YouTube found some limited protection from the appellate court in Viacom International v. YouTube, Inc.,105 and created internal protective measures subsequent a takedown notice, users continue to upload content to YouTube daily—both infringing and fairly used.106 It will be interesting to see if Content ID will effectively reduce infringement, and if so, whether similar technology could be

95 Id.
96 Id.
97 Id.
98 Id. at 1153.
99 Id. at 1156.
101 Id.
102 Id.
103 Id.
104 Id.
105 Viacom Int’l, Inc. v. YouTube, Inc., 676 F.3d 19, 26 (2d Cir. 2012). The issue is more nuanced than this but is beyond the purview of this Comment. On remand, the Second Circuit expressed its interest in whether a jury could find YouTube had “actual knowledge” of infringement. See *Transparency Report*, GOOGLE. http://www.google.com/transparencyreport/removals/copyright/ (last visited Mar. 7, 2013). Although Google does not release the number of allegedly infringing materials uploaded to their website (ostensibly because their ContentID technology did not recognize it and thus they are unaware of the uploaded content), through the use of their “Transparency Report,” Google offers insight to what rightsholders claim the most amount of infringement online.
applied to other classic avenues of infringement. As of now, however, Content ID may best be regarded as YouTube’s attempt to divorce itself even further from liability.

While the DMCA sets out penalties for infringing users, to date there has been no demonstration of its efficacy as an enforcement tool. Coupled with the shifting power structure articulated by Tyler’s “normative perspective” of why people obey laws and the problems with cyber anonymity, current enforcement inefficiencies create an environment ripe for copyright infringement. The next section of this Comment analyzes the effect of said inefficiencies on copyright infringement in cyberspace.

II. ANALYSIS

This Part analyzes the difficulties of regulating copyrightable materials in cyberspace. By examining the troubles copyright holders have had with enforcing their copyrights digitally, it becomes apparent that current legal options offered to copyright holders are insufficient and ineffective.


110 Id.

111 Id. at 150.


Responding to decisions restricting fair use, critical IP scholars have developed innovative First Amendment-based arguments for extending it in the digital realm. Some have also proposed legislative and regulatory schemes to protect an intellectual commons. While acknowledging the value of these approaches, [I] propose a different route: informing “fourth factor” (or “effect on the market”) analysis with economic assessments drawn from efforts to value physical, real-space commons. Environmental economists have developed sophisticated methods of measuring the value of commons in natural resources. Application of the techniques and concepts developed in environmental economics to “effect on the market” analysis in fair use cases would enable courts to recognize the Pareto-optimal features of an intellectual commons which restrictions on fair use threaten.

Id.
A. The DMCA: Or, “No Church in the Wild.”

Since implementation, the DMCA faced much scrutiny from scholars, lawmakers, and the civilian press alike. Although past criticisms have focused on fair use considerations, censorship, and stunting innovation, this Comment will focus its criticisms purely on enforcement. The concern that the DMCA is unenforceable is not new, and in fact was raised before the DMCA was even enacted. Some critics have even likened ISPs to the United States Postal Service in saying: “[J]ust like the postal service cannot (and indeed should not) monitor the contents of all the envelopes it handles, it is simply not possible for an infrastructure provider to monitor whether the millions of electronic messages it transmits daily have been authorized.” In the same way that it would be unrealistic to expect the postal service to ensure strict legal compliance with every letter mailed, it would be prohibitively expensive (both in resources and manpower), as well as legally and morally impractical from a privacy standpoint, for ISPs to ensure copyright compliance digitally.

