

Digital Autopsy Script
By George Gordon

[Music (Myst on the Moor) plays and is kept for the intro]

GEORGE

The World Wide Web, the dark web, Facebook, net neutrality, iCloud, digital rights, what does all have to do with you and the internet? Let's find out in Digital Autopsy. This is George Gordon and our first episode is: The Problem with YouTube.

[Pause of 5-8 seconds, *Because YouTube is where the poop is insert*, and leads into the first spoken section. Music will shift to Deep Haze and loop for the entirety of the podcast but be lowered throughout.]

GEORGE

YouTube does not help its content creators, the people who made the site what it is today.

Content ID is an automated system that searches for copyrighted material that has been submitted by rights holders and issues copyright strikes against channels. However, YouTube does not verify any

of these copyright strikes. YouTube simply gives channels strikes with no information or any notification.

[BRIDGE: Pause for 2-5 seconds]

GEORGE

Content ID has been causing issues for content creators on YouTube since its implementation, mostly in regards to fair use violations.

In an article for Electronic Frontier Foundation, Amul Kalia said “The problems with Content ID have always been in the news over the years, but lately have become more common, even comically so.”

[BRIDGE: Pause for 10 seconds with music, at around 8 seconds the next heading is introduced]

GEORGE

[**HEADING**]*Un-fair Use*

[BRIDGE: Pause continues for 2 seconds]

GEORGE

Many creators are having their videos taken down and losing their monetization, which many of these creators rely on, because of copyright strikes.

The Content ID system is there to defend YouTube against lawsuits, but at the expense of content creators, as it affects them on a large scale.

A few examples of these are the Nostalgia Critic's and I Hate Everything's channels who were given strikes for using footage of movies they were reviewing.

[BRIDGE: Pause for 3-5 seconds]

GEORGE

Most of these strikes are regarding fair use violations, including the two I just mentioned, even in situations when the channel is in the right.

According to Stanford University, “Most fair use analysis falls into two categories: (1) commentary and criticism, or (2) parody.”

Then, by definition the videos by these channels fall under fair use. However, YouTube allows these videos to be taken down regardless and those who make the claims will suffer no penalty for false claims. The channel, however, will still lose its privileges.

[BRIDGE: Pause for 10 seconds with music, at around 8 seconds the next heading is introduced]

GEORGE

YouTube Support? Ha! [**HEADING**]

[BRIDGE: The pause continues for 2 more seconds]

GEORGE

Now, this wouldn't be an issue if YouTube offered better support than what it currently does.

Various channels, such as Your Movie Sucks, and A Dose of Buckley, have made videos on this situation regarding fair use and explaining in detail about the process they go through.

See, YouTube has a three strikes clause, if a channel has three videos taken down the channel is deleted, regardless of the legitimacy of the claim.

If a channel does have a strike, the only help they receive are automated emails and no other means

of contacting YouTube; there is no human interaction of any kind.

[BRIDGE: Pause for 3-5 seconds]

Creators can however, issue a counter claim, but must do it in 200 characters or less and attach their contact information in case the rights holder decides to sue them. On top of this, channels can only counter three claims at a time, even if they have over three videos with claims.

To make matters worse, if they decide to counter three claims at a time and they all come back with a takedown, the channel will be deleted. There is no chance at preventing this, so, channels have come up with a workaround. They will only counter two videos at time to avoid this worst case scenario. All the while, any videos with a claim cannot be monetized and other limitations are placed on the channel.

[BRIDGE: Pause for 3-5 seconds]

GEORGE

In 2013, YouTube issued a statement, which people assumed would be notification of them doing something to rectify the Content ID issue, instead YouTube defended the program and that was all.

If anything, YouTube has only allowed for this system to be abused by rights holders.

As a response to YouTube's statement made that year, in an article for Kotaku.com, Stephen Totillo said "You won't see an apology here. You won't see a change in policy. You'll see support for the Content ID system that's been more broadly unleashed on the reviews, features, Let's Plays and other video pieces created by YouTubers and watched by millions of gamers."

[BRIDGE: Pause for 10 seconds with music, at around 8 seconds the next heading is introduced]

GEORGE

None for All, All For One **[HEADING]**

[BRIDGE: Pause continues for 2 seconds]

GEORGE

On the reasons for the introductions of Content ID onto YouTube was the 2007 YouTube vs. Viacom lawsuit. Viacom wanted to hold YouTube responsible for allowing users to upload copyrighted material to their website. The lawsuit was recently settled in 2015 with no money exchanging hands and the rulings falling in favor of YouTube.

It's pretty clear that YouTube will fight to protect themselves, but not their content creators.

[BRIDGE: Pause for 3-5 seconds]

GEORGE

In 2015, YouTube issued another statement, in which they announced they would put up to \$1 million dollars helping channels facing false claim issues. Now, you might say that this is evidence showcasing that the website is willing to defend their creators against false claims. However, YouTube made it clear that this would only apply to big name channels, think PewDiePie, and only apply to those situated in the U.S, leaving smaller channels to fend for themselves.

The one thing that may come from these cases, if they are brought up by YouTube, will be the precedents established by them. These can be used to help defend the other channels facing similar issues.

[BRIDGE: Pause for 10 seconds with music, at around 8 seconds the next heading is introduced]

GEORGE

Community to the Rescue! **[HEADING]**

[BRIDGE: Pause continues for 2 seconds]

Until something is established to defend creators, they can only fight back against these claims as best they can. However, not all their battles can be won by themselves. Many channels have been completely taken down and thankfully, their fan bases and the YouTube community are being active and vocal in order to help their favorite channels.

But you have to remember, these are channels with a huge following who are willing to help. Smaller channels or those who just starting up will have virtually no defense. Especially against the

powerful corporations who file these copyright claims.

[BRIDGE: Pause for 3-5 seconds]

Just recently, the Nostalgia Critic uploaded a video regarding the fair use issue on YouTube, in it he created, #WTFU. Many other channels have been using that hashtag to be vocal about the struggles they are going through.

As for some reason, the system has been issuing strikes much more frequently as of late. Which has led to content creators and the community are doing as much as they can to fight against the Content ID system and the website that has turned its back against them.

Sooner or later, another website will come along, one that actively defends its user base and YouTube will simply be forgotten.

[Pause of 10 seconds, lead into the outro, music will return to
Myst on the Moor.]

GEORGE

I hope you've enjoyed the first episode of Digital Autopsy. Check out #WTFU and help out content creators on YouTube with anything you can do. Thank you for listening and hopefully you will join us again next week as we delve deep into the dark web and unveil assassins for hire and the black market. This is George Gordon, goodbye for now.

[Music will fade out]