


Advertisement




Affordable, quality health care is a right. Join us in championing your future and the future of every generation.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

HEALTH / FINANCES / CONNECTING / GIVING / ENJOYING

NEWS | POLITICS | OPINIONS | SPORTS | ARTS & LIVING | DISCUSSIONS | PHOTOS & VIDEO | CITY GUIDE | CLASSIFIEDS | JOBS | CARS | REAL ESTATE | RENTALS

SEARCH:  Try Our New Search   washingtonpost.com  Web | Results by  | [Search Archives](#)

[Visit Your Life in Green](#)


washingtonpost.com > Technology > Special Reports > Copyright and Downloading

 **TechNews.com**

[Print This Article](#)  
[E-Mail This Article](#)  
[Subscribe to The Post](#)

Latest News: [Tivo, Amazon launch video download-to-TV service](#)

Advertisement



Advertisement



QUICK QUOTES

Enter Symbol

[Tables](#) | [Portfolio](#) | [Index](#)

**MOST VIEWED ARTICLES**

- Technology [On the Site](#)
- Updated 3:16 p.m. ET
- [Microsoft Attacks Google Over Book Search](#)
  - [NASA Fires Astronaut Lisa Nowak](#)
  - [Open Call From the Patent Office](#)
  - [Microsoft sees billions in sales from VoIP shift](#)
  - [Clocks' Early Spring Forward May Bring About a Few Falls](#)

**E-MAIL NEWSLETTERS**

View a Sample and Sign Up

[TechNews Daily Report](#)  
[Personal Finance](#)  
[Personal Tech](#)  
[Manage Your Newsletters](#)

## Microsoft Attacks Google Over Book Search

By [Alan Sipress](#)  
Washington Post Staff Writer  
Wednesday, March 7, 2007; Page D01

[Microsoft](#) launched an unusually caustic public broadside yesterday against Google, accusing its archrival of running roughshod over copyrights as it creates an online service for searching books.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the American Association of Publishers in New York, Thomas C. Rubin, Microsoft's associate general counsel, devoted much of his remarks to an attack on Google's practice of copying entire books into its database, often without the permission of copyright holders.

"It systematically violates copyright and deprives authors and publishers of an important avenue for monetizing their works," Rubin said, according to prepared remarks. "In doing so, it undermines critical incentives to create."

Microsoft's salvo came as the software giant faces mounting pressure from Google, which is increasingly extending its reach beyond the Web search that made it the darling of the technology industry.

Last month, Google began selling an online productivity suite, including e-mail, calendar and Web services, that competes with Microsoft's Office software. Google also continues to extend its substantial lead over Microsoft in Web searching, an area where Microsoft has struggled and that remains the main way users navigate the Internet.

Whitney Burk, a Microsoft



Google's book-search Web site displays excerpts from copyrighted works. Some publishers have sued. (Bloomberg News)

### DOWNLOADING & COPYRIGHT

Years after the fall of Napster, peer-to-peer file sharing programs continue to eat into entertainment industry profits. The industry has responded with an all-out legal assault targeting the programs' developers and users.

- [Microsoft Attacks Google Over Book Search](#)
  - [Time to Face the Music on File Sharing](#)
  - [Jobs's Music Proposal Rebuffed](#)
  - [Jobs Calls for Open Music Sales](#)
  - [A Start-Up Fueled by Star Power](#)
- [More News](#)

### WHO'S BLOGGING?

Read what bloggers are saying about this article.

- [Business Degree!](#)
- [Full List of Blogs \(1 links\) »](#)

Advertisement



Everyone needs financial security. Join us in championing your future and the future of every generation.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

HEALTH  
FINANCES  
CONNECTING  
GIVING  
ENJOYING

### TOP JOBS ON WASHINGTONPOST.COM

- [Acquisition Officer /](#)
- [Medical Malpractice Claims Specialist / PROASSURANCE](#)

spokesman, said Rubin decided to offer his blunt critique because he felt it was time to begin engaging publishers in the debate over how to move book content to the Web. Like Google, Microsoft is developing a database of digitized books.

"Google takes the position that everything may be freely copied unless the copyright owner notifies Google and tells it to stop," Rubin said. "Microsoft and most other companies, by contrast, take the position that they should get the copyright owner's consent before they copy."

His remarks found a sympathetic audience in the publishers association, which has filed a federal lawsuit against Google for allegedly infringing copyright laws by scanning millions of books for online searching. Google typically displays short snippets of the publications in its book-search results.

Rubin accused Google of demonstrating a "similar cavalier approach to copyright" in its management of YouTube, the online video site it bought last year. He said Google had refused to address the complaints of broadcasters, movie studios and record companies that YouTube engages in piracy by featuring copyrighted material. He further alleged that Google was earning money by featuring advertisements linked to online searches for pirated software.

In a short, written response Google Senior Vice President David C. Drummond said his company was cooperating with more than 10,000 publishers to put content on the Internet.

"The goal of search engines, and of products like Google Book Search and YouTube, is to help users find information from content producers of every size," Drummond said. "We do this by complying with international copyright laws and the result has been more exposure and in many cases more revenue for authors, publishers and producers of content."

