

Rachel I. Cohn. Going against the Stream: An exploratory qualitative study on the motivations and methods for illegal video streaming and information sharing. A Master's Paper for the M.S. in L.S degree. November 2021. 130 pages. Advisor: Megan A. Winget.

This content analysis will explore the motivations and methods for illegal video streaming and information sharing for feature films. The study aims to better understand why film enthusiasts might be inclined to use illegal streaming platforms to consume media and the approaches taken to share and access such platforms. These strategies and questions will be measured through qualitative data gathered from forums, Facebook posts, and other online sources and analyzed in order to better understand ideas about access and streaming video in this current moment.

Headings:

Motion pictures.

Streaming video.

Internet piracy.

Information-seeking strategies.

Electronic information resource searching.

Content analysis.

GOING AGAINST THE STREAM: AN EXPLORATORY QUALITATIVE STUDY  
ON THE MOTIVATIONS AND METHODS FOR ILLEGAL VIDEO STREAMING AND  
INFORMATION SHARING

by

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Approved by

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Megan A. Winget

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## Opening Titles



*Child's Play* (1954)

In that just-reached-the-21<sup>st</sup>-century long thin font and colors reminiscent of the dark blue and gold yellow of Blockbuster, the words gleam: “Now Playing at Your Local Internet Portal: Movies on the Internet.” More than just the headline of this article in the June 2000 edition of *Entertainment Industry Magazine* predicted the rise of streaming video and the increasing challenges and increasing opportunities it brought to viewers and the industry in the coming decades. In the article, the image of a mouse hovers near movie covers of 1999 releases *Being John Malkovich*, *The General's Daughter*, and *Stuart Little* while the caption proclaims, “An increasing number of Web sites offer a selection of full-length movies on-line.” The colors, the lingo, the fonts are nostalgic, even laughable, but the messages in the article are still frighteningly prescient.

“The inevitability of movie distribution over the Internet sends simultaneous chills of anticipation and fear down the backs of Hollywood executives,” the writer warns. “Anticipation, because the Internet will allow them to reach virtually anyone anywhere...Fear, because video

pirates will be able to send unauthorized copies of Hollywood movies to virtually anyone anywhere.”<sup>1</sup>

### *Rapidly-Changing Home Viewership*

While the realities, threats, and opportunities of video piracy have remained constant, ever-swiftly-emerging technology and strategies have changed the seascape extremely quickly. In little more than two decades, the norm of digital home viewership has gone from ownership to access and from downloading files to streaming them. These changes have also altered public perception of video piracy, especially within the community of cinephiles, as well as within legislation that continues to try to keep up with the tactics of those providing illegal content to consumers while struggling to legally define what the theft is and what a copy of a movie means.

In a 2017 edition of *Cineaste*, “America’s leading magazine on the art and politics of the cinema,” there was a symposium involving commentary from thirteen critics, theorists, and industry professionals on the state of home viewing at what seemed a moment of transition in the advances and ubiquity of subscription-based streaming platforms. George Feltenstein acknowledged that “what I personally think is most important for our industry is that there is some high-level oversight by content owners to carefully manage how their content is made available, and to make sure it is done with great care and caution to protect the lifecycle of their properties.”<sup>2</sup> However, of the thirteen, only two explicitly mentioned illegal streaming and its prevalence in the film community.

“The topic seems to be more about formats, yet—as this is ultimately about cinema and cinephilia—in my view the real issues are the commercial dictatorship of technological giants and

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<sup>1</sup> “Streaming Media: Movies on the Internet,” *Entertainment Industry Magazine* (12 June 2000): 42-43.