That is not to say there have not been legal “victories” for copyright holders. On the contrary, several high profile cases have reiterated federal law’s commitment to cyberspace copyrights. However, what, if any, long-term deterrent effects have these cases had on copyright infringement in cyberspace? It seems that, at best,
these victories represent the compliant façade on a building constructed of scofflaws.\textsuperscript{122}

Rights holders’ attempts to stop vehicles of copyright infringement have largely treated individual symptoms of the problem without addressing the underlying cause.\textsuperscript{123} For example, last year, federal agents shuttered Megaupload.com.\textsuperscript{124} The website acted as a host for infringing material.\textsuperscript{125} At the time of seizure, Megaupload visitors accounted for four percent of all Internet traffic.\textsuperscript{126} Although the federal attack focused only on Megaupload, it was effective in its ability to deter payment system operators and advertisers from doing business with other cyberlocker sites.\textsuperscript{127} Accordingly, a large percentage of cyberlockers like Megaupload are now defunct.\textsuperscript{128} Those still functioning have greatly altered their policies in the face of public and governmental objections.\textsuperscript{129}

While agents were able to remove this “big fish” of content hosting sites, numerous other sites continued to operate.\textsuperscript{130} Moreover, YouTube is not the only vehicle of copyright infringement, nor the most popular.\textsuperscript{131} Torrenting still remains one of the most effective infringement vehicles available online.\textsuperscript{132} Torrent aggregators, such as The Pirate Bay, not only allow users to search for and download video, audio, and software, but also allow users to rank uploaders as “VIPs” or “Trustworthy” to reduce the risk of downloading content tracked by rights holders and authorities, or harmful content.\textsuperscript{133} While federal suits going after individual

\begin{footnotes}
\item[122]{See Christopher Jensen, \textit{The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same: Copyright, Digital Technology, and Social Norms}, 56 STAN. L. REV. 531, 538 (2003) (describing such legal battles as “pyrrhic victor[ies] for the recording industry”); Matthew Green, \textit{Napster Opens Pandora’s Box: Examining How File-Sharing Services Threaten the Enforcement of Copyright on the Internet}, 63 OHIO ST. L.J. 799, 823–24 (2002) (noting that copyright holders have been weary of pursuing legal action against infringing users as opposed to the services that cater to them).
\item[125]{Id.}
\item[126]{Id.}
\item[129]{See, e.g., Fighting Against The Sharing Of Pirated And Illegal Content, STOPFILELOCKERS.COM, http://stopfilelockers.com/ (last visited Mar. 7, 2013).}
\item[131]{See Shelly Rosenfeld, \textit{Taking the Wind out of the Movie Pirates’ Sails: The Constitutionality of Senate Bill 3804}, 36 SETON HALL LEGIS. J. 57, 63 (2011) (discussing the illegal peer-to-peer website, The Pirate Bay, as “a notorious conduit for infringement”).
\item[132]{Saifil K. Mehra, \textit{Keep America Exceptional! Against Adopting Japanese and European-Style Criminalization of Contributory Copyright Infringement}, 13 VAND. J. ENT. & TECH. L. 811, 821 (2011) (discussing the difficulties of international enforcement with websites such as The Pirate Bay).
\end{footnotes}
users comprising a Torrent “swarm” have seen some success, effective enforcement against webhosts remains sparse.

Although legal action has been taken against individual users of file-sharing software, there is yet to be any legal action taken against individual infringing users of services such as YouTube. This very well might be because of the transitory nature of video posting on YouTube. That is, users watch over 4 billion hours of video footage on YouTube each month. Seventy-two hours of video are uploaded to YouTube every minute. Over eight hundred million unique users visit the website each month, with seventy percent of YouTube’s traffic coming from outside the United States. The sheer amount of content uploaded each day, combined with the number of users uploading the content, acts as a legal and economic quagmire for rights holders interested in going after individual YouTube users. To rights holders, YouTube offers an enforcement mechanism that is more efficient and effective than litigation.

Issues of cyberspace anonymity also raise concerns over cyberspace legal enforcement. These issues are multifaceted. Although YouTube requires users who upload content to register with its site, technology exists to keep their identities hidden from the website. YouTube admittedly does everything within its power to deter uploading infringing content on its website, however, it has yet to develop or implement security measures to protect its content from being “ripped” off the website and downloaded by a third party. If utilizing one of these third-party

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134 See RIAA v. The People: Five Years Later, ELECTRONIC FRONTIER FOUND. (Sept. 30, 2008), https://www.eff.org/wp/riaa-v-people-five-years-later (noting that within five years of beginning its legal campaign against illegal downloaders, the RIAA had “filed, settled, or threatened legal actions against at least 30,000 individuals”).

