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## Copyright (Infringing File Sharing) Amendment Act 2011

The Copyright (Infringing File Sharing) Amendment Act seeks to tackle online piracy including unauthorised movie and music downloads.

The Act permits copyright owners to send evidence of alleged infringements to internet service providers, which can then send up to three infringement notices to the internet account holder. The copyright owner can then take a claim to the Copyright Tribunal and the Tribunal can make awards of up to \$15,000.00 against the account holder.

Until the application of the legislation becomes clear, it may be advisable for employers to monitor and educate employees about the risks of sharing files in the workplace. Employment contracts should be amended to cover the issues.

Those seeking music and entertainment from the net are best advised to access content from sites which have no copyright issues on download.

The legislation has drawn criticism from the online community given the speed with which it was passed, the rights already available to copyright owners, and the existing technology for users to avoid the legislation. Some believe that if the industry which provides music and entertainment could improve the speed by which services are supplied to users there would be no need for such legislation.

Ross Fanthorpe has an interest in Internet law and Intellectual Property issues as they evolve within e commerce.



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