

I saw the letter today asking for feedback on the proposal of the BBC to distribute programme content with digital rights management or some form of copy protection included. I also saw some responses, but thought (even though it is after your requested deadline) that I should also at least respond.

My set-up I have, equipment-wise, is becoming more common. I have a computer connected to my TV set and amplifier and run all my home entertainment through that, including using my HD TV as a monitor for the computer. I use a DVB-T receiver connected to the computer that allows me to pause live TV and record episodes for later watching, a bit like a Sky+ box but with significantly more functionality. Depending on the system of copy protection the BBC are requesting to include, my entire system could be rendered obsolete, rather than just having to purchase an additional DVB-T2 receiver. The provider of the DVB-T receiver and associated software has already been unable to comply to the French decision to launch their equivalent of Freesat via Canal+, who have included a copy protection system that allows all "approved" suppliers of equipment to have access to this, and this is supposed to be free to the consumer. In fact, what this has done, is to allow only major manufacturers of equipment to provide access to this service, and smaller companies, particularly those supplying globally, including the provider I use, have not been able to meet the restrictions imposed by Canal+. I would be concerned that allowing such an approach by the BBC may well satisfy the companies requesting that the BBC do so, but would effectively restrict the production of equipment by smaller manufacturers, restrict consumer choice, slow down advances in technology by restricting competition and result in quite a lot of consumers having to take a backwards step in their set-ups. Larger companies are likely to welcome this approach since they could keep the more innovative companies out of the market through non-tariff barriers.

Thank you for taking my views into account.