FREE DMITRY

On June 26 Adobe Systems complained to the FBI about Elcomsoft, a Russian software company.

On July 16 FBI agents arrested security researcher Dmitry Sklyarov.

On July 23 Adobe Systems recommended he be released from federal custody.

On August 1 Dmitry is still in a USA prison.

Russian software researcher, Dmitry Sklyarov, was arrested in the USA charged with breaking an American law.

The law under which Dmitry is charged, the notorious Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) is again proving harmful to civil liberties and software development.

Dmitry, a Ph.D. candidate and father of two small children, wrote software for his employer, ElcomSoft. ElcomSoft's program makes it possible for legitimate users to make fair use of eBooks, and could make it possible for visually impaired users to use them with Braille terminals and text-to-speech software. Dmitry is a Russian citizen whose actions are perfectly legal in his home country. He has committed no crime.

This case is not about copyright infringement. Dmitry has not been charged with making any illegal copies. His work simply allows the legitimate purchaser of an e-book to translate it from one digital format into another.

Dmitry was arrested after presenting his findings at a conference in Las Vegas. **He should be free.**

"The U.S. government for the first time is prosecuting a programmer for building a tool that may be used for many purposes, including those that legitimate purchasers need in order to exercise their fair use rights."
-- Robin Gross, Electronic Frontier Foundation

"With the arrest of Dmitry Sklyarov it has become apparent that it is not safe for non US software engineers to visit the United States. While he was undoubtedly chosen for political reasons, as a Russian is a good example for the US public the risk extends arbitrarily further. (…) Until the DMCA mess is resolved I would urge all non US citizens to boycott conferences in the USA and all US conference bodies to hold their conferences elsewhere."
-- Alan Cox, Linux Kernel Developer

"The imprisonment of Mr Sklyarov - and this use of the DMCA - represents a threat to the freedom of expression of programmers and software academics everywhere, should we express our views on security issues affecting substandard products which the DMCA is apparently intended to protect and then be foolish enough to visit the US."
-- Richard Kay, University of Central England, Birmingham

"There is a question whether it will be prudent to hold certain types of security conferences in the U.S. in the future. We can't really tolerate a situation where anyone who breaks a system that embarrasses someone gets served with a writ."
-- Ross Anderson, Cambridge University

http://uk.freesklyarov.org/