Zachary Nicholas

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CS 410 Software Reverse Engineering

Module Seven Journal

* **Purpose**: What was the purpose and intent of the DMCA?

The DMCA or the Digital Millenium Copyright Act is a law that amends the U.S. copyright law that helps to address things that have been copyrighted and the internet and allowing them to be removed from the internet.

* **Legality**: What is banned and restricted under the DMCA?

The things that are banned and restricted under the DMCA are Unlawful reproduction, distribution, or performance and circumventing technological protection measures and selling anti-security tools and altering copyright information.

* **Anti–reverse engineering**: Why is the DMCA considered to be an anti–reverse engineering law?

The reason that the DMCA is considered to be an anti-reverse engineering law is because it has a part of it that specifically helps to prevent attempts to reverse or otherwise circumvent the technological measures taken to prevent this specific act, this is implemented with the use of DRM or Digital Rights Management which allows for the balance of protection and ease of use, so that the content is secure without causing too much difficulty for users to access it.

* **Exceptions**: What are exceptions to the DMCA in which reverse engineering is legal and ethical?

Some of the exceptions in the DMCA for software reverse engineering is when it is done for the purposes of achieving interoperability, conducting security research, compatibility testing, or when necessary to identify and fix critical vulnerabilities. In a lot of these cases you need to consider at least some of these things including good faith disclosure, notice to the copyright holder, and legal restrictions.

* **Impact**: What are your thoughts on the DMCA and its long-term impact on reverse engineering and the computer science field?

I find that the DMCA is overall a good thing as it relates to reverse engineering and computer science as it allows for plenty of protections to both the copyright holder as well as anyone that is doing reverse engineering as long as it is done in good faith or in a way that would improve either the software or program, its ability to work with other similar programs, or to fix issues or critical vulnerabilities.

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