Under the Copyright Act, you can be liable for up to $5,000 per movie or $1,000 per song illegally traded.

File-swapping copyrighted material can get you in big trouble, cost you big bucks and change your life in unexpectedly big ways.


A public service message from

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY
State University of New York
www.binghamton.edu

Music and video piracy is illegal. Don't be stupid. Don't do it.
RISKY BUSINESS

It's what you get into if you illegally download or share copyrighted music and movies. Think: prosecutable, federal crime.

NOWHERE TO RUN

You may be nameless on the Internet, but those who track down music and movie piracy have your number and know where you live. Your computer has a unique IP (Internet Protocol) address which is broadcast everywhere you go on the Web. It can be traced back to you.

Money and the possibility of jail time.
Not to mention wrecking your future.

No joke: The recording and entertainment industries have already sued thousands of people — many of them students like you — and are determined to sue a lot more. Average payment by defendants has been $3,000 (although it can go after you or your parents for a heck of a lot more). At least one student has spent time in jail; others have received suspended sentences.

Going for a song can quickly cost you a lot. Think it's worth it?

NO EXCUSES

“But I bought the CD before sharing it online with friends.” The recording industry doesn’t care.

“I only wanted to see if I liked the movie before I bought it.” The motion picture industry doesn’t care.

“I downloaded a TV program! I could have recorded it on my DVD player without breaking the law.” You should have recorded it.

“I didn’t know my computer was sharing illegal files when I accidentally left a file-sharing program on.” Ignorance is not a defense.

THE PRICE YOU GOTTA PAY

Train of Consequences

For its part, Binghamton will notify you if the recording or entertainment industries have identified your IP address as one involved in piracy. Your network access will be disabled until you visit Computing Services to sign and acknowledge any proven offense and your commitment not to repeat it. A repeat violation will trigger student judicial action and potential loss of Internet access privileges from your room for a semester (although you still will be able to get on the Internet at a computer pod for academic work or student services).

Whatever else happens if you’re caught committing piracy is between you, your lawyer and the agency suing you.

DUMB AND DUMPER

Rescue Me

The University cannot protect you if you are caught illegally downloading or sharing music and movies. It cannot provide legal advice; you — or your parents — are responsible for finding and hiring a lawyer, because you’ll need one.

Binghamton is required by law to respond to and comply with a legal, official notice from the recording or entertainment industries that music or movie piracy has been traced to a University computer. If subpoenaed, the University must provide the names of students whose Internet connections correspond to the IP addresses included in the subpoena. Don’t let one of them be yours.

Dumb is illegally downloading or sharing copyrighted material.
Dumber is continuing to do it after you know it’s a crime, you can get caught and will pay a steep price if you are.
If you think you won’t get caught because “everybody’s doing it,” think again. Be smart and smarter.