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XM XM satellite app raises ire

p2pnet.net News:- The RIAA is hot under the collar about Canadian radio subscriber Scott MacLean who came up with a way to record straight to his PC in WAV or mp3 format



Scott MacLean

His application was so handy, in fact, that he decided to start selling it online for \$29.95 a throw.

MacLean's TimeTrax records individual mp3s, each tagged with the artist and song name and with the ID3 written with the same information and, "Leave TimeTrax recording overnight, and in the morning you will end up with a directory full of several hundred mp3 files, each perfectly cut and edited."

"Using TimeTrax's 10-event scheduler, you can time shift programming," states his site [here](#).

"Is there a concert being broadcast at 2:00 am that you really want to hear? No problem, use TimeTrax to record the concert and listen to it at your convenience! Your favorite talk show on during work hours? No problem"

But - problem.

RIAA (Recording Industry Association of America) spokesman Jonathan Lamy said the Big Four record label enforcer hadn't reviewed the software but in

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principle, was disturbed by the idea, according to a USA Today story [here](#).

"We remain concerned about any devices or software that permit listeners to transform a broadcast into a music library," Lamy states, says the report, going on to quote MacLean as explaining that he's just trying to make a little more user-friendly.

"The larger issue here is they came out with one lock and another creative person goes out to create a key," the USA Today report has Gartner analyst Michael McGuire stating. "It's very hard for policy and copyright law to keep up with the pace of technological change."

It also says, "in a letter seen by Reuters, XM's lawyers told MacLean to discontinue his sales and provide the company with a list of purchasers".

Will MacLean, an Ottawa programmer, do either?

"I basically told them to get stuffed," he told p2pnet, "and that I did not have a list of purchasers. I *did* have a list of purchasers' email addresses, but as there was some worry about this on the part of purchasers, I deleted that as well.

"I keep no information about the purchasers."

He says he's sure the RIAA is behind XM's nervousness, "but it has no jurisdiction in Canada".

What about its Canadian clone?

"I doubt the CRIA (Canadian Recording Industry Association) is going to care," he adds, "but we will see."

(Saturday 28th August 2004)

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