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File Sharing Guide: It's not the File Sharing Software: It's You!

By Syd Johnson

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Where's the agreement?

If you're looking for free music downloads online you are literally jumping into shark infested waters. The music industry including the artists, writers and recording associations haven't come to any sort of agreement yet about what types of file sharing software should be allowed online.

While they are working to sort out the issues involved in making sure everyone gets paid without pissing off their fans, the many file sharing website continue to flourish. It seems that even lawsuits cannot stop the most aggressive file sharing networks.

So how did the music industry get here?

File Sharing Takes Off

File sharing software technology and the rapid adoption of the internet by their primary demographic, 18-49 year olds caught them off guard. Recording artists were so busy looking at ways to turn their CDs into mini DVDs with music videos, pictures, exclusive songs and custom promotions that they missed the file sharing monster growing online.

Now, one of the most progressive industries on the planet finds itself trying to catch up to 14 year olds who can distribute hundreds of free mp3 downloads online and wipe out millions of dollars in earned income.

While they are trying to figure it out, what should you do if you want to get free music downloads online? Read the find print on your file sharing service.

You don't need a law degree to figure out that some people are using file sharing networks to avoid paying for the CD. So, basically, any type of file sharing software or file sharing network that talks about shields, no copyrights or unlimited downloads should be avoided.

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You stay on the right path by looking for sites that occasionally provide free mp3 files for their site visitors. The free music files are usually posted at the beginning of a site subscription, when new albums are looking for publicity, or the beginning of the month.

By getting your music from these types of sites that are open about their free mp3 downloads you are showing that you respect, and intend to comply with national copyright laws.

If you look at the types of consumers that have been targeted by the RIAA and other industry associations, it is their careless regard for music laws and download volume requirements that bring them to the attention of the legal authorities.

Sites are constantly in flux

Now, even if you intend to stay away from illegal downloads, you cannot simply trust the information

from a particular websites. The status of the various file sharing networks are constantly changing as they go through the sue-counter sue-negotiation -settle with artists and musicians cycle.

Usually if a site is in the process of getting sued, you can find some type of legal information on their background by typing their name into any major search engine. Sometimes, they might even be bold and place copies of the lawsuit or other types of documents on their website regarding their status.

In either case, if you are in doubt, look around the site a bit before you start taking advantage of their free music download offers.

This article may be freely distributed as long as there's an active link to <http://www.rapidlingo.com> Syd Johnson Editor

Legal Music Download Sites VS P2P File Sharing.

By Anna Rowe

This article compares the differences between legal music download sites VS file sharing networks.

1) Music files available for download:

The p2p file sharing networks heavily outnumber the legal music sites when it comes to the amount of files available for download. A p2p application provides millions of unlimited mp3 music files, while a legal music download site provides legitimately licensed music files in the hundreds of thousands.

2) The cost of downloading music:

You can download p2p file sharing networks for free, or for a very cheap one-time fee. A legal music download site is usually either "subscription-based" or "pay-per-download". A legal site will also usually charge extra for the ability to rip or burn music.

3) Variety of files available for download:

A legal music site mainly provides ONLY music files for downloading. A p2p application gives you, besides music files, full movie, game, video, software, TV show and ring-tone files to download as well.

4) Legal Issues & Controversy:

Legitimate legal music download sites are completely free of controversy and 100% legal to use. P2p file sharing networks, while legal, are not without lawsuit concerns and controversy due to how the file sharing technology can be used.

If you choose to use a p2p file sharing program, there are potential risks you need to be aware of, including:

Lawsuit Risks – Peer to peer file sharing networks have been ruled legal in a court of law. However, if you download and share "copyrighted material" you could risk becoming targeted, and possibly sued, by the RIAA (Recording Industry Association of America).

Virus And Privacy Risks – In using a file sharing application, you risk the possibility of installing harmful spyware, viruses, worms and malware on your computer. And if that's not bad enough, many p2p applications also leave you exposed to online hackers and identity thieves that can steal you personal information.

Legal Music Download Sites VS P2P File Sharing – Summary:

At first glance the p2p file sharing networks may seem to offer an easy way to get unlimited free file downloads. But remember, nothing is really free and this is especially true with the p2p file sharing applications.

The file sharing programs come with a price of increased privacy and security threats, and potential RIAA lawsuit risks. The ONLY way to guarantee getting safe music downloads online is by using a legitimately licensed music site that provides downloads of music legally licensed from the record labels and artists themselves.

Article by Anna Rowe, webmaster of

that provides music download site

reviews and quality online music download solutions. Sign-up for a Free Mp3 mini-course that details critical facts about downloading music online.



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