<sup>2</sup> “From Disc to Stream: A Critical Symposium on the Changing World of Home Video,” *Cineaste* (Winter 2017): pp. 30-40.

the forms of resistance they trigger,” writes Dina Iordanova. “As I travel around the world, I notice that the prevalence of BitTorrent downloads is staggering in non-Western territories. Friends in Egypt or Turkey have signaled occasionally that they can get me any film I want, and friends in China have film libraries on small external drives that my formidable collection can barely compete with.<sup>3</sup>

Ramon Lobato also credits BitTorrent and the global presence of illegal sharing of films, as well as its importance for film enthusiasts historically: “Much is made of the millennial audience’s obsession with digital, but I think most viewers will still continue to watch movies in a range of different ways: home video and theatrical; digital and discs; paid-for and pirated,” begins Lobato. “One subtle consequence of the shift to streaming is the weakening of file-sharing networks. Fewer people seem to be sharing movies via BitTorrent—there are often not enough seeders to maintain the swarms—which means that some lesser-known films are dropping out of circulation. However you feel about piracy, there’s no denying that BitTorrent has been pretty important for cinephilia and film criticism globally. **I wonder if this is something we should be talking about more?**” [emphasis added]

So with such a large presence and with so many factors to consider that contribute to illegal streaming, where does one even start with measuring its impact or its current situation?

### *Previous Studies of Audience Preferences and Consequences of Illegal Streaming*

The majority of available studies involve the economic impact of digital piracy and an attempt to measure just how much engagement consumers have with illegal streaming platforms. A 2006 study states that U.S. studios lost \$6.1 billion in global wholesale revenue the previous year

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<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

due to digital theft<sup>4</sup>, that number rising to an estimate of between \$29.2 and \$71 billion per year, according to a 2019 study.<sup>5</sup> That same study found evidence of a shift in user preferences, that as of 2018 there are more subscribers to streaming platforms than there are to pay-TV subscribers and that piracy via illegal streaming platforms has overtaken BitTorrent and other download-based technologies for viewing pirated movies.<sup>6</sup>

These studies as well as examples from doctoral theses on audience and industry shifts and the effects of illegal streaming mostly study the side of the companies and studios producing and distributing movies and the reasons that might explain why the data is the way it is. Others, like a seminal 2010 study from UK-based researchers reviewed existing literature from the 1990s until the mid-to-late-2000s in an effort to understand the attitudes and behaviors of those who consume movies illegally. The study noted a major limitation in the populations studied: “They are almost exclusively concerned with the behaviours and attitudes of young people. There is a dearth of studies looking at demographic differences, and also a lack of longitudinal work. Given these constraints, the literature strongly suggests that social and situational factors impact on the likelihood of illegally obtaining digital content more than ethical considerations.”<sup>7</sup> What was noted, that “research was dominated by samples of university or school students,”<sup>8</sup> fits with later studies such as Rodgers’ 2018 study on how film students access films for courses<sup>9</sup> and Hill and Ingram-

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<sup>4</sup> Mickey Ferri, “Rent, buy, or pirate: Consumer preferences in the movie industry.” The University of Chicago. ProQuest Dissertations Publishing, 2013, p. 56, <http://libproxy.lib.unc.edu/login?url=https://www-proquest-com.libproxy.lib.unc.edu/dissertations-theses/rent-buy-pirate-consumer-preferences-movie/docview/1418268771/se-2?accountid=14244>.

David Blackburn, Jeffrey A. Eisenach, and David Harrison Jr., “Impacts of Digital Video Piracy on the U.S. Economy.” June 2019, <https://www.theglobalipcenter.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Digital-Video-Piracy.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> Peter Williams, David Nicholas, and Ian Rowlands, “The attitudes and behaviours of illegal downloaders.” *Aslib Proceedings: New Information Perspectives* vol. 62, no. 3 (May 2010): p. 283, DOI:[10.1108/00012531011046916](https://doi.org/10.1108/00012531011046916).

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 285.

<sup>9</sup> Wendy Rodgers, “Buy, Borrow, or Steal? Film Access for Film Studies Students,” *College and Research Libraries* vol. 79, no. 4 (2018): 568-591, <https://doi.org/10.5860/crl.79.4.568>.



