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# Music, Film, TV and the Internet

A guide for parents and teachers

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# Music, film and TV on the internet – what you should know

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**There are many great ways of accessing music, film, TV and video safely and legally online.**

**This guide aims to keep parents, teachers and young people well informed on how to stay safe and legal when enjoying entertainment on the internet or via a mobile device.**

## **Did you know?**

### **Using illegal sites and file sharing programs can be risky**

Using illegal file-sharing programs exposes users to the risk of unwelcome content such as viruses, spyware, pornography and violent images. File-sharing software can also compromise your privacy and security by opening up your computer and sharing what's stored on it with the outside world.

### **You could be breaking the law**

Copyright law applies to downloading, sharing and streaming just as in the world of physical CDs and DVDs. If you make music, film or TV content available to others on a file-sharing network, download from an illegal site, or sell copies without the permission of those who own the copyright, then you are breaking the law.

### **Using legal sites rewards creators for their work**

Copyright laws protect those who work in the creative industries, allowing them to be rewarded fairly and to continue to create the music, film and TV programs we all enjoy so much.

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# Staying tuned in while staying legal

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## Where are the best legal sites to find music, film and TV?

There is a wide choice of legal sites where you can download or “stream” (transmit over the internet) music, film or TV content. Some are stores where you buy downloaded tracks, albums, TV shows, DVDs or films to play on a computer, a portable device or on a music player. Others charge a monthly subscription fee and let you stream from an internet-connected device at any time. Some services provide entertainment for free, supported by advertising.

If you’re looking for music, there are more than 20 services now available in Australia offering millions of tracks at great prices. A full list of these services can be found at [www.pro-music.org](http://www.pro-music.org) which provides links to hundreds of legal music sites worldwide.

If you’re looking for film, there is a comprehensive list of links to legal film and TV services at [www.ipawareness.com.au](http://www.ipawareness.com.au)

## Is it OK to copy or rip music, film, TV programs or videos from a CD or DVD to my computer or media player?

For music, it’s okay to make a digital copy of a CD you own for your personal use. For music purchased online, legal music download services generally allow you to make a copy as a backup for your own use on other devices. However, distributing a digital copy on the internet or to a friend is

different as it infringes the artist and songwriters’ copyright. You can download fact sheets and get practical advice from [www.mipi.com.au](http://www.mipi.com.au)

For film it is a bit more complicated. To ensure those involved in making the film (from the actors and directors to the sound engineers, costume designers and investors) can be properly paid there is often extra protection on DVDs in the form of region coding which makes it difficult for people to copy or rip films.

The film and TV industry does recognise that people may want to save films they have bought to different devices and is working to try and make this possible. An increasing number of DVDs and Blu-ray discs now carry a digital copy for you to watch on a portable device.

## Is it legal to make a copy of streamed music or film?

Usually it isn’t. Legal streaming services like YouTube and MySpace give instant access to tracks, films and videos, often for free, but they do not usually allow you to “rip” the content to make a permanent copy.



# What you can and can't do with music, film and TV online

## Is it always illegal to use file-sharing websites and services?

It is illegal to upload or download copyrighted files without permission from the person who owns the rights, for example in the case of music, the artist, songwriter and label and for film, it can be the creator or the person or organisation that holds the distribution rights or a combination of all three.

File-sharing services can in theory be used legally, but in practice nearly all (over 90%\*) the content on them is illegal. If they are sites that aren't clearly licensed by copyright owners, then the only safe way to use them legally is to be sure you are sharing materials that are not protected by someone else's copyright-such as music or films you create yourself.

(\*University of Ballarat Investigation into the extent of infringing content on BitTorrent networks - April 2010.)

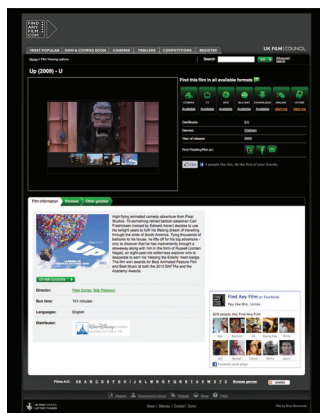
## Does paying for my music or film guarantee that it is legal?

