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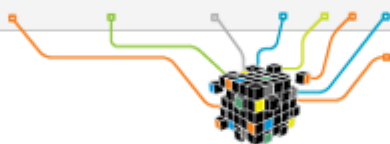
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August 9, 2007, 8:19 PM

# Veoh vs. Copyright Holders: Is a War Brewing?

By BRAD STONE

Internet video service Veoh has gone to a southern California federal district court to seek protection from a possible lawsuit from Universal Music Group, according to Reuters.

It's not surprising. As we reported less than a month ago, the major media companies think the firm, backed by Time Warner and Michael Eisner, takes a cavalier attitude toward keeping copyrighted material off its service. They complain that Veoh imposes no time limits on uploaded clips and will not embrace digital fingerprinting technology to filter out copyrighted-material. Veoh says it complies with the DMCA and removes content when asked.

But as I described here on Bits last month, it's often difficult for copyright holders to find their material on Veoh. Pirates are using the service to park copyrighted material on the site under disguised names; they then point to the videos on their own sites. (Incredibly, full-length episodes of NBC's "The Office", which I referenced in last month's blog item, are still on Veoh.com.)

Update: Veoh did indeed pre-emptively sue Universal Music Group yesterday, asking a federal judge to prevent the giant music company from filing its own copyright infringement action.

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Internet, Universal Music Group, Veoh

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- August 11, 2007 2:48 pm

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Just a few comments on this (and like events):

  - When major studios and record companies sue every web site, accusing them of 'vicarious infringement' and other such highly imaginative copyright violations, I'm reminded of the unpopular rich kid that always cries when he's not picked for a team and threatens to take his ball home. It does however extend my resolve not to buy new CD's (a shared strategy that seems to be working, based on slumping CD sales), new DVD's ect.
  - Why are TV producers, a medium that only succeeds by having the widest dissemination possible, bothered

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The new Apple iMacs are pretty, but some users are reporting problems.

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Morally-bound to respond to misdirected e-mails; when relationships advance beyond "It's complicated."

#### App of the Week: TGI Black Friday

TGI Black Friday compiles pricing data from more than 50 retailers for the coming holiday-shopping scum.

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by making the most common mistake, blaming when other companies/sites assume the cost of distribution for them? Guess what? Having a TV show work it's way into modern culture (The Office is a good example) has to return greater rewards over the long run than missing out on a few thousand ad-views and a percent or two on a Nielson rating.

3. Every time the RIAA, the MPAA, ect ect try to control how content is delivered (broadcast flag, disabling fast-forward on dvd controls, threatening Tivo until they dropped the 30 second skip feature, every DRM scheme, the Sony rootkit fiasco, ect ect) the more I resist, converting all my music to DRM-free formats, returning DVD's that disable controls as 'broken', returning CD's with copy protection as 'broken'. Personally, I think the producers of such things should be forced to bear the cost of returns, not the retailers, who for the most part are just caught in the middle between increasingly dissatisfied consumers.

— Bryan Waterman

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VIDEO

#### Distracted Drivers

Most people are aware of the dangers of trying to multitask while driving, but most continue to do it anyway.



INTERACTIVE FEATURE

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- December 02 **AT&T Drops Fight Over Maps in Verizon Ads**  
AT&T has withdrawn a lawsuit challenging ads from Verizon Wireless that AT&T says are misleading. The ads will continue unchanged.
- December 02 **Google Restricts Free Reading on Pay News Sites**  
 (17)  
Google is closing a loophole that allowed people to read large numbers of articles on subscription-based sites without paying for them.
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Facebook and Yahoo say they will allow users to combine their news feeds from each site as part of a five-year partnership.

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