Though executives at Google and Microsoft often criticize each other's business practices and products in private, they have rarely allowed their differences to bubble over in public. Two years ago, Microsoft went to court to prevent one of its former executives, Kai-Fu Lee, from opening a Google research center in China, arguing that he had broken a no-compete contract. But while that legal fight was nasty at times, it never included the kind of public tongue lashing offered by Rubin yesterday.

Edward J. Black, president of the Computer and Communications Industry Association, came to Google's defense, saying Microsoft wrongly characterized copyright law. Both companies are members of the Washington-based association.

"Contrary to Microsoft's suggestion, every unauthorized use of a copyrighted work is not infringement," Black said. As an example of these "fair use" exceptions, he pointed to how search engines developed by both Google and Microsoft are legally permitted to

Most Blogged About Articles  
[On washingtonpost.com](#) | [On the web](#)

POWERED BY  
**Technorati**

**SAVE & SHARE ARTICLE** [What's This?](#)

[Digg](#) [Google](#)  
[del.icio.us](#) [Yahoo!](#)  
[Reddit](#) [Facebook](#)

Advertisement

welcome to  
the human network.  CISCO

[Project Manager](#) / UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND COLLEGE  
PARK, MD

[Graphic Artist](#) / NOT LISTED

[Web producer/editor](#) / EDWEEK.ORG

[All Top Jobs](#)

FEATURED ADVERTISER LINKS

[Refinance Rates As Low As 2.9% - FREE QUOTES!](#)

[Refinance \\$150,000 for \\$483/month! Up to 4 Free Quotes!](#)

[Roth or Traditional? Which IRA works for you?](#)

[Be Prepared. Fight Identity Theft! Equifax.com.](#)

[HSBC Direct Now Earn 6.00% APY\\* on New Money](#)

[The Police Tickets, Nationals Tickets, NASCAR Tickets](#)

[Car Accident Lawyer, Asbestos, Birth Defects, PCE](#)


[St.Patrick's Day T-Shirts, T-shirts, Custom Hats, Koozies](#)

[Cool Gadgets, Great Deals, Visit CircuitCity.com](#)

[Travel downtown to downtown only on Acela.](#)

make copies of Web sites as part of the search process. "Microsoft would do well to consider that its own business depends on fair use before brushing aside that important doctrine," he said.

[Print This Article](#)   
 [E-Mail This Article](#)   
 [Permission to Republish](#)

<p><b>More on washingtonpost.com</b></p> <p><a href="#">Microsoft Takes Aim at Google Project</a></p> <p><a href="#">Harsh Words Die Hard on the Web</a></p> <p><a href="#">Microsoft Links Technology, Common Tools</a></p> <p>» <a href="#">Related Topics &amp; Web Content</a></p> <p>powered by </p>	<p><b>People who read this also read ...</b></p> <p><a href="#">State Dept. Human Rights Report Faults China's Curbs on Internet</a></p> <p><a href="#">Harsh Words Die Hard on the Web</a></p> <p><a href="#">Lawmakers Scrutinize Fees for 401(k) Plans</a></p> <p><a href="#">Warren Brown - Why You Can't Buy This Car</a></p>
--	--

**Post a Comment**

[View all comments](#) that have been posted about this article.

Your washingtonpost.com User ID, furd, will be displayed with your comment.

**Comments: (Limit 5,000 characters)**

Comments that include profanity or personal attacks or other inappropriate comments or material will be removed from the site. Additionally, entries that are unsigned or contain "signatures" by someone other than the actual author will be removed. Finally, we will take steps to block users who violate any of our posting standards, terms of use or privacy policies or any other policies governing this site. Please review the [full rules](#) governing commentaries and discussions. You are fully responsible for the content that you post.

© 2007 The Washington Post Company

**Ads by Google**

[Car Prices](#)  
Find the Lowest Price Possible Get the car of your dreams  
[carworks.com](#)

[Military Ringtone](#)  
Send this complimentary ringtone to your phone right now!  
[RingRingMobile.com](#)

[Unique Bumper Stickers](#)  
Pro-Bush, unique-Bush, & other custom political bumper stickers.  
[CafePress.com](#)

SEARCH:    washingtonpost.com  Web | Results by 

NEWS | OPINIONS | SPORTS | ARTS & LIVING | Discussions | Photos & Video | City Guide | CLASSIFIEDS | JOBS | CARS | REAL ESTATE | RENTALS

washingtonpost.com: [Help](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [About Us](#) | [Advertisers](#) | [Site Index](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Make Us Your Homepage](#) | [mywashingtonpost.com](#) | [Work for Us](#) | [Mobile](#) | [RSS](#)  
The Washington Post: [Subscribe](#) | [Subscriber Services](#) | [Advertisers](#) | [Electronic Edition](#) | [Online Photo Store](#) | [The Washington Post Store](#) | [About The Post](#) | [National Weekly](#)  
The Washington Post Company: [Information and Other Post Co. Websites](#)

© Copyright 1996-2007 The Washington Post Company | [User Agreement and Privacy Policy](#) | [Rights and Permissions](#)