Monteiro's 2021 study of what patrons of academic libraries really want in their streaming media (YouTube and/or convenient and free streaming access).<sup>10</sup>

Furthermore, these studies as well as the bulk of the ones reported in the 2010 literature review employ survey questionnaires as methods, something that can be tricky when asking subjects to report on illegal activity they engage in. (Only two qualitative content analyses are mentioned, both from the early 2000s.)<sup>11</sup>

Another source of sources, the only other investigative-type study on the subject, comes from news reports about illegal streaming. These focus on legal consequences and the dangers of viruses and malware. Many sources are comprised of reports on major cases of copyright infringement and money laundering charged to those who operate large-scale pirating services.<sup>12</sup> One from September 2021 quotes a popular YouTuber charged with these offences who pleaded in a video, "Don't put me in jail. What the hell is that going to do? I'm not a threat to society...let me pay off my debts, the millions of dollars that I owe you."<sup>13</sup> These stories help fill in the picture on the various perspectives of the stakeholders involved in illegal streaming platforms, though the picture is still largely focused on movie studios, distribution companies and for-profit streaming services, students and younger folks, and those who operate illegal streaming platforms. What of the film enthusiasts wanting to watch a movie?

This is the focus of articles and videos warning of cybercriminals and viruses one is susceptible to when accessing shady platforms ("It's impossible to remain safe on illegitimate websites because their operators are not incentivized to put any of the usual structures in place that

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<sup>10</sup> Kate Hill and Neah Ingram-Monteiro, "What Patrons Really Want (In Their Streaming Media): Using Focus Groups to Better Understand Emerging Collections Use." *The Serials Librarian* vol. 80, issue 1-4 (2021): 30-33. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0361526X.2021.1873701>.

<sup>11</sup> Williams, Nichols, and Rowlands, "Downloaders," p. 287.

<sup>12</sup> KTNV Channel 13 Las Vegas, "2 Vegas men plead guilty in illegal video streaming case," YouTube, 17 December 2019, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbmnVtIHxi0&ab\\_channel=KTNVChannel13LasVegas](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbmnVtIHxi0&ab_channel=KTNVChannel13LasVegas); Matthew Keys, "YouTuber charged with operating illegal streaming TV service," *Fierce Video*, 21 September 2021, <https://www.fiercevideo.com/video/youtuber-charged-operating-illegal-streaming-tv-service>.

<sup>13</sup> Keys, "YouTuber charged"

would usually shield visitors from attack,” warns one.)<sup>14</sup> A very recent piece of news, the passing of the Protecting Lawful Streaming Act (PLSA) within a COVID-19 relief bill, resulted in articles that center on the consequences of this legislation to the individual consumer. Basically, the PLSA targets the sites and businesses that stream illegal content for commercial profit, not the people who watch it. But it raised more questions about the risks of illegal streaming and what it means to watch a pirated movie, how dangerous it is (in a legal sense, in terms of copyright, as well as viruses) to watch a stream versus downloading a copy—and these conversations were written very much in the sense of, from the point of the individual film consumer, is it still “okay” to keep that illegal streaming habit.<sup>15</sup>

While the results and nuanced elements of film viewing in these studies and reports echo the experiences and preferences of those finding films to stream online in 2021 (namely personal preference for format and a universal desire for convenient and affordable online access, legal or not), there is room for further study due to how fast streaming realities change as well as the lack of investigation into the perspectives of film enthusiasts in general, especially self-reported comments about illegal streaming options; not just news reports and academic studies focused on students or designed with a limited methodology. These studies are still valuable, for sure. There are just so many more questions that remain unanswered...

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<sup>14</sup> Joel Khalili, “A crackdown on piracy and illegal streaming is coming.” TechRadar, 13 August 2021, <https://www.techradar.com/news/a-crackdown-on-piracy-and-illegal-streaming-is-coming>.

<sup>15</sup> Joe Supan, “When is streaming illegal? Here’s what you need to know about pirated content.” *AllConnect*, 18 May 2021, <https://www.allconnect.com/blog/is-streaming-illegal>; Fox Business, “New stimulus bill makes illegal streaming a felony.” YouTube, 22 December 2020, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=znkU4bCdY8I&ab\\_channel=FoxBusiness](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=znkU4bCdY8I&ab_channel=FoxBusiness).

