

Title:

Mr

Forename:

James

Surname:

Legg

Representing:

Self

Organisation (if applicable):

Not applicable, I'm an open source developer.

Email:

What do you want Ofcom to keep confidential?:

Keep part of the response confidential

If you want part of your response kept confidential, which parts?:

Just the email address.

Ofcom may publish a response summary:

Yes

I confirm that I have read the declaration:

Yes

Ofcom should only publish this response after the consultation has ended:

You may publish my response on receipt

Additional comments:

Question 1: Do you agree that copy management would broaden the range of HD content available on DTT and help secure its long term viability as a platform? :

No. A decoder implementation that does not support the copy restrictions can still decode the HD content (BBC's proposal paragraph 3.9). This does not help the content producers prevent copying of the HD content.

It will only get in the way of:

- * The electronic program guide, which is a useful service for finding the content in the first place,
- * Subtitles, which are only useful for a proportion of the users, and can be recreated at fairly low cost,
- * Interactive services, which are generally not recorded or related to the content anyway.

Question 2: Do you agree that the BBC's proposed multiplex licence amendment represents the most appropriate means for securing an effective content management system on HD DTT? :

I don't think any effective content management system is appropriate on HD DTT.

Question 3: Do you agree with the proposed change to Condition 6 in the Multiplex B Licence? :

No.

The BBC would not allow the use of the Huffman tables to an implementation which would allow end users to freely remove the copy protections. Therefore the implementation of the copy restrictions could not be released under an open source license. (See <http://www.opensource.org/docs/osd>)

Therefore it would prevent fully open source implementations of a freeview HD decoder. A fully open source implementation will allow people to freely build a decoder without implementing the copy protection themselves. It is unreasonable to expect end users to write parts of their own decoder, and apply for a license from the BBC, if they want to use the encrypted service information.

Question 4: Do you agree that Multiplexes C and D should be granted a similar amendment to their Licences as Multiplex B?. :

No, same reasons as above.

Question 5: Do you agree that the BBC's proposed approach for implementing content management would safeguard citizens and consumers legitimate use of HD content, and if not, what additional guarantees would be appropriate? :

No, lack of service information for people who choose to use a fully open source implementation is likely to make it unreasonably difficult to find the content. I would like it to be possible to freely build a fully functional, fully open source decoder using only open standards.

Question 6: Do you agree that the BBC's proposed choice of content management technologies will have only a negligible impact on the cost of HD DTT receivers and their interoperability with other HD consumer equipment?

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No, it prevents a fully open source implementation. Such an implementation will reduce costs as it could:

- * freely redistributed and improved among manufactures, or
- * be compiled for a variety of hardware without the original writer of the software doing the compiling, or
- * built into existing devices without licensing from the BBC, such as a general purpose computer running open source software.

Question 7: Do stakeholders agree that the BBC's proposed Huffman Code licensing arrangements would have a negligible effect on the market for HD DTT receivers? :

No, it prevents a fully open source implementation.

Question 8: Do the BBC's proposed content management states and their permitted use for different categories of HD content meet the requirements of other HD broadcasters on DTT? . :

I don't know.

Question 9: Are there any issues that you consider Ofcom should take into account in assessing the BBC's proposal, that have not been addressed by this consultation?:

No.