135 See Statistics, supra note 86.

136 Id.

137 Id.

138 Id.

139 Id.


141 Id.

142 See, e.g., Charles B. Vincent, Cybersmear II: Blogging and the Corporate Rematch Against John Doe Version 2.006, 31 DEL. J. CORP. L. 987, 1001 (2006) (discussing the legal issues of cyberspace anonymity in the context of defamation); Rodney A. Smolla, 1 Law of Defamation § 4:86.50 (2d ed. 2012) (“To fail to recognize that the First Amendment right to speak anonymously should be extended to communications on the Internet would ignore the First Amendment values of anonymity, and the strong push for privacy online in modern American society.”).

143 See Daniel J. Gervais, The Price of Social Norms: Towards a Liability Regime for File-sharing, 12 J. INTELL. PROP. L. 39, 52 (2004) (“If policy makers insist on making illegal socially-acceptable conduct, technology will adapt to the legal environment either by circumventing the legal norm or by making enforcement either impossible or too costly.”).


145 A Google search of the terms “YouTube Rip” or “YouTube Save” returns first page results with websites that provide the service or direct information on how to save a YouTube video (or audio) to one’s computer. Ironically enough, now that YouTube has partnered with copyright holders such as Vevo, to provide exclusive, high-quality content, users now have the option to “rip”
sources, an infringing user offers even less identifying information to YouTube than a registered user.

When one begins to observe actions of digital copyright infringement as illegal, yet largely unpunishable due to the technological shortcomings of identification and deterrence, it is not so much a question anymore as to how people can get away with infringement. Considered in light of sociological examinations of societal norms, copyright infringement in the digital age becomes the twenty-first century equivalent to jaywalking: quick, pervasive, and guilt-free.146

B. Social Norms (or the Lack Thereof)

Beyond the aforementioned technological inadequacies plaguing copyright enforcement, applying traditional sociological frameworks of legal disobedience to current digital copyright laws leads one to the conclusion that, under the current legal model, there cannot be a serious expectation of compliance with digital copyright laws.147

The concern of compliance with copyright laws in the digital age has been examined before.148 As mentioned in Part I, compliance with the law is based on a number of factors, with personal morality and legitimacy of the governing body chief among them.149 There exists a lack of connection between the current legal framework, the populace it seeks to govern, and their personal views of morality and the legitimacy of the state.

Under the current model of copyright enforcement, deterrence via threats of large fines and imprisonment is the only internal impetus guiding people towards law-abiding behavior.150 This method of enforcement is obviously ineffective.151 The

146 See Tyler, Compliance with Intellectual Property Laws, supra note 12, at 220.  
147 Id.  
149 See Tyler, Why People Obey the Law, supra note 12, at 19; Tyler, Compliance with Intellectual Property Laws, supra note 12, at 224.  
151 Id. (footnotes omitted).
key to legal compliance, as Tyler points out, is not so much a question of the “objective risk of being caught.” That is, if people believe that performing an illegal action has a high probability of getting them in trouble, they are less likely to do it, regardless of whether that “estimate of risk” is accurate or not.

In the copyright context, there appears to be a relatively low belief that infringing behavior will result in apprehension, conviction, or a sizable monetary penalty. This may be for a number of reasons. First, perhaps the most infamous copyright holder, the Recording Industry Association of America (“RIAA”), stopped filing suit against individuals in 2008. Additionally, as Tyler points out, “[p]eople have greater opportunities to break rules in certain situations.” The aforementioned technological shortcomings, coupled with near-anonymity and poor legal framework, create an almost perfect storm of factors favoring low psychological estimations of the risks attendant to infringement.

The lack of connection between personal moral considerations and digital copyright law, on first sight, is rather concerning. While some make the comparison that copyright infringement is no different than stealing, overwhelming public perception seems to perpetuate a disconnection between theft of a physical good and copying a digital resource. Some behaviorists have attributed this to the lack of

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152 Id. at 222.
153 Id.
154 Id.
155 Id. at 234.
156 See, e.g., McBride & Smith, supra note 6 (“Though the industry group is reserving the right to sue people who are particularly heavy file sharers, or who ignore repeated warnings, it expects its lawsuits to decline to a trickle.”).
157 Tyler, Compliance with Intellectual Property Laws, supra note 12, at 223.
158 Id. at 224.
160 See Mohsen Manesh, The Immorality of Theft, the Amorality of Infringement, 2006 STAN. TECH. L. REV. 5, ¶¶ 1, 3.

