

Dear Sir or Madam,

The first sale doctrine is difficult to apply in a digital environment. As an author of 4 books (digital and print) and developer of digital games, my businesses rely entirely on copyright protection and being able to generate revenue from my digital IP assets. I am very much against floated concepts (for example, by Amazon) of reselling “used” digital books. There is no such thing as a used digital item. After a person has read or played a digital book or game, it is still just as usable as it was when first paid for and engaged by the consumer. Selling “used” digital items simply undercuts sales by the IP holder while the consumer suffers no loss in terms of the quality of the paid for “used” item to warrant any reduction in price. Digital IP holders already suffer severely from piracy of their works and many struggle to make enough revenue for a viable business. Adding more ways to undercut digital products will end up driving many out of business at a time when our economy should be growing businesses.

Prices for many digital products are already low and consumers have many purchase options.

I beg that lawmakers consider the effects of laws in digital economy on small and startup businesses depend on digital IP before altering the laws or creating new ones.

Best Regards,

Candice

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