## Research Questions and Key Terms



*The Net* (1995)

As there are no comprehensive studies [that I could find...] on the larger picture of the current way film enthusiasts engage with illegal streaming, I thought it useful and relevant to conduct an exploratory qualitative content analysis centering around these questions.

This section serves as a foundation for further discussion on the following research questions using the following key terms.

### *Research Questions*

- What motivates film enthusiasts to use illegal streaming platforms to watch movies?
- What discussions are film enthusiasts having about illegal streaming video?
- What are the main issues film enthusiasts have with illegal streaming platforms?
- What methods do film enthusiasts use to access movies online and share information about them?

### *Key Terms*

The following terms will be used throughout the study and are defined as such:

<i>term</i>	<i>definition</i>	<i>example</i>
film enthusiast	someone who is passionate about watching, sharing, discussing, celebrating movies; someone who watches a lot of movies and has things to say about the art	someone who spends their free time marathoning movies; maybe you
streaming video	moving visual images, often accompanied by audio, that is delivered online; streaming refers to the delivery method, video to the content; video in this study will often refer to feature-length films, but can be meant to encompass most audiovisual material	<i>The Stepford Wives</i> (1975) available through Prime Video
streaming platform	a website or app that offers video streaming	HBO Max
legal streaming platform	a free or paid streaming platform where all content is obtained and shared legally	Tubi
illegal streaming platform	a free or paid streaming platform where content is not obtained nor shared legally; movie piracy via streaming	123movies
discussion	a space, in this context exclusively online and publicly available, in which ideas and opinions are shared and/or debated	the comment thread of a Facebook post

## Methodology



*Top Secret! (1984)*

### *Overall Approach: An Exploratory Qualitative Content Analysis*

I will be employing a qualitative design. A large focus will be on understanding data by considering individual perspectives, and there will be comparison of differences and similarities among several cases. Through content analysis, I hope to better organize and categorize the thematic elements of the data to provide a more summarized and digestible view of the whole set of data.<sup>16</sup>

### Researcher Role and Positionality

I am the principal investigator. I am in charge of everything, though I will consult with an advisor, peers, and friends throughout the process. I will (responsibly) wield power

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<sup>16</sup> note: the structure and guidance for this section came from the immensely helpful worksheet made by Casey Rawson, "Crafting a Research Proposal: III. The Methodology (Qualitative Path)."

in this one small area of my life. I will construct my castle with well-organized Word files and build a moat of links and documentation.

As for positionality, I am pretty invested in the community I am studying in that I am both a film enthusiast and a future librarian concerned with questions of access. I care a lot about these things, and, while I can form intense emotional attachments to the subjects about which I'm passionate, I can also approach those subjects and related topics objectively. When brainstorming an idea for this paper, I thought of all that I love and that I would like to research further and then sought to connect them all. In that way, I feel very drawn to a study that combines film and access through a current understanding of illegal streaming video.

I hope I approach these topics with transparency and understanding. I'm also a very introspective person, and this seems like an advantage because knowing where I'm coming from will help me listen to where others are coming from and not project my own ideas. This is something I think about all the time, so that kind of metacognition will be useful.

### *Sample and Data Collection Methods*

The population includes all film enthusiasts who post public comments. The sampling unit consists of individual people who fit in this category.

To find data, I used a combination of convenience sampling and snowball sampling. I started with discussions in Facebook groups I am already part of and then Googled keywords like "illegal streaming forum" or "movie piracy discussion" or "ethics of illegal streaming platform" or "why people pirate movies" and clicked on discussions that had a fair amount of comments and engagement, somewhere around twenty-five comments or more at the time of the original posting. I repeated this process with slight alterations until I felt I had a representative sample. This seemed

the most feasible approach for my study, and I really value having individual responses and perspectives, so looking at comments directly from the source appeared the best way to go.