[T]he famous Stanford law professor Paul Goldstein engages his students in discussion of copyright law. Goldstein first asks his students, would they take a book from a bookstore even if they were certain that they would not be caught? Overwhelmingly, the students say no. Goldstein then asks them to suppose the book was available electronically on the Internet. Would they make a copy of the electronic book, again certain that they would not be caught? This time a majority say yes, including those who had answered no to the first question.

Professor Goldstein’s two hypotheticals present his students with similar circumstances. From the students’ perspective, both taking a physical copy of the book and making an electronic copy yield the same result: a copy of the book obtained at no cost to them. Of course, the law proscribes both, one as theft and the other as infringement. Yet . . . the students seem to intuitively distinguish theft from infringement.

Id.
“personal contact” between a copyright infringer and their victims or the subject of their infringement.161

Some behaviorists posit that the further removed a behavior is from our ancestral background, the more amoral, or morally ambiguous, the act tends to be.162 While acts such as physically taking another’s property or life are directly linked with our ancestral heritage, one can easily suggest that the idea of making an unauthorized digital copy that does not deprive the original owner of anything other than profits gained and control of distribution is a foreign concept with regard to our intuitive morality. As Tyler notes, “[i]n the case of intellectual property law, these findings imply that one crucial problem is the lack of a public feeling that breaking intellectual property laws is wrong. In the absence of such a conception, there is little reason for people to follow intellectual property laws.”163

This lack of moral connection may also be linked to ideas of fairness.164 For example, it seems that much copyright infringement arises out of a distorted idea of fair use.165 Intellectual property law, in the digital context, generally operates outside of a “moral climate that supports formal laws.”166

Legitimacy of the State is also at issue. Online copyright infringement is a worldwide problem.167 While the United States has been on the forefront of ensuring copyrights are respected and enforced, as previously mentioned, attempts at doing so have been futile at best. A view that the State is enforcing legitimate authority over its populace is nearly as important as the connection between law and personal morality.168

This legitimacy has been lacking with regard to the enforcement of copyright laws in cyberspace. It is not a matter of whether or not a legitimate authority exists. Rather, there are several issues with the current enforcement regime. First, as previously mentioned, the RIAA has switched its enforcement strategy so many times since the initial rounds of lawsuits began in 2003, that there really is no legal consequence for infringing users to expect. Additionally, public respect for the law and legal authorities has waned in recent decades.169


164 Id. at 227 (“[T]he law can have an important symbolic function if it accords with public views about what is fair, but it loses that power as the formal law diverges from public morality.”).

165 See id. at 228.

166 Id.


168 Tyler, Compliance with Intellectual Property Laws, supra note 12, at 229.

The very nature of the Internet exacerbates this lack of legitimacy. While the United States, at the very least, attempts to create laws with aims to protect intellectual property rights, other such nations are not as concerned or receptive to these rights. Although the United States may eventually and successfully enjoin infringement through its federal court system, jurisdictional and censorship issues arise when websites wholly owned and operated by foreign entities are blocked by the American court system.

III. PROPOSAL: TOWARDS AN UNDERSTANDING OF COPYRIGHTS AS HUMAN RIGHTS

To review, we are left with a situation where, despite laws and attempts at legal enforcement, copyright infringement in cyberspace is as rampant now as it has ever been. Despite efforts to legislate around the problem, safe harbors and loopholes in the DMCA effectively bar copyright holders from going after ISPs providing vehicles of infringement. So how does the United States protect copyrights in the digital age? A proposed framework exists: creating a connection between personal morality and the law as well as a reaffirmation of legitimacy in the government.