There are websites in some countries with poor copyright enforcement that sell tracks, TV shows and videos very cheaply because they are doing so illegally without paying the owners of the rights. To help you stick with legal websites visit [www.pro-music.org](http://www.pro-music.org) for links to legal music sites and [www.ipawareness.com.au](http://www.ipawareness.com.au) for links to legal film and TV sites. Also look for recognised brands.

## Is it legal to download entertainment from blogs?

In some cases, entertainment is made available, legally from blogs. However links from blogs to music, film, TV or video stored on online storage services – called 'cyberlockers' – are generally not legal. In almost all cases it won't be legal to download a song, album film or TV program offered for download via a link to a cyberlocker.

**It is illegal to upload or download copyrighted files without permission from the person who owns the rights for example, the artist, songwriter and label in the case of music and the copyright holder (usually the distributor) in the case of film or TV programs.**



Find legal music and film sites at [www.pro-music.org](http://www.pro-music.org) and [www.ipawareness.com.au](http://www.ipawareness.com.au)

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# Staying safe and responsible

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## **What are the security risks involved in the illegal downloading of music, film, TV and video?**

Illegal file-sharing programs and websites pose greater risks to your computer or mobile phone than legitimate sites. Alongside media files, users often unwittingly download viruses and spyware. They can also inadvertently share personal computer files, containing financial information, with other users, potentially putting themselves at risk from identity theft. Also some files are purposefully misnamed on file-sharing and peer-to-peer networks to trick people into downloading them.

If you or your children are unsure about a website then use a search facility like Yahoo or Google to look up the site. Many standard internet security programs also provide advice on screen regarding sites to beware of. Always make sure your internet security is operational and up to date.

Filtering tools that can block offensive content on websites are not effective when these illegal services are used leaving children at risk of exposure to unsuitable or harmful content.

Some peer-to-peer software lets users “chat” with other file-sharers, most of them strangers. For guidance about chatting on the internet see Childnet’s [www.chatdanger.com](http://www.chatdanger.com) website or visit Cybersmart’s [www.cybersmart.gov.au](http://www.cybersmart.gov.au) website.

## **Where can I get more information about the security risks of illegal file-sharing?**

Your ISP can give advice about the effects of using illegal file-sharing programs. There have been many examples of computers becoming infected with viruses, malware and spyware after people have used P2P networks for music file-sharing. Many ISPs provide software that can protect people against these risks.

‘Sorted’ is Childnet’s guide to information security online for teens- [www.childnet.com/sorted](http://www.childnet.com/sorted).

Other good sources of information can be found on the MIPI website at [www.mipi.com.au](http://www.mipi.com.au).

## **How can I prevent my internet connection being used for illegal file-sharing?**

There are some basic steps you should take. Your ISP should provide information on how to protect your WiFi connection, including details on how a password can be set up to limit access to your connection.

Parental controls on software systems can also be activated to block access to specific websites. It’s also a good idea to make simple rules for whoever is using your computer and your network, so they don’t upload or download illegally.

# Tips for parents and teachers

## Parents

### Talk with children about computer use

Are you aware of how your children are using the computer to access music, film and TV content? Talk to them so that they understand why it's important to use legal sites online.

Using legal sites helps to ensure that everyone who works to make a song, film or TV program is paid fairly for their work. It's also worth discussing with them what the security consequences could be for the whole family. It's a good idea to form a family agreement that spells out the safety rules for Mum, Dad and the Kids. A sample agreement can be found at [www.ipawareness.com.au](http://www.ipawareness.com.au)

### Explore the web's legal music, film and TV services

There are more than 14 million tracks licensed to legal music services worldwide. A full list of services worldwide is available at [www.pro-music.org](http://www.pro-music.org)

For film and TV, there are many services now available to stream or download films or TV programs online. These provide access to thousands of titles and the amount of content available is growing all the time.

You can find a list of links to many legal film and TV sites at [www.ipawareness.com.au](http://www.ipawareness.com.au)

### Check your computer and wireless connection

Are you aware of what is on the family computer? Make sure it is protected against viruses and spyware. Ensure your wireless connection is secure with a password and encryption (such as WPA). Talk to your family about what they do online, and decide what protections are best placed to meet the needs of the users in your house.

## Teachers

### Debate with your students

How do they access music, film and TV and what does it mean to them? How do people who create music or films get paid? What part does copyright play in the creation of entertainment and in the different jobs in the creative industries? What do they think of all the legal online services on offer?