### Source Chart

Below is a chart that contains the organization of my sources. As evinced by the chart, most of the discussions took place on Reddit and in Facebook groups, most notably Film Buffs. I chose to use many conversations on Film Buffs because, over the period of time I was looking at (as recent as possible, but within the past six years), there were the most vibrant and robust conversations happening there versus other sources I could find. While most of the comments are from this group, they are similar in content to the other comments I found in other online sources. A full transcript of the anonymized discussions as well as the full post titles are included in Appendix B. Quotes from these sources will be referenced as [letter] + [number]. For example, if I quoted source J, comment 65, the attribution would look like this: “J65.”

<i>source letter</i>	<i>source of source</i>	<i>title/beginning title of posting</i>	<i>time of posting</i>	<i>number of comments*</i>
A	Reddit	Where to stream movies for free now that putlocker, 123movies, watch32, etc. are down?	2/21	26
B	Reddit	Covid relief bill to make illegal streaming a felony with up to 10-year prison sentence	12/20	51
C	Reddit	ULPT: Illegal streaming sites are illegal, but you cannot be fined or prosecuted just for watching illegally streaming videos. Only if you download can you get in trouble	2017	9
D	Reddit	The Ethics of Illegal Streaming	2015	29
E	Reddit	What are the best websites to watch movies for free without viruses?	3/21	24
F	Reddit	What’s the best website to watch movies on for free?	2018	6
G	HLTV	Good movie streaming site?	1/15 – 7/17	91

H	Bleeping Computer	Free Movie streaming Websites??	2/20 – 11/21	37
I	Singletrack	Illegal streamers – why do they do it? What’s in it for them?	2016	14
J	Facebook group—Film Buffs	Quick question: How do you feel...	6/20	113
K	Facebook group—Film Buffs	What are your views on piracy...	2/17	95
L	Facebook group—Film Buffs	Something to consider if illegally downloading...	3/16	23
M	Facebook group—Film Buffs	Is it frowned upon...	1/16	20
N	Facebook group—Film Buffs	[moviepilot link] Why Piracy Is Wrong...	2/16	21
O	Facebook group—Film Buffs	[Vice link] The Rise of Netflix Competitors...	2/19	12
P	Facebook group—Film Buffs	Is this group against pirating and...	3/16	243
Q	Facebook group—Film Buffs	A question for Film Buffs...	3/18	151
R	Facebook group—Film Buffs	I’d like to bring film piracy into the limelight...	2/17	316
S	Facebook group—Letterboxd Community	Quick question: How do you feel...	7/20	69
T	Facebook group—Letterboxd Community	two posts with no comments	12/18 and 2/19	2

\*some comments had been deleted since the original posting, so those were not included in the count



### *Data Analysis Methods*

After gathering all the data in the form of comments in discussion posts and forums, I read all of it thoroughly and then jotted down my overarching impressions and memories. I then went back and reread a few threads that I considered to be more representative of them all and, as I read, noted categories for a coding frame. The coding frame is at the heart of the content analysis method and helps to reduce the amount of material by focusing on selected aspects of meaning, often abstracting content to a higher level or organizing it by specific elements (in this case thematic elements) into more generalized categories.<sup>17</sup> Such abstraction or generalization results in a loss of concrete information, but leads to a deeper sense of how parts of the data relate to each other and to the whole of the research questions.<sup>18</sup> Because of the systematic, continuous, and iterative nature of this method, I combed through the data multiple times and revised the coding frame as I reread until I had four main categories, each with various subcategories. I then applied this to all of the data and found the four main categories to be solid in encompassing the main thematic elements of the comments and tweaked the subcategories until I felt that it covered all of the content.<sup>19</sup> The full coding frame can be found in Appendix A.

### *Research Quality and Ethical Considerations*

#### Main Philosophy: Transparency and Thick Description

Transparency and thick description. I will come back to these core principles again and again. I highly value transparency and think it greatly improves the quality of, access to, and honesty of research. I am more of the camp that learning is fun and should not be

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<sup>17</sup> Margrit Schreier, "Qualitative Content Analysis." In *The SAGE handbook of qualitative data analysis*, ed. Uwe Flick, pp. 170-183. SAGE Publications, Inc., 2014. <http://dx.doi.org.libproxy.lib.unc.edu/10.4135/9781446282243>; Mario Cardano, *Defending Qualitative Research: Design Analysis, and Textualization*. London: Routledge, 2020. <https://doi-org.libproxy.lib.unc.edu/10.4324/9780429464232>.

