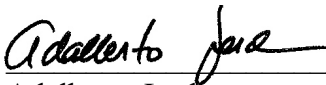


their compliance with the Digital Millennium Copyright Act's safe-harbor provision. Essentially, Hotfile and Mr. Titov believe that the movie studios' failure to ask them to remove some copyright material may affect their DMCA affirmative defense. But the DMCA grants immunity so long as Hotfile and Mr. Titov remove infringing material upon request by a copyright holder: "A service provider shall not be liable for monetary relief . . . if the service provider . . . *upon notification of claimed infringement* . . . , responds expeditiously to remove, or disable access to, the material that is claimed to be infringing." 17 U.S.C. § 512(c)(1)(C) (emphasis added). Hence, the movie studios' failure to inform Hotfile and Mr. Titov to remove infringing material is irrelevant to Hotfile's and Mr. Titov's affirmative defenses.

The only arguable claim to relevance that Hotfile and Mr. Titov have comes from paragraph 37 of the movie studios' complaint, which states that Hotfile's massive infringement forces the movie studios to "play catch-up, constantly trying to identify and take down content Hotfile encourages its users to upload and promote" [D.E. 1]. Yet, the rest of this allegation concerns Hotfile's and Mr. Titov's actions, not the movie studios'. Thus, Hotfile and Mr. Titov's request seems irrelevant even here. Hotfile and Mr. Titov are free, of course, to ask the movie studios how or why their efforts to play catch-up fail. If that answer depends on the movie studios' attempts to find infringing work—rather than depending on the operations of Hotfile—then Hotfile and Mr. Titov may seek leave of the court to propound similar discovery requests in the future.

DONE and ORDERED in chambers in Miami, Florida, this 1st day of September, 2011.



Adalberto Jordan
United States District Judge

Copy to: All counsel of record