

Jim Moore's Journal: Reporting on systems evolving

Innovation in society and technology; global politics and democracy; global security; health; environment; happiness and peace.

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Could we sue oil companies over their support for the Sudan?

This story from afrol News warrants your closest consideration. Whether you are a Sud reader, or a person interested in Second Superpower political action, or someone involv and learn from past genocides and stop current and future genocides, this story is impo

Citizen action can gain force by identifying an element of law and using legal processes titans of the world economy. The Presbyterian Church of Sudan is suing an oil company in southern Sudan--a genocide that predates the current genocide in western Sudan, ar actors. Perhaps we might want to sue some oil companies? Anyone interested? Let me jmoore@cyber.law.harvard.edu. By the way, this seems much more effective than cons

Oil company faces genocide charges over engagement

afrol News, 30 August - The Canadian oil company Talisman Energy is set "complicity in genocide and war crimes" in a US court due to its past ei Sudan. The Presbyterian Church of Sudan is challenging the company, fuelled an "oil war" in the region that victimised "hundreds of thousand

Talisman Energy, a Canadian oil company, "must face charges of complicity in genocide Court in New York," according to a statement released today by the US law firm of Berg alleged victims in southern Sudan. On 27 August, a New York had denied Talisman Ener personal jurisdiction.

The complaint, filed by the Presbyterian Church of Sudan and other alleged "victims of t that Talisman, in an "unholy alliance with the Islamic government of Sudan, committed connection with the exploration and extraction of oil in southern Sudan."

The plaintiffs seek disgorgement of Talisman's revenues from its Sudan operations as "c thousands of victims forced to flee their homes and left in despair without food, water, s of the strategic plan by Talisman and the government of Sudan to use helicopter gunshi depopulate areas around the oil fields," the US law firm says.

The Presbyterian Church of Sudan originally had filed its lawsuit against Talisman in 20C disagreement over the New York court's jurisdiction in the case. Friday's ruling means tl cannot avoid to have the charges proven in a US court. The United States have a much Canadian authorities.

Since the case was filed in 2001, Talisman has ended its controversial operations in Sud Talisman sold its Sudan holdings to ONGC Videsh Ltd, an Indian state-run oil company. Talisman thus achieved US\$ 1.2 billion for its 25 percent stake in the Greater Nile Oil Pr four years of involvement.

[world politics, ideas](#)

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[Human Rights Watch Sudan report](#)

[Amnesty International Sudan report](#)

Oil developments in southern Sudan have been controversial since they started as they the war between North and South Sudan. Many credible human rights reports from the oil companies were followed by the Sudanese army, which emptied the area of its popul

For Talisman, the four-year engagement in Sudan was profitable but a major blow to its have told me they were tired of continually having to monitor and analyse events relatir Jim Buckee confessed as the company pulled out of the war-torn country in late 2002. T heavily from the engagement.

By staff writers

Posted by [James Moore](#) on 8/31/04; 5:27:50 PM from the Economics and cybenetics dept.

XM radio stops selling the XM PCR: A Case Study in M and Business Ecosystems

The modular media revolution

What we all know: A revolution has come about through the combination of broadcast ; networks, inexpensive storage, blog-like sharing tools and services, and end-user devic small video players, and software for personal computers.

What we also know: The revolution has forever transformed media. Media content is n initially streamed, channeled, and time-bound during delivery. As soon as the media is converted to modules that are stored and indexed on local devices. Modules can then be user, and can increasingly be shared across communities of users.

Services such as Comcast are encouraging this revolution by distributing end-user stora the new Motorola Digeo system, as well as providing network-based storage and playba Comcast on-demand service.

Threats to traditional media business models

The module-making and distributing ecosystems are becoming rapidly more extensive, i into daily life and experience. Our daily world is changing fast. The six o'clock local nev downloaded time shifted by up to 20,000 users per night, using the Comcast on demand many thousands of others. Barrons has an article this week suggesting that convention that the conventional "Kiss FM" radio station business model is forever damaged by exte radio throughout the day.