<sup>18</sup> Schreier, "Content Analysis."

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*; Cardano, "Defending."

restricted to a certain group with special resources. The more is shared, the more is shared! I would like for those who read this to be able to know the whole process of research in all its messiness and uncertainty, to know that mine is one voice and that I have consulted many others to gather evidence to share with more people. I will ask myself periodically if I am being open and responsible and ethical and try to analyze the impact of the decisions I make for this study.

## Trustworthiness Measures

### *Credibility*

There are many things I do to assure the credibility and validity of my findings. As listed on the methodology template, I will:

- transparently state my positionality and relationship to the research topic and subjects
- have prolonged engagement in my research setting and materials
- triangulation
- ground my work in existing theory
- include examples from raw data alongside conclusions and interpretations
- peer debriefing
- negative case analysis
- compare my methods to existing ones

### *Dependability*

I will be open and honest about methods used and how the research design changed over time. I will disclose any problems or challenges that arose. I will collect data from multiple sources and include examples from raw data alongside conclusions and interpretations.

### *Transferability*

Thick description is the name of the game here. My methods will likely border on overly detailed and clear. I will be sure to determine and reach an acceptable sample size.

### *Confirmability*

I will maintain an audit trail throughout the process, and this will consist of all documents and files used and created, links to all comments and images to be used or referenced in the study, and copies of any emails sent.

For my own personal use, to translate any relevant reflections, I document my life and thoughts through a diary, audio recordings, and saved images and videos. I may use these to consider my ideas, thoughts, and feelings on the research process as it goes along.

Any personal biases or conflicts of interest will be disclosed as well. For example, *The Stepford Wives* (1975) is my favorite film, and I will find a way to use it in an example because it is my favorite film, yet I will also disclose this information and be sure that my own preferences do not impact how I conduct the study nor analyze its results.

### Ethical Considerations and Minimizing Risk

As this content analysis uses publicly-available data shared willingly by participants in comments sections, there is very little risk or interaction involved. I asked questions to spur discussion in a few film groups of which I am a part, and I fully disclosed my position as a graduate student writing a research paper. I am not including any names or attaching names (or usernames or the like) to particular quotes, so this will preserve a level of relative anonymity in a subject matter that might be taboo. I have kept a list of sources, but that list will not be provided in the findings of this paper.

I believe my own experiences color what I see as possible realities; however, being aware of that, I will be open to accept that whatever is reported is how others experience and have experienced their world

### *Limitations, Delimitations, and Impact*

#### Limitations

Some limitations come to mind before the data collection process has started, and I am sure more will become clear as I proceed. I am attempting to find data that represents all the voices on this topic, but I am sure there will be sources I do not find and voices I do not hear because of this. I probably will not reach a “complete” sample, but hopefully I will get close to something representative. Also, people do not say everything they mean, and they do not mean everything they say.

And it might be noted that I am both my greatest weakness and my greatest strength.

#### Delimitations

Some choices I have made to restrict this study to a manageable scope are that I am only considering how English-speaking film enthusiasts access streaming video online with a focus on the most recent data I can find, that is to say:

- participants limited to film enthusiasts, those who care enough to comment in online forums frequented by film enthusiasts
- only online access, streaming video
- only data from English-speaking participants (although media accessed online can be in any language)
- no data older than six years with the goal of having most data be from the past two years

