

Extreme Copyright: Law and Technology for the Rest of Us (publishers)

Daniel J. Weitzner

World Wide Web Consortium

MIT Laboratory for Computer
Science

Realizing the DSpace Vision

Preconditions:


- o Cultural - interactive content producers, not couch potatoes
- o Legal - copyright regime that supports open information spaces
- o Technical - flexible, descriptive platforms for n-way combinations of copyrighted material.


Current bias against openness

- Restrictive laws: copyright plus
- Overly aggressive enforcement
 - ISPs, Private institutions, network architects
- Digital Rights Management technologies tuned to limited range of business models
 - Good for one-way vending of content
 - Bad for multi-dimensional combination of content
 - (and not necessarily very effective against piracy because of inherent leakiness)

At one extreme: the Network of the future?

Warning: Trademark and/or Copyright Infringement

 You are attempting to save a document that contains the following trademarked and/or copyrighted language:

said to me this was like nothing else he had ever experie 

"Like Nothing Else" is a trademark of the General Motors Corporation.

Please change or delete this language, and then attempt to save the document again.

Options

☐ Save document as is, and alert the appropriate authorities.
(May result in fines, prison sentence, or both)

☐ Invoke Fair Use defense

Check all applicable

☐ criticism ☐ teaching

☐ comment ☐ scholarship

☐ news reporting ☐ research

☐ Pay all applicable license fees to trademark/copyright holders.

☐ One year: \$3.65 (estimated)

☐ self-renewing

☐ Lifetime: \$720.00 (estimated)

Please enter credit card number:

Expiration date:

Expect period of instability

- Divergent legal rulings explore complexity of copyright law in digital media:
 - DVD copier: DeCSS cases
 - eBook copier: United States v. Elcomsoft
- Competing technology visions
 - Rights Management: XrML (Extensible Rights Markup Language) presumes trust engine as enforcer
 - Rights Description: Creative Commons emphasizes information about rights

Scaling crisis in copyright law

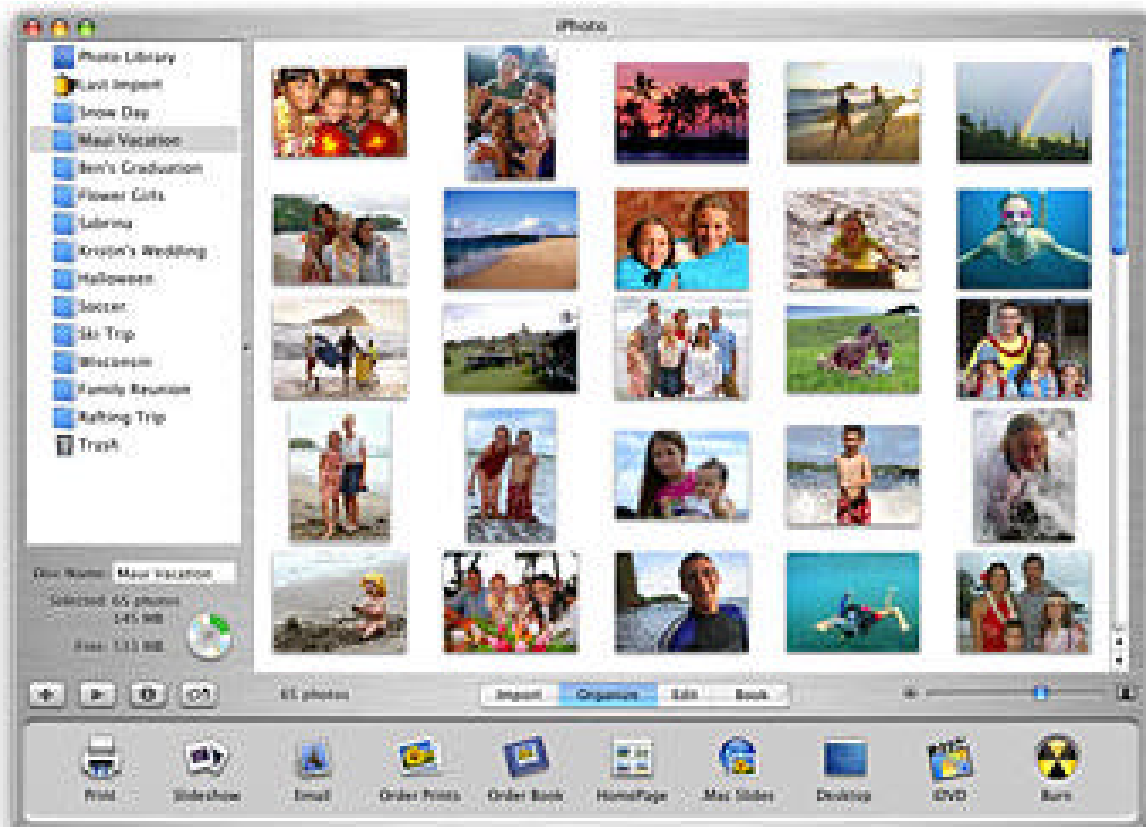
- Explosive pressure on copyright law: from defined commercial sphere to entire public information space
- Internet faced same pressure: transition from special purpose network (phone) to general purpose network (Internet) had its rough spots: access charges, full service network, etc.

