

Hello,

I wish you would reconsider the use of DRM. I'm someone who fully supports the purchase of electronic media online, but let me tell you what DRM has done to me and my buying habits, and then tell you what it has not done for anyone.

First, DRM has caused me to lose a number of purchases that were rightfully mine. Over the years I had bought any number of ebooks in proprietary format that could only be used on specific machines, or with specific software. My first loss was a number of books downloaded to Adobe Reader, and they were keyed to my computer. Unfortunately, computers are things that die and are frequently replaced. Upon my first replacement, I was informed that I could not view my books again unless I repurchased them. That's outrageous. I never purchased books in that format again.

I then started shopping at a store which had their own format, but which kept their books online for you, so all you needed to do was log into their site. Unfortunately, they went bankrupt and closed the site, so I lost all my books which had been legally purchased there.

So here's the deal. Now I never, ever buy a DRM'd ebook. Tech and tech companies don't last. I want control over my purchases. I have the right to control and keep my purchases. There was no mention of any time-limit, or any temporary status of my ownership when I bought those books. But DRM assumes the world never changes, and that's an utterly foolish way to look at business. Any company that uses DRM is losing my sales, and will continue to lose my sales for the remainder of my life.

That's what DRM has done to me. Here's what it doesn't do. It doesn't stop anyone from pirating books. I know because remember those DRM'd books I lost? I went to pirate sites on the internet and downloaded them. I feel it was my right, since I'd already paid for them once.

New books are all out there within a week of publication. It doesn't matter if ebooks are locked. Even if people can't crack the format, they still scan and OCR them into easily shared DRM-free formats. It's a simple process, and it's done to all the popular books. I'd be willing to bet that there isn't one DRM'd book that isn't DRM-free on pirate sites unless someone DRM'd a book about turnips that no one wanted to read in the first place.

But honestly, it takes a little work to find pirated books. Most people don't want the trouble. And most, like me, prefer to be honest and buy copies. But not copies that aren't truly mine. Call me old-fashioned, but when I pay money for a book, I expect to be able to read it 20 and 30 years from now. With DRM, I will not be able to. It's been proven to me first hand time and again. Without DRM, I can copy it to new media as technology changes. It will always be mine, as it should be.

So please, reconsider the use of this outdated notion that is expensive and ineffective and will hurt the sales of any ebook that carries it. It's wrong to punish those of us who

sincerely wish to support publishers by purchasing ebooks. The pirates, they couldn't care less; DRM isn't hurting them one bit.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my comments.