Although legal devices such as strict liability have been suggested, a shift toward a more European “natural law” alternative and a shift away from the “copyright-as-property rhetoric” is more effective. This Comment suggests that a

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171 See Declan McCullagh, *RIAA: U.S. Copyright Law ‘Isn’t Working’*, CNET (Aug. 23, 2010, 2:48 PM), http://news.cnet.com/8301-13578_3-20014468-38.html (complaining that the DMCA is rife with loopholes, RIAA President Cary Sherman is quoted as saying, “The DMCA isn’t working for content people at all . . . You cannot monitor all the infringements on the Internet. It’s simply not possible. We don’t have the ability to search all the places infringing content appears . . . .”).


173 See *Compliance with Intellectual Property Laws, supra* note 12, at 234.


175 See *Manesh, supra* note 160, at 101. But see *Sony Corp. of Am. v. Universal City Studios, Inc.*, 464 U.S. 417, 429 n.10 (1984) (“The enactment of copyright legislation . . . is not based upon any natural right that the author has in his writings, . . . but upon the ground that the welfare of the public will be served and progress of science and useful arts will be promoted by securing to authors for limited periods the exclusive rights to their writings.”).

focus on copyrights as human rights may be able to strike the most resonant chord in
the context of both morality and legitimacy.

If someone had made the suggestion ten years ago that intellectual property
rights should be placed on the same plane as human rights, it would have sounded
glib, at best. In the past few years, however, the global public developed an
overwhelming reliance on the Internet as a medium of both communication and
social change.177 This is symptomatic of the growing importance of the Internet as a
worldwide communication tool. Accordingly, this pervasive reliance on the Internet
for communication supports the notion that Internet access be considered a human
right.

The first step toward achieving copyright protection in cyberspace is the creation
of a moral framework that supports the current infringement laws. Also, recognizing
fair use protection and punishing overreaching copyright claims will help this
framework materialize. Finally, to achieve morality in cyberspace there needs to be
a common understanding between lawmakers and end-users. YouTube’s creation of
an internalized takedown appeals process serves as a city on a hill for not only an
increased respect for fair use, but also for a common understanding between
lawmakers and end-users.

A. Creating the Framework

As Tyler notes, the first step in creating a moral framework for law is “creat[ing]
and maintain[ing] a moral climate that supports formal laws.”178 In traditional legal
contexts, Americans are culturally predisposed to support law abiding behavior.179
The real dichotomy, then, “is how such a culture [has failed to] be created in the area
of intellectual property law.”180 Threats alone have not achieved this end.181 What is
required is an integration of educational methods to spur critical thinking on issues
of morality in the digital context.182

Moral legitimacy cannot arise solely out of legislation espousing a position as
just.183 Instead, there must be a socially accepted moral framework that creates the
demand for legislation and not vice versa. In short, communal understanding of
moral standards begets effective legislation based in morality; legislation based in
morality does not precipitate a moral understanding and connection amongst a
populace.184

177 See Seth F. Kreimer, Technologies of Protest: Insurgent Social Movements and the First
178 Tyler, Compliance with Intellectual Property Laws, supra note 12, at 228.
179 Id. at 228–29.
180 Id. at 229.
181 Id. at 234.
182 See James R. Rest & Stephen J. Thoma, Relation of Moral Judgment Development to
Formal Education, 21 DEV. PSYCHOL. 709, 712 (1985); Tyler, Compliance with Intellectual Property
Laws, supra note 12, at 229 (“[W]e need to create an awareness of and commitment to the moral
principles that underlie formal laws. In particular, the public’s awareness of the reasons underlying
intellectual property rules needs to be developed more effectively, so that a basis for a positive moral
climate can be created.”).
183 Tyler, Compliance with Intellectual Property Laws, supra note 12, at 231.
184 Id.
Beyond the educational measures needed to establish a moral framework, there must be a legitimizing factor for the authority attempting to enact the legislation.\textsuperscript{185} To reestablish legitimacy, one must first identify the “antecedents of legitimacy.”\textsuperscript{186} These antecedents primarily lie in “people’s judgments about the procedures through which legal authorities make rules.”\textsuperscript{187}

In the context of copyrights in cyberspace, a problem with the DMCA may arise from the context in which it was created.\textsuperscript{188} Lawmakers drafted the DMCA as the result of negotiations between ISPs and copyright holders. One set of stakeholders never involved with these talks is the group most affected by such legislation: the end-users.\textsuperscript{189} Although critics raised this concern before the initial drafting of the DMCA, these warnings went largely unheeded.