Today's applications drive tomorrow's copyright enforcement

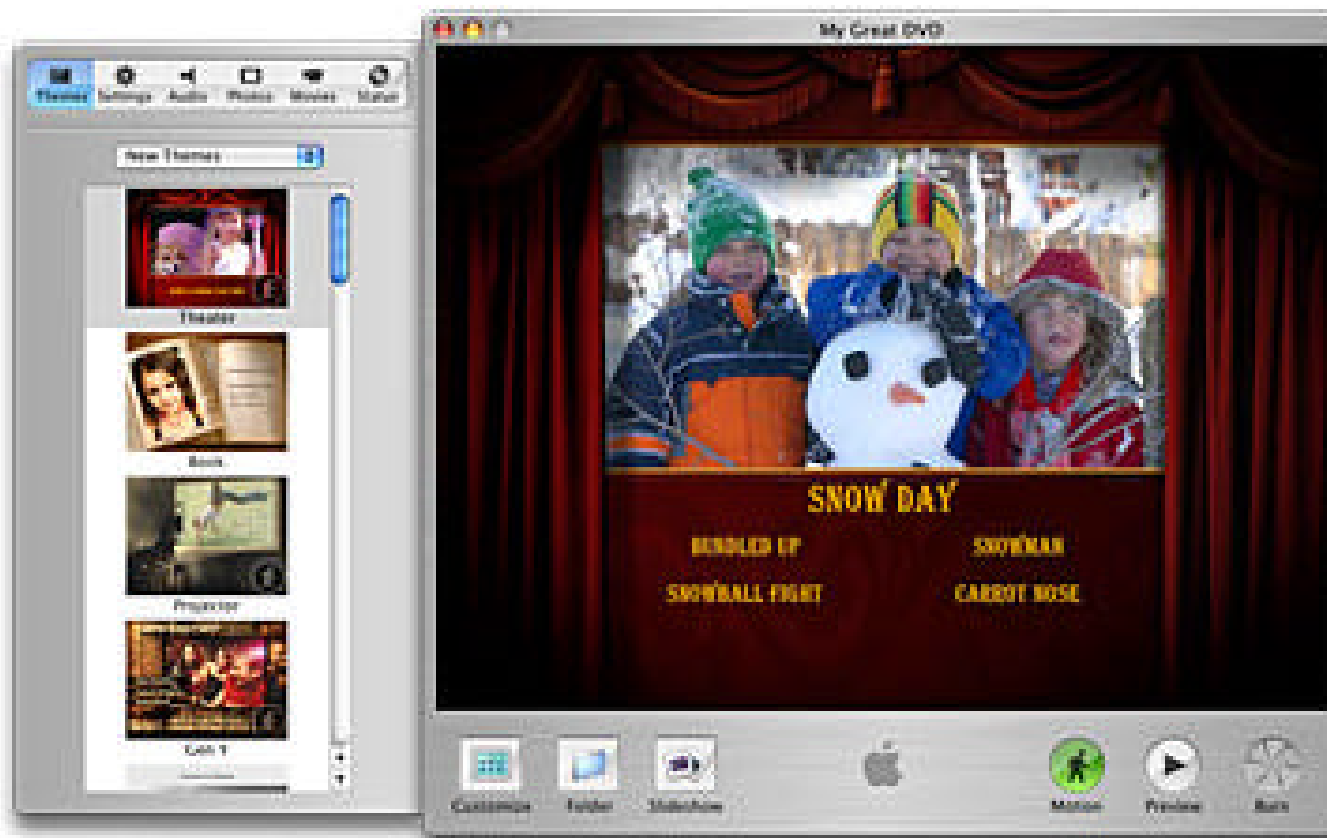
Cultural practice will drive law:

- Institutional behavior
- Personal and community activity online

We all publish -- pictures



We will all publish more --
video



Locks & keys vs. keeping honest people honest

- Locks and keys may be necessary, but not sufficient
- Work on infrastructures to help
 - keep honest people honest, and
 - creative people creative.
- Result will be vibrant information space driving growing networks

Conclusion

- General purpose perspective will assert itself
- But not to the detriment of content holders or respect for copyright law
- What seems like extreme communication/information patterns today will be the norm tomorrow