## Impact: After the Study's Conclusion

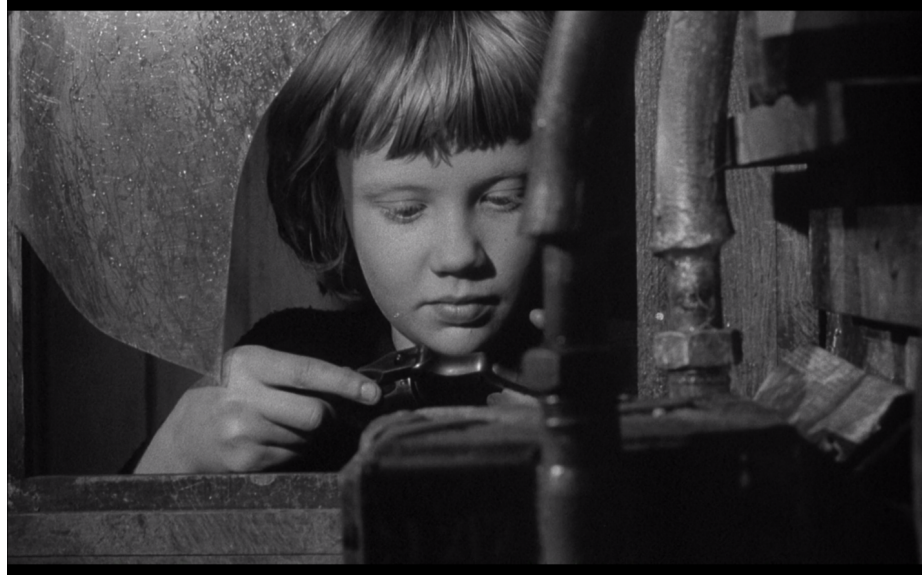
### *Plans for Publication*

I do not plan on publishing this study in any additional places after submitting it for my master's degree. That said, if anyone asks for it, I will gladly share it with them. The whole purpose in my mind is to study something I am passionate about and share the results with others. I recall in a peer group meeting that, upon mentioning my existential thoughts on if this study would even have any impact and what is the point of research, my group members reassured and reminded me that research is answering a question. They enjoy living in a society where you can explore answers to questions. And you never know what other insights others will find from your research.

### *Open Access*

I support open access and will show that through how I distribute this paper.

## Findings and Conclusions



*Tiger Bay (1959)*

### *Who's Involved in These Discussions?*

For this content analysis, I examined about 1350 comments from various public, online discussions. The voices in these discussions skew heavily in a few directions. First, the voices are of people who fiercely love movies and have strong opinions on the optimal way to view movies. The discussions involve people with varying degrees of education and involvement in the film industry as well as people with varying understandings of distribution methods and the economics of the film industry. There's a heavy skew toward students and working-class people as well as people of a younger age and/or people who use computers a lot. There's also a skew toward more male voices, at least in the sources that use names and not usernames. More than anything, there is a clear indication that people who post public comments have strong opinions, opinions that are not easily altered in the space of these online discussions. In all the threads that I read, there were zero instances of someone changing their mind and documenting that change in a comment.

And while the overall messages of the comments can clearly be divided into categories and subcategories that get at the core of the problems and areas for change regarding distribution, access, preservation, etc. of films for film lovers, the majority of the longer comments from the sample hint at or explicitly fall into multiple categories and show that the writer of the comment has a blended, nuanced, and often very individually stylized stance on movie watching and illegal streaming platforms. And quite often people just want to share their habits and connect with others who have similar habits or defend those who challenge theirs.

### *Summary of Findings*

In order to analyze this content, I read a sample of comments to create a coding frame and then reread every comment and noted the main thematic elements in bullet form, modifying the coding frame as I went. I included the most potent or relevant examples next to the themes and then grouped the themes under four main categories. For each subcategory, I indicated with zero, one, or two stars how frequently that theme appeared in the discussions. After reading multiple discussions that tended to make similar points, it became clear that the comments on illegal streaming fall into these four main categories: morality, money, how to, and problems of distribution and access.

