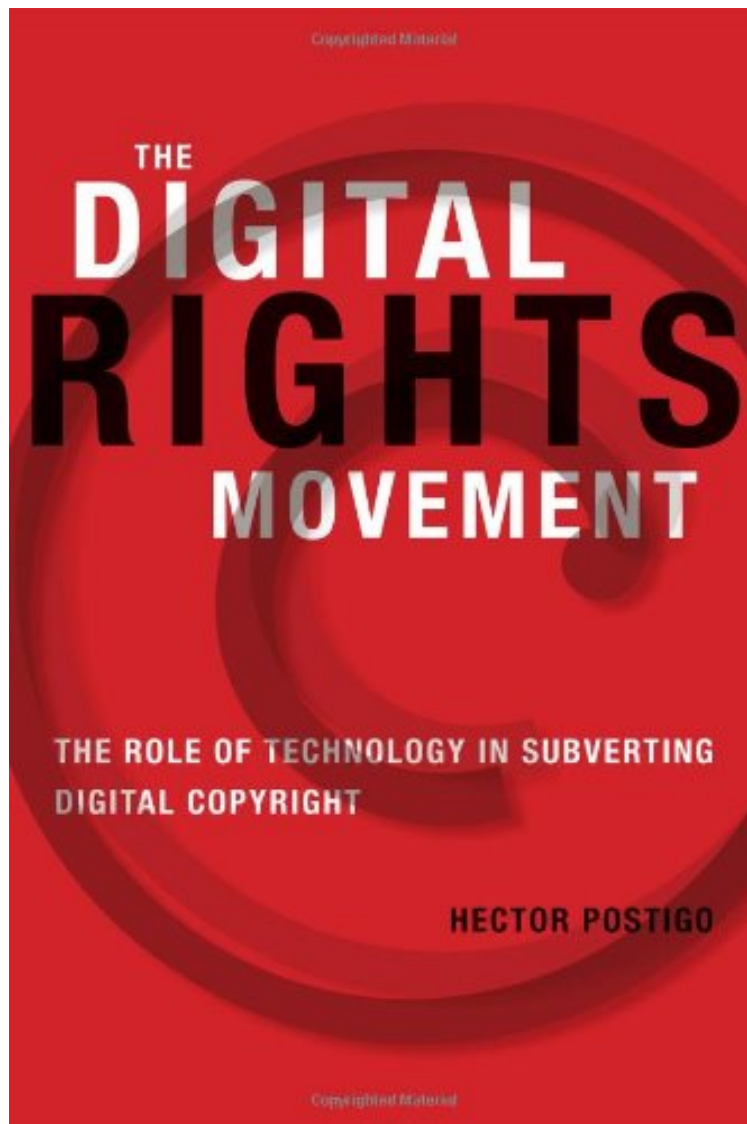


(Library ebook) The Digital Rights Movement: The Role of Technology in Subverting Digital Copyright
(The Information Society Series)

The Digital Rights Movement: The Role of Technology in Subverting Digital Copyright (The Information Society Series)

Hector Postigo

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Hector Postigo : The Digital Rights Movement: The Role of Technology in Subverting Digital Copyright (The Information Society Series) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Digital Rights Movement: The Role of Technology in Subverting Digital Copyright (The Information Society Series):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Well researched and written book on a very important contemporary social issue. Must read!By TimothyArcherThis is an excellent analysis of social movement activism over rights and freedoms of people online, particularly in relation to copyright and intellectual property restrictions that have arisen over the years. The author offers very good technical and sociological analysis of what is properly considered a social movement, albeit one that has received little scholarly attention in general. Postigo points out how important this activism is in shaping the future of the Internet and digital rights, as well as how unique it is as a movement which not only challenges techno-legal regimes but also uses and innovates its own technology to do so. This is very important social activism to understand both theoretically for scholars and practically for all people whose lives are increasingly intertwined with digital technology. The book was also very easy and interesting to read. It has a very nice flow and structure, and you do not have to be a PhD to follow along with his arguments. Although if you are a fan of Lawrence Lessig or similar writers, you will definitely enjoy this book. My only surprise was that what Postigo calls the "Digital Rights movement" is a bit limited to only one branch of what I think is a much larger movement. He focuses mostly on the background and origins of open source software developers and activists. This is very crucial for understanding this digital activism, but in more recent years the movement has grown beyond these specialized issues to encompass mass mobilizations, such as in the anti-PIPA/SOPA protests in 2012 and the Net Neutrality protests in 2014-2015. I would argue these campaigns have really altered and expanded the movement. New issues like surveillance and the TPP have also become big points of focus for many digital rights organizations, like the Electronic Frontier Foundation. Even the Anonymous hacktivist movement seems to embody some of the same principles of online freedom, although they may be considered more of a radical flank movement. I would like to see how all of these different branches overlap and/or connect today. Perhaps that would make a good follow-up book. Overall, this was an excellent and educational read on a vital topic which everyone should take the time to educate themselves about. It is an important source for scholars but also equally accessible for lay people.

