

Copyright Infringement on the Decline Worldwide

Data demonstrates that efforts to fight infringement are working under the U.S. notice-and-takedown system and safe harbors



Online copyright infringement is on the decline worldwide despite entertainment industry claims.

- From 2014 to 2017, [fewer](#) internet users download or stream music, films, TV series, books or games illegally. The decrease was sharpest for music, films and TV series.

Increased access to legitimate content has been proven to drive down infringement, increase revenues for creators and increase choice for consumers.

- Millions of global consumers have authorized access to millions of songs, TV shows, movies, books and more through innovative new platforms and subscription services such as Netflix, Hulu, Amazon, YouTube, Spotify, Apple, HBOGo and more.
- Worldwide there [are](#) over 500 different video streaming subscription services.
- As of 2018, there are [more](#) video streaming subscribers than pay-TV subscribers.

An analysis of other countries [found](#) that increased access to legitimate content (through services like Spotify) led to long-lasting reductions in infringement, whereas anti-piracy laws and regulations had a minimal effect or none at all.

- Global entertainment industry revenues are [predicted](#) to hit \$2.2 trillion in 2021 and continue to grow 4-5% each year.
- The recording industry [announced](#) 2018 as their best year in a decade with \$9.8 billion in revenue, and a 42% increase in paid music subscriptions from the previous year.

The U.S. notice-and-takedown system works to protect rights holders.

- Internet company transparency reports show billions of [URLs](#) and millions of pieces of [content](#) were taken down in 2018 due to DMCA Section 512 notice-and-takedown requests.

However, the notice-and-takedown system is abused by rights holders to take down works that are either fair use, licensed or not subject to copyright.

- Additionally, according to a 2016 [study](#), one in 25 takedown notices were definitely flawed, and one in three were potentially flawed. Unfortunately, a separate [study](#) found that only approximately 0.1% of takedown notices receive a counter notice. This means that under the notice-and-takedown system, approximately 33% of takedown notices could be causing non-infringing content to be taken down via copyright claims.

Overall, America's balanced copyright framework is effective at stopping online infringement while also empowering legitimate access to content to thrive online.

- In the video marketplace, copyright infringement is largely a non-U.S. problem. A recent analysis [indicates](#) that over 99% of the problem comes from other countries.