### A topical subject for the curriculum

The ethics of accessing entertainment online is an excellent topic for discussion in a variety of lessons, such as Citizenship, ICT, English and Music and Film Studies.

### Teaching about music, film and TV in the classroom

If you want to make sure that you are using music, film and TV programs legally in school then check an online resource such as [www.smartcopying.edu.au](http://www.smartcopying.edu.au) or [www.screenrights.com.au](http://www.screenrights.com.au).

Many uses of copyrighted music, film and TV in the classroom for teaching are allowed by exceptions in the law for educational institutions.

### Resources for teachers

Check out resources on music and copyright at [www.mipi.com.au](http://www.mipi.com.au) and for film and copyright visit [www.NothingBeatsTheRealThing.info](http://www.NothingBeatsTheRealThing.info) (which also includes a great

multimodal teaching resource available to all Australian secondary schools).

# Jargon buster

## **Blogs**

Short for 'web log', a diary or journal published on the internet. Blogs are often used to post links to files, which may be illegal copies of music, films or other entertainment.

## **Cyberlocker**

A service for storing large quantities of files on the internet. Frequently used for sharing music, film and TV illegally.

## **Downloading**

Copying or transferring files (music tracks, films and TV programs) from another computer or the internet to your own computer.

## **File-sharing**

Allowing others, whom you may not know to access information on your computer via the internet, including music, film and personal files.

## **Filtering**

A way of restricting access to certain content, websites or functions online.

## **IP address**

Short for internet protocol, a number-similar to a telephone number-that can be used to identify the account holder of a computer at a particular point in time when it is connected to the internet.

## **ISP**

An internet service provider. A company that supplies a connection, enabling access to the internet.

## **Peer-to-peer (P2P)**

A popular method of exchanging music, film or TV files directly from one or more computers to another without it passing through a central point.

## **Ripping**

Making a digital copy of music or a film or video from a CD/DVD to a file, typically so it can be transferred to and played on a computer or portable media player like an iPod.

## **Router**

A device used to connect computers to the internet.

## **Spyware**

A malicious program installed on a computer without the users knowledge, typically used to report information about the user and his or her activities online.

## **SSID**

Short for service set identifier, a name or phrase that identifies an individual wireless router.

## **Streaming**

Transmitting music, film or TV over the internet in real time so it can be played on a computer or media player but is not stored on the device.

## **Uploading**

Making available files stored on your computer or device to other computers via the internet, or storage services such as cyberblockers.

## **Virus**

A malicious program that can 'infect' computers, replicate itself and disrupt normal functioning.

## **WiFi**

A way of transmitting computer data through the air, without wires, using radio waves.

## **WPA**

Short for WiFi protected access, a security setting for wireless computers and devices.

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# About this guide and how to get further help

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**This guide has been written by children's charity Childnet International, with support from organisations representing creators and producers in the music, film, television and video industries.**

## Contact organisations: **Childnet International**

Childnet international is a non-profit organisation working in partnership with others around the world to help make the internet a great and safe place for children. Registered as a charity in the UK (No 1080173) from January 2011 Childnet is the European Commission appointed safer internet centre for the UK

[www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)  
[www.kidsmart.org.uk](http://www.kidsmart.org.uk)  
[www.digizen.org](http://www.digizen.org)

## **Pro-music**

Pro-music is a coalition of people and organisations working across the music sector. The international alliances of musicians, performers, music publishers, major and independent record companies and retailers across the music industry have joined forces to promote the many different ways in which people can enjoy music safely and legitimately online.

[www.pro-music.org](http://www.pro-music.org)

## **MIPI**

MIPI is the Australian anti-piracy organisation for the music industry, representing artists, songwriters, labels and music publishers – large and small. MIPI is actively involved in education around respect for creativity.

[www.mipi.com.au](http://www.mipi.com.au)

## **Intellectual Property Awareness Foundation**

The Intellectual Property Awareness Foundation was set up in 2009 to help promote screen copyright and all the good stuff it does. The foundation works together with member companies in the Film and TV industry to spread the word about the positive role copyright plays in helping to protect the broad spectrum of creative pursuits, businesses and over 50,000 people that work in the industry here in Australia. A prime objective of the Foundation is to increase awareness and respect for Australian Film and TV content

[www.ipawareness.com.au](http://www.ipawareness.com.au)