Contrarily, YouTube created an internal model of enforcement based directly on the input and concerns of end-users. This arguably created a more efficient and effective system of copyright enforcement by reducing the need for drawn out litigation. It also takes into account end-users’ fair use of copyrighted content.\textsuperscript{190}

Perhaps this experience should be a lesson in identifying relevant stakeholders. That is, there can be little expectation of willful compliance if there exists no mutual feeling of participation in the drafting and implementation of laws.\textsuperscript{191} Rather, legitimacy and trust stem from a combination of views of fairness combined with participation.\textsuperscript{192} In this vein, it was wholly useful for YouTube to go beyond industry insiders, law makers, and academics, and take end-user demands and concerns into consideration when forging changes to the current cyberspace intellectual property regime.

\begin{footnotesize}
\begin{enumerate}
\item Id.
\item Id.
\item Id.; see also \textsc{E. Allan Lind & Tom R. Tyler}, \textsc{The Social Psychology of Procedural Justice} 65–66 (1988).
\item See \textsc{Greg Sandoval}, \textsc{RIAA Lawyer Says DMCA May Need Overhaul}, CNET (Nov 6, 2011, 8:59 AM), http://news.cnet.com/8301-31001_3-57319344-261/riaa-lawyer-says-dmca-may-need-overhaul/. Jennifer Pariser, RIAA Senior Vice President of Litigation, was quoted as saying, “I think Congress got it right, but I think the courts are getting it wrong . . . . I think the courts are interpreting Congress’ statute in a manner that is entirely too restrictive of content owners’ rights and too open to [Internet] service providers.” Id.; see also \textsc{Miquel Peguera}, \textsc{When the Cached Link Is the Weakest Link: Search Engine Caches Under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act}, 56 J. COPYRIGHT SOCY U.S.A. 589, 599 (2009) (noting that “[a]fter several years of intense debates, a compromise was eventually reached between the different stakeholders on the issue of the liability of Internet intermediaries for online copyright infringements”).
\item See \textsc{Jessica Litman}, \textsc{Digital Copyright: Protecting Intellectual Property on the Internet} 35–63 (2001) (proposing the public have its own copyright lawyer available to represent them during the course of legislation drafting); \textsc{Mike Scott}, \textsc{Safe Harbors Under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act}, 9 N.Y.U. J. LEGIS. & PUB. POLY 99, 115–19 (2006) (discussing the warnings of The Working Group in drafting legislation without talking to all relevant stakeholders).
\item See \textsc{What is Fair Use?}, \textsc{YouTube}, http://www.youtube.com/yt/copyright/fair-use.html (last visited Mar. 7, 2013).
\item \textsc{Tyler}, \textsc{Compliance with Intellectual Property Laws}, supra note 12, at 232; see also \textsc{Jürgen Habermas}, \textsc{Between Facts and Norms: Contributions to a Discourse Theory of Law and Democracy} 458–60 (1996) (positing that utilizing discourse within a democratic state offers legitimacy through consensus).
\item Tyler, \textsc{Compliance with Intellectual Property Laws}, supra note 12, at 232.
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After lawmakers create a moral framework that supports current copyright law and legitimizes the law by considering the end-user, there needs to be a proliferation of morality in cyberspace.

**B. Bolstering End-User Influence By Penalizing Overreaching Copyright Claims**

For a long time now, commentators have expressed concerns that over-aggressive copyright enforcement stifles fair use.193 That is, with fair use being an affirmative defense and not a categorical right, end-users unaware of the proper way to raise the defense are at an extreme disadvantage to major rights holders.194 One scholar describes this enforcement overreach as “Copyfraud.”195 That is, deep-pocket rights holders, for the sake of efficiency, tend to overstate their exclusive rights over the content they own.196