The most heated debates are in the topic of morality, and arguments tend to get personal and lead to impasse. The discussions that center on money seem to also center on differing personal circumstances and differing opinions on personal finance in general, not just in regard to illegal streaming. They also blend with questions of access in the sense of the reality that it costs (often too much) money to live and enjoy material pleasures and experiences such as movie-watching. The how to comments are either the minority in a discussion that's more on the other three topics or the entirety of a thread; for example, there are threads specifically for finding the best sites to

illegally stream movies, and the comments are updated more frequently as these sites change often. What might be considered the real meat of the discussions, though, focuses on the problems with the current methods of distribution of films and the barriers to access. (This can be blended with morality, especially over the question of if piracy hurts the film industry.) It is here that people express problems they have less individual control over, and it gets at the driving forces that underlie the motivations for illegal streaming and pirating. These discussions point out the conflicts that film enthusiasts can agree are conflicts rather than personal opinions, but often there is no ready solution. It is here also that there might be the most room for change.

To go with the theme of summary, I'll include this quote as introduction:

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*285 comments?!?! I'm not gonna read all this. Can someone give me the Cliff Notes version? Lol<sup>20</sup>*

*"Torrents good!" "No, torrents bad!" Lol<sup>21</sup>*

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### *Details of Findings*

The following discusses the subcategories found in the discussions in the comments sections:

#### Morality

{MOTIVATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS BASED ON THE ETHICS OF ILLEGAL STREAMING}

Easily the most attack-styled comments, the ones that figure in questions of morality and the ethical implications of illegal streaming are highly cut to personal

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<sup>20</sup> R311

<sup>21</sup> R312



preference and exhibit little to no room for changing opinions. There also seem to be two sides with which people align: that illegal streaming steals from creators, harms the film industry, and is unethical—or that illegal streaming does not steal from creators, doesn't harm the industry, and is fine.

There are some grayer areas in which commenters express hesitation in illegal streaming or clarify that they only think it's okay to do in certain instances. One person summarizes:

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*My opinion is independent projects don't sail the seven seas. If it's a major Hollywood project, all I can say is, 'ARRRRR!'<sup>22</sup>*

---

Another echoes this “it depends” sentiment but with different caveats in stating, “i'm a professional pirate but only with old, foreign, or low-budget films that aren't readily available.”<sup>23</sup> Often people feel the need to share their personal guidelines for when they pirate, many saying it is a last resort:

---

*They're a last resort. There are so many movies that are hard to find. Giants like Netflix and Hulu hardly stream classic or obscure genre movies. The only option would be to pay \$50 for an old vhs tape if I wanted to see it. I buy the majority of my movies but I'll use a streaming site or torrent if there's absolutely no other way for me to find it<sup>24</sup>*

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<sup>22</sup> J101

<sup>23</sup> K63

<sup>24</sup> J67

These kinds of comments relate to the problems with distribution and access as well, leaning into the sense that if the content is not made easily available, then it is more acceptable to use alternative and often illegal methods to access it.

Other commenters justify their lack of guilt over illegal streaming by saying there are worse things or that their viewing of a pirated stream is acceptable because the system made it so available. “0 shame here,”<sup>25</sup> notes one person, a concise version of a common point made in discussions about how people feel about using illegal streaming platforms. Another, an admin of a Facebook group for film buffs, proudly declares:

---

*Friends call me Blackbeard...and it's not because I drink rum at 10am. Whoever says streaming or torrenting is killing the industry is full of bs.*<sup>26</sup>

---

Many equate viewing an illegal copy to borrowing from a friend. “The internet is just a place people can share things,” writes one commenter. “It’s like if my friend wanted to borrow one of my movies but I don’t wanna go over there. I just leave the backup on the porch for him to pick it up and then he brings it back later.”<sup>27</sup> Another person asks, “What’s the difference between downloading a movie from a website and getting a copy from the public library?”<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> R81

<sup>26</sup> K14

<sup>27</sup> B7

<sup>28</sup> D7

Related to this are the discussions are what constitutes theft or the word “legal” and how grave that possible theft might be. “Illegal and immoral?” questions one commenter. “We are talking about movies here for fuck sake, not murder.”<sup>29</sup> Another asks others to consider the social contract of laws in posting:

---

*If you live in a society where people don't have enough food to eat, or aren't able to get treatment for addiction of pay for necessary healthcare, stealing is absolutely a viable alternative. What would you ask