

**OPENING STATEMENT OF  
THE HONORABLE RALPH HALL (R-TX)  
RANKING MEMBER  
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

*“The Role of Technology in Reducing Illegal Filesharing: A University Perspective”*

June 5, 2007

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

2318 Rayburn House Office Building

Thank you, Chairman Gordon, for convening this full committee hearing today.

I'd like to echo your welcome to our distinguished panel today. Thank you all for taking the time to come to Washington to discuss how we can reduce digital piracy. The breadth of experience and expertise here today will get us a long way in understanding the problem of copyright infringement and hopefully illuminate some next steps for the community.

In particular, I'd like to welcome Dr. Greg Jackson, the Chief Information Officer of the University of Chicago and former Director of Academic Computing for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr. Jackson has also served on advisory boards for major IT industry firms and helped usher in the next generation of internet technologies with National LambdaRail and Internet2. Thank you Dr. Jackson, I'll look forward to hearing from you and all of your talented colleagues here today.

Piracy of digitally available media has become a large concern as more and more intellectual and creative works are available in easily-transferred, digital format and access to high bandwidth networks has spread. High speed internet connections used to be limited to major universities and government research labs. Now, relatively cheap broadband access is available, including over fifty million residential high speed connections. Through this combination, illegal file-sharing of music, movies, software, and other content is easier than ever -- literally at the click of a button. This rampant disregard for copyright law needs to end.

A number of other committees have met to discuss aspects of this problem. This hearing will examine one detail of the larger intellectual property enforcement debate, focusing on the efficacy of technological solutions to stopping illegal file-sharing. Colleges and universities hold a unique perspective, being both creators of intellectual property, internet service providers to a large and technically savvy group of students and staff, and custodians of some of the fastest, cutting edge networks in the nation.

From reading our witnesses testimony, it is clear that no single, silver-bullet solution is available to stop unauthorized distribution of digital media while allowing authorized traffic. The variety of campus network needs and policies with respect to the proper role of the institution in policing users leads to a highly diverse environment. However, recent work and cooperation among higher education, copyright holders, and technology

companies has helped build an understanding of these varied requirements and given us insight into how we might proceed. In the end, the technologies we'll discuss today will form part of a larger anti-piracy solution that also includes legal alternatives, education, and adequate protections of privacy and consumer rights.