



FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION PROTECTING AMERICA'S CONSUMERS

Digital Rights Management



MAR 25, 2009 8:30AM-4:45PM

William H. Gates Hall, Room 133

TAGS: [Bureau of Consumer Protection](#) | [Retail](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Intellectual Property](#) | [Copyright](#) | [Consumer Protection](#) | [Advertising and Marketing](#) | [Advertising and Marketing Basics](#) | [Online Advertising and Marketing](#) | [Privacy and Security](#) | [Consumer Privacy](#)

Event Description

The Federal Trade Commission and the Technology Law and Public Policy Clinic at the University of Washington School of Law will host a conference on the use of digital rights management technologies, a widespread practice that is expected to become increasingly prevalent in the U.S. marketplace in the coming years.

Digital rights management (DRM) refers to technologies typically used by hardware manufacturers, publishers, and copyright holders to attempt to control how consumers access and use media and entertainment content. Among other issues, the workshop will address the need to improve disclosures to consumers about DRM limitations.

The Commission invites interested parties to submit requests to be panelists and to recommend other topics for discussion. The requests should be submitted electronically to drmtownhall@ftc.gov by February 9, 2009. Interested parties should include both a statement detailing their expertise on the issues to be addressed at the Town Hall, and complete contact information. The Commission will select panelists based on their expertise and on the need to represent a range of views.

Interested parties may submit written comments or original research until February 13, 2009. Comments should refer to "DRM Town Hall – Comment, Project No. P094502." To file electronically, follow the instructions and fill out the form at <https://secure.commentworks.com/ftc-DRMtechnologies>. Paper comments should include this reference both in the text and on the envelope, and should be mailed or delivered to the following address: Federal Trade Commission, Office of the Secretary, Room H-135 (Annex A), 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20580. Comments containing confidential material, however, must be filed in paper form, must be clearly labeled "Confidential," and must comply with Commission Rule 4.9(c). The FTC is requesting that any paper comments be sent by courier or overnight service, if possible, because postal mail in the Washington area and the Commission is subject to delay due to heightened security precautions.

The Town Hall is free, and open to the university community and all members of the public. Pre-registration is not required. Members of the public and press who wish to participate but who cannot attend can view a live webcast on the FTC's Web site.

Information about accessibility for persons with disabilities on the UW campus is available at <https://www.washington.edu/admin/ada/newada.php>. Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Requests should be submitted via e-mail to cmcglathlin@ftc.gov or by calling Carrie McGlothlin at 202-326-3388. Requests should be made in advance. Please include a detailed description of the accommodation needed, and provide contact information.

[Proposed topics of discussion](#) for the event

Event Details

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FTC Privacy Policy

Under the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") or other laws, we may be required to disclose to outside organizations the information you provide when you pre-register. The Commission will consider all timely and responsive public comments, whether filed in paper or electronic form, and as a matter of discretion, we make every effort to remove home contact information for individuals from the public comments before posting them on the FTC website.

The FTC Act and other laws we administer permit the collection of your pre-registration contact information and the comments you file to consider and use in this proceeding as appropriate. For additional information, including routine uses permitted by the Privacy Act, see the Commission's comprehensive [Privacy Policy](#).

This event is open to the public and may be photographed, videotaped, webcast, or otherwise recorded. By participating in this event, you are agreeing that your image — and anything you say or submit — may be posted indefinitely at ftc.gov or on one of the Commission's publicly available social media sites.



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