Indeed, the modular world threatens current business models--especially old-school adv stream between what used to be "programs" and are now modules, and new-school sut XM and Sirius radio as well as cable-TV subscription levels. Digital rights management i analog-to digital conversion can get around any restrictions. And good digital to analog can't be compromised by the senders. And analog to digital is getting better and better

Resulting struggles for control and strategic leadership of the emerging new business ec

Thus, expect to see new and strange struggles as services such as XM seek to control c fully modular--or to preempt the doityourself options by selling their own modularizator is doing.

- [GOAL Sudan appeal](#)

- [Doctors Without Borders National Geographic Special, Sudan: Life in the Field](#)

- [CIA Factbook Sudan overview](#)

- [Allafrica.com Sudan news](#)

- [BBC Sudan news](#)

- [Google Sudan News](#)

- [New York Times World News, Yahoo World News Realtime International News Links](#)

- [Secretary General Annan warns of genocide in Sudan](#)

- [President Bush condemns the atrocities in Sudan](#)

- [The UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide](#)

This will force "open versus closed ecosystem" choices on the companies. Services such as a platform as an environment in which others can develop new software and services are becoming the base for an ecosystem of innovation. Or they can seek to provide layer after layer and keep both control and revenues. The danger in scenario one is that XM loses control that the RIAA and others would attack XM. The danger in scenario two is that XM stifles expansion of their platform, and perhaps advantages Sirius as well as local digital FM radio.

In this light, the recent decision by XM to stop selling its personal-computer-oriented radio is summarized in a mock-Harvard Business School case study, below. What has happened is now--at least temporarily--closing down.

[XM radio's attempts to shape its business ecosystem--resulting in contradictory moves in personal-computer-based modularization of satellite radio content: A Case Study](#)

[Part one, opening up.](#)

I've been waiting for [this](#). It lets you turn your PC into a TIVO-like service that can record MP3s and catalogue them--and then make them available for you to play at any time...

[more](#) about

[Part two, closing down](#)

Ah, but in the spy-versus-spy world of doityourself media, [XM has quietly taken the recording market](#). Of course, XM declines to publicly say that they have done so. They just won't say a hardware device is booming on eBay. [See the excellent slashdot summary.](#)

[Part three, contradictory action](#)

In the "famous last words" category--see [XM's site today, advertising the hardware:](#)

XM PCR Developer Communities:

The XM PCR revolution is in full effect. Across the XM Nation, we're excited to see independent fantastic new versions of the XM PCR software for a wide range of platforms including M

- Windows: [XtreMe PCR](#)
- Macintosh OS X: [MacXM](#)
- Unix: [XMPCR perl scripts](#)
- Linux: [xmd-xmfe](#)

[Did we miss a developer? Let us know if you're developing any PCR software.](#)

[Case discussion](#)

What will happen next?

Will XM try to offer advanced modularization services itself--perhaps as an extension of playback features coming in the next round of radios? By offering some of the desired features, will XM be able to slow and cripple the doityourself movement. What do you recommend? What are the consequences?

How will the doityourself community respond? Will the doityourself community find that products so that the analog output can be captured and fed into modularization software be able to reach the scale to threaten XM's business model and change industry dynamics?

If you were XM, what might you do to get out ahead of this entire trend?

If you were a promoter of doityourself--what might you do? As an individual? As an ent

Does Sirius have a strategic opportunity? It could get out ahead of this train, either by c faster than XM, or by opening up its platform to innovators through offering a personal-working with software and service developers. What would you recommend it do?

Oh yes, and what about the RIAA? Do you expect them to weigh in? What might they c influence?

If you ran the RIAA, what would you do?

How might the doityourself community address the RIAA both now and in anticipation o

How might XM or Sirius do so?

What might the Electronic Frontier Foudation, or the Open Software Foundation, or othe

What might be best for "the commons?"--and for those of us who are "commoners?" In consumers?

Posted by [James Moore](#) on 8/31/04; 2:15:10 PM from the Economics and cybernetics dept.

Tivo-like capabilities for your XM satellite radio, for \$

I've been waiting for [this](#). It lets you turn your PC into a TIVO-like service that can rec MP3s and catalogue them--and then make them available for you to play at any time...

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Posted by [James Moore](#) on 8/31/04; 12:53:28 AM from the Economics and cybenetics dept.

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