

## **PLAYING FAIR WITH COPYRIGHT**

Because of the most known computer program on the Earth for the last two years - Napster – more exactly because of its main idea and its purpose, the entertainment giants started a brand new World war. The judges at the end of the lawsuit decided: the indiscriminate music-sharing bacchanalia must end here end now. They were doing a favour to the music publishers and musicians that they represent. But shutting down Napster is only a marginal task; the entertaining conglomerates are fanatically trying to come up with their own business models, which would satisfy most of the 62 million computer users, who prefer Napster-like acquiring music. And at the same time they just want to fill the cash registers of the companies. The firms scared of losing their income are now investing vast amounts of capital in developing anti-copying technologies. We nowadays don't even realize, that ordinary CD-ROMs had quite a few different protections against making illegal copies. But all the walls that the publishers built to protect their business were soon smashed right in to pieces – by few computer freaks from all over the World. So the companies see, that is almost useless to depend only on that, and that is why they are putting some governments under a lot of pressure and unfortunately they break. As an outcome new laws are accepted – but only those, which erase our rights as customers. It is believed that the content industries will eventually use only laws to create even more control over creative work, especially the music, with engineering pay-per-view models for all forms of intellectual property. And at that point we might wind up with only that. But can you imagine paying every time you reread the book or when you replay a song on your radio? Does this mean that we are doomed to whatever crumbs they throw us? No. That is almost impossible to happen. In every law at least few holes were found, or a new method was discovered to legally do something that is generally illegal. With the holes in modern legislation avail minorities like mafia or outlaws, which are persecuted by the police. But in the case of music, when hundreds of millions of people will be supporting usage of the lawful holes and even breaking of some new laws that were set originally by music companies, not the government and not record companies won't be able to resist to the people's opinion any more. Music is our – humanity's right. It will become accessible to all. We'll be enjoying it much more than we ever had.