



PIRACY IN CYBERSPACE

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Pirates were a major presence in the 17th and 18th centuries. These buccaneers **wreaked havoc** on the high seas by sailing the trade routes in search of vessels loaded with goods and merchandise to seize.

Stolen cargo at the hands of pirates not only created an economic loss for the merchant but also financed future illegal activities for the pirates who took it.

One could complete a transatlantic voyage today without ever spotting a pirate ship. Most people would say that pirates no longer exist, unless you count the Pirates of the Caribbean ride in Disneyland. Unfortunately, it isn't true.

Pirates still exist, but they aren't like the pirates of the past. These modern day thieves are engaged in the theft of **intellectual property**. And their **impact** is colossal. **1**

Intellectual property represents the largest single sector of the American economy, employing 4.3 million Americans.

The music industry estimates that annual sales of illegal compact discs

approach 2 billion units—worth \$4 to 5 billion. Globally, one in three recordings is a pirated copy. The motion picture industry faces huge losses, too. One million movie files are downloaded illegally on the Internet each day. Software manufacturers also **take a hit**. One out of every four copies of software used in the United States is an illegal copy, resulting in an annual loss to software makers of \$2.6 billion. **2**

Pirates affect not only our economic security, they affect our national security. Their profits fund other illegal activities, including terrorism.

Terrorist organizations require considerable funds to maintain their worldwide activities and to purchase equipment, guns, and explosives. News stories reveal that terrorist organizations receive hundreds of millions of dollars through pirate operations. For example, police in Argentina and Paraguay uncovered a pirate CD business that has used their profits to **underwrite** terrorist activities.

1 Evaluate Argument

The speaker creates an analogy between pirates in the past and in the present. Does he convince you that the analogy is valid, or true? Explain.

2 Evaluate Argument

What kind of evidence is the speaker using to support his argument so far?

Key Vocabulary

- **impact** *n.*, effect, influence

In Other Words

wreaked havoc caused destruction
intellectual property someone's creation
take a hit suffer losses
underwrite pay for



Pirated goods have a large market. The Web is a virtual shopping mall of goods and services, both legal and illegal. But technological advances don't change the **fundamental** rules of right and wrong.

Colleges and universities are prime locations for illegal downloads. Students are both technologically **savvy** and primary consumers of music, video games, and movies. Forty percent of students surveyed at two public universities admitted to having pirated software.

Just because material is available in cyberspace doesn't make it legal to **access** it. Downloading a copyrighted song, video game, or movie from the Internet is the same as shoplifting a CD or DVD from a local store.

Under current law, we can prosecute someone for **trafficking** in fake labels for a computer program, but we cannot prosecute for faking the hologram that the software maker uses to **verify** that the software is genuine. We criminalize trafficking in **counterfeit** documentation and packaging of software programs, but not music and other products.

This week, I will introduce legislation to update and strengthen the federal criminal code, which currently makes it a crime to traffic in counterfeit labels or copies of certain forms of intellectual property, but not authentication features.

My legislation will also criminalize trafficking in counterfeit music, movies, and other audiovisual works, and it will give victims of intellectual property theft an opportunity to recover damages in federal court.

As we secure critical infrastructure from cyber attacks, we must not fail to secure copyrighted products from cyber theft, too. **3**

SO I DOWNLOADED A FEW SONGS — SO WHAT?

Think again! Downloading illegal copies of music and movies carries some stiff penalties:

- up to ten years in prison
- thousands of dollars in fines
- hundreds of hours of community service

3 Evaluate Argument

What does the speaker want us to do or think about this issue?



Monitor Comprehension

Evaluate

Which part of the author's argument did you find most effective? Which part did you find least effective? Explain.

Key Vocabulary

- **fundamental** *adj.*, basic
- **access** *v.*, to gain entry to
- **verify** *v.*, to check
- **counterfeit** *adj.*, fake, phony

In Other Words

savvy wise
trafficking in buying and selling