The evolution of activism against the expansion of copyright in the digital domain, with case studies of resistance including eBook and iTunes hacks. The movement against restrictive digital copyright protection arose largely in response to the excesses of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) of 1998. In *The Digital Rights Movement*, Hector Postigo shows that what began as an assertion of consumer rights to digital content has become something broader: a movement concerned not just with consumers and gadgets but with cultural ownership. Increasingly stringent laws and technological measures are more than inconveniences; they lock up access to our "cultural commons." Postigo describes the legislative history of the DMCA and how policy "blind spots" produced a law at odds with existing and emerging consumer practices. Yet the DMCA established a political and legal rationale brought to bear on digital media, the Internet, and other new technologies. Drawing on social movement theory and science and technology studies, Postigo presents case studies of resistance to increased control over digital media, describing a host of tactics that range from hacking to lobbying. Postigo discusses the movement's new, user-centered conception of "fair use" that seeks to legitimize noncommercial personal and creative uses such as copying legitimately purchased content and remixing music and video tracks. He introduces the concept of technological resistance -- when hackers and users design and deploy technologies that allows access to digital content despite technological protection mechanisms -- as the flip side to the technological enforcement represented by digital copy protection and a crucial tactic for the movement.

"With a journalist's eye for detail, an activist's commitment to the issues beneath, and a scholar's insight into their implications, Hector Postigo carefully documents the importance of hacktivism. He makes a convincing case that the DRM circumvention battles of the last decade drew together the people, the ideas, and the tactics now so vital to today's global controversies about digital citizenship and creative freedoms online." -- Tarleton Gillespie, Cornell University; author of *Wired Shut: Copyright and the Shape of Digital Culture* "With the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, the giants of the content industry attempted to impose an order on the Internet, but they ignored the opposing views of some of the Internet's most savvy users. Hector Postigo shows that unlike other social movements that use the Internet to achieve rapid scale shifts, the digital rights movement is both viral and retroviral. In other words, hacktivists use the Internet to organize protests and build support in legal battles, but they also unlock the code of copyright-protected products. Both strategies are part of a broader political goal of maximizing the Internet's public domain." -- David J. Hess, Vanderbilt University "Hector Postigo traverses a wide intellectual landscape -- from the intricacies of copyright law in the digital age to grand visions for what online participatory culture could become -- in this riveting account of the development of the digital rights movement. Postigo is among the first to provide a comprehensive discussion of the development of the digital rights movements, its key actors, and its major arguments. If you are interested in online social movements, digital rights, or participatory culture, this book is for you!" -- Jennifer Earl, Professor of Sociology, University of Arizona; co-author of *Digitally Enabled Social Change* Overall, *The Digital Rights Movement* is an important text that continues a public criticism of the commodification of culture. Postigo writes well and whilst some of his case studies necessitate a level of technical detail, they are clearly explained

and remain accessible to the less tech-savvy reader. (Information, Communication Society)About the AuthorHector Postigo is Associate Professor in the Department of Broadcasting, Telecommunications, and Mass Media in the School of Communications and Theater at Temple University.