

# The world of digital piracy

---

## Legal, illegal, damn

The network enables what Karl Marx dreamed. While maintaining capitalism

taz, 04.15.2006, pp. 18, 134 Z (TAZ-report)

Jan Kroemer, Evrim Sen

Seven years after launching the first Internet exchange, the music industry in a desperate search for an antidote is available for free download. In 2005, she reported for the seventh consecutive year of decline. Compared with 1998, sales of recorded music fell by 45 percent, one third of jobs were eliminated.

For years there was no legal alternative. The motto was: Action instead of customer service. The industry reacts irritated. Warner Music would not comment more about the most. Too often we have "gotten a swat" lately from the press. The dynamics of the network are the record companies against helpless. The idea of the free availability of data is deeply rooted in the Internet. The predecessor of today's World Wide Web was created in an academic environment where the sharing of knowledge was, of course. The technology underlying the Internet is still free of licensing restrictions.

And so music will be freely shared on the Internet. The network makes possible, what was dreaming of Karl Marx. Everything belongs to everyone. But also ruled the capitalist principle: Each acts as a 'homo economicus', if he prefers the free copy of the expensive original. He uses the digital communism to personal utility maximization. Only free to download and then share with the society - the "Dot-Communism" levers the traditional business model of record labels from easy.

Sorted by Category stored on the computers of many downloaders countless music files. "Over the last two years I hardly missed a major publication," says a 24-year-old student. If there is one day no longer illegal file sharing - it would have taken precautions. Almost 30,000 songs in MP3 digital format, it has been hoarded. He could hear three months non-stop music. And he is not alone. "I know people who have a lot more music on their hard drive," he says. His pride and joy is a folder with the album remained unreleased. What was wrong earlier pressings and rare bootlegs are now folder with MP3 files - which just so special was the fact that they were downloaded before the release of the album. The law can not help the industry since a long time, but it is still mostly from the "analog world". In the "digital world" work the rules anymore. And it benefits the few record companies to have the case law on their side. Although they try to take action against illegal copying with copy protection technology and legal measures. But

to take action against illegal copying with copy protection technology and legal measures. But every copy protection has been cracked so far, and millions of downloaders is not track easily. More and more computer users are beyond the power of corporations and communities to form their own network. With the help of sound files spread internet users do their own radio shows called podcasts. And thanks to the network community weblogs now enters also into the world of online journalism.

The individualism of the offline world responds to digital world with a new collectivity. For the Stanford lawyer Lawrence Lessig is a great opportunity of the Web: "I think the most exciting thing on the Internet is its potential for an active culture, consume in the consumer both create And in a way, as we would. never could have imagined. " Unlike large corporations, the Internet community is fast and flexible. Power to a swap meet occurs within a few days a new one. The record companies took years, however, to present legal download options in response to filesharing. It seems as if the communist pass through the back door of the Internet, but even at a late victory. The revolution is peaceful and the industry threatens to simply overslept.

taz, 04.15.2006, pp. 18, 134 Z (TAZ-report)

Jan Kroemer, Evrim Sen