The question, then, is how best to allocate the cost of initial identification of infringement between the rights holder and webhost. By recognizing fair use as equally important as traditional copyright protections, the current legal framework under the DMCA would realize several efficiencies. Under the current framework, rights holders can send irresponsible takedown notices with no regard for fair use at minimal cost, and with no realistic expectation of reprisal.197 Instead, the framework must reduce the cost of raising a fair use defense to a takedown notice.198 Moreover, rights holders should be held meaningfully accountable for overexerting their copyrights.199 This would force rights holders to better pick and choose their battles against potentially infringing content.200 YouTube’s internal appeals process achieves this to an extent. At first, uploaders’ appeals to a YouTube takedown were adjudicated by the rights holder requesting the takedown. Now, YouTube serves a mediation role between uploaders and rights holders. If an uploader challenges a takedown of one of their videos, YouTube now requires rights holders to file a formal DMCA takedown. In this vein, rights holders now have to decide whether it is worth their time and effort to file a formal takedown.

This current framework solves only half the problem, however. Although end-users are now more protected by once-removing the takedown abilities of rights holders, they still face an uphill battle in challenging a formal DMCA takedown. Ideally, there should be a balance between users’ ability to fairly use copyrighted material and rights holders’ ability to enforce their copyrights. By recognizing fair

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193 See JASON MAZZONE, COPYFRAUD AND OTHER ABUSES OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (2011). Perhaps the most comprehensive observation of overreaching copyright claims in all mediums, Mazzone provides an extensive review of the multiple ways rights holders overexert their copyright protection.
196 Id.
198 Id. at 8–9.
199 Id. at 10–11.
200 Id. at 12.
201 Id. at 10.
use as a right as opposed to an affirmative defense, rights holders could ostensibly be liable for filing a DMCA takedown of uploaded content that is later found to be fairly used. 202 This would better streamline deeper-pocket rights holders into picking and choosing their enforcement battles.

C. Human (Copy)Rights: Bolstering Morality and Legitimacy Through a Common Understanding

Perhaps the most important goal in creating a more secure digital copyrights framework is to “reestablish the social connection between citizens and legal authorities that underlies feelings of trust in the motives of leaders.” 203 To achieve this, there must be a meeting of the minds as to the importance of said rights in society.

This must happen on a level beyond that of economic discourse. The economic importance of intellectual property has never been overlooked. 204 Indeed, it often serves as the underlying theme of intellectual property cases. 205 Respect for these laws will evolve through the realization that they benefit individuals and not just industry behemoths like the RIAA and the Motion Picture Association of America (“MPAA”).

This idea is becoming more of a reality as the Internet is becoming a basic necessity. The United Nations has declared Internet access a human right. 206 There is no doubt that as the Internet reaches the last nooks of technologically deprived regions, the protections copyrights offer will be increasingly relevant.

Similar to how the Internet democratizes access to new and emerging ideas, emergent online technologies democratize the ability to disseminate ideas. For the first time in a major communication medium, this democratization is creating a powerful stakeholder in the end-user as opposed to merely focusing on industry oriented participants. For the first time in history, end-users have taken on a large portion of the content generation responsibility. As such, the issue of copyrights can best be internalized if it is placed in a context that is beneficial to them.

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205 Id. at 12.
CONCLUSION

Under the current legal framework, there remains ineffective regulation of copyrights in cyberspace. Issues of enforcement aside, questions of the speed of technological evolution raise concerns as to whether the legislative process can keep up with emerging technologies. Anonymity coupled with various vehicles of content delivery hurt rights holders’ ability to enforce their copyrights. Through anonymity, people are more likely to break the law due to a lack of effective enforcement as well as lack of effective legal targeting. In the context of copyrights in cyberspace, this has led to “cyberanarchy.”

Recent legal developments—both statutory and common—have been unable to reverse, or even slow, this descent into “cyberanarchy.” The problem can best be solved through foundational changes in societal standards. By focusing on a bottom-up framework that contemplates intellectual property rights as human rights, the state would not only stress the importance these rights have on the individual (as opposed to, say, media conglomerates), it would unify a collective thought that legitimizes and bolsters personal moral views on this subject. This development, in turn, would promote the perception that the State is a legitimate entity caring about individual rights.