

Illegal Downloads

Welcome to this training lesson on **Illegal Downloads**. In this lesson, we look at the legal and civil consequences of illegally downloading songs, movies, and software.

Estimated Completion Time: 5 minutes.

Illegal Downloads

Illegal Downloads. Illegally downloading movies, music, and software is a massive, and morally dubious, business. There are many places online where illegal downloads are no more than a click away.

A UMR Research study estimated that 21 percent of all Australians over 18 have illegally downloaded content.



Illegal Downloads

Copyright Violation. We need not go into the 'it's just wrong' argument - even though that is true. Many feel morally justified in downloading, citing reasons like high prices, lack of availability, the studios and stars make enough money anyway, etc.

So, in this lesson, let's forget all that. Let's look at how ***you*** could suffer from illegal downloads.



Illegal Downloads

Are you being tracked? You may recall we talked about your IP Address - kind of your digital fingerprint online.

Recently, **New Scientist** magazine reported that *"anyone who has downloaded pirated music, video or eBooks using a BitTorrent client has probably had their IP address logged by copyright authorities within minutes of doing so."*



Illegal Downloads

Civil Consequences. As there are many studios and artists whose content is being downloaded, there is no way to predict what action they will take.

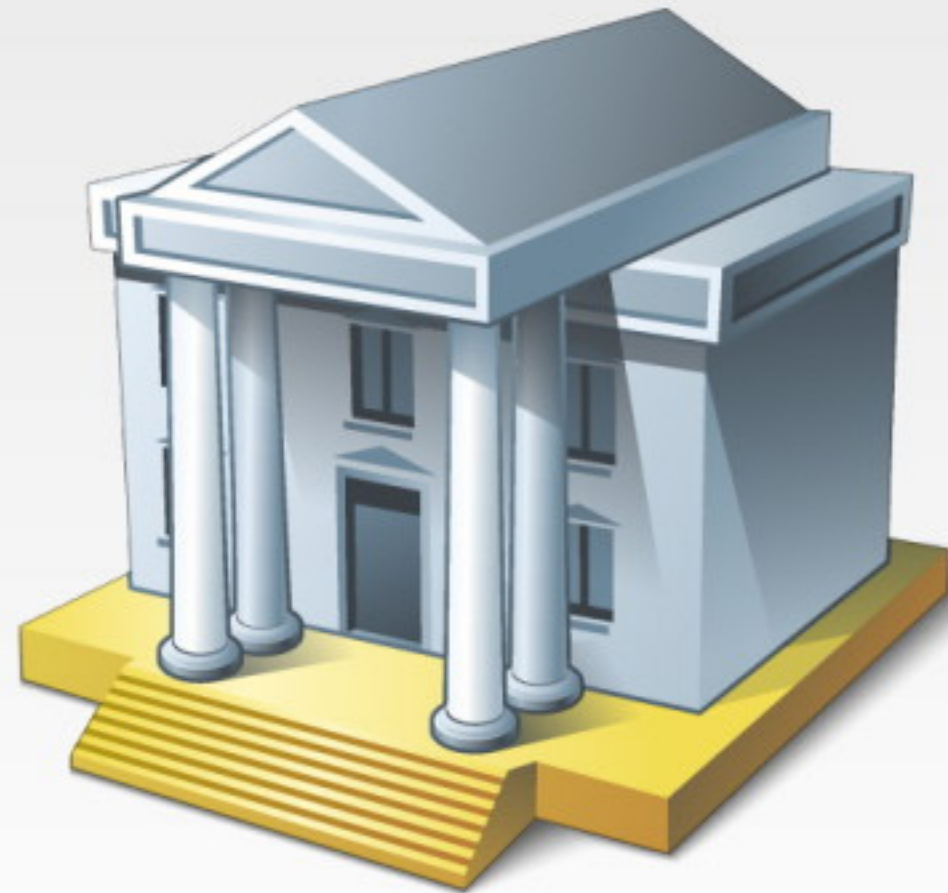
What we do know is that many studios have sent letters to users who have illegally downloaded content - with demands for up to and over \$200,000 per item of content.



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Civil Consequences. You don't have to look too far online to find users who have been sued by major studios for illegally downloading their content.

These content owners are increasingly putting legal and moral pressure on Internet Service Providers to reveal the identity of users who are illegally downloading content. This will allow them to sue those individuals personally.



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Legal Issues. Quite apart from civil consequences - being sued - there are also legal consequences.

There are so many laws, in so many states and countries (and it may be unclear in which jurisdiction a 'crime' occurs in if, for example, an Australian downloads from an American site), that once again there are no certain consequences one way or the other.

It is certainly *more likely* that you would face legal consequences if you were a major uploader or downloader of illegal content.



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Government Action. Although there are of course different governments involved around the world, it does seem that governments are moving towards preventing illegal downloading from occurring at all, rather than punishing individuals.

This may involve Internet Service Providers detecting and blocking illegal downloads or uploads, or illegal download sites, preventing the upload/download from occurring at all.



Illegal Downloads

Legal Options. Increasingly, there are legal options to illegal downloads.

Apple iTunes, Google Play, and the Windows Store - among others - all have huge movie, software, and music libraries. Legal online streaming and radio music sites abound. The cost, flexibility and availability of digital ebooks, music and movies are better than ever before.



Illegal Downloads

So.... So, don't do it.

It might seem cool. It might seem like everyone is doing it.

But can you afford payments or legal fees of hundreds of thousands of dollars? And if you are under 18 - can your parents afford these sorts of costs?



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You've now completed this training lesson on **Illegal Downloads**. In this lesson, we looked at the legal and civil consequences of illegally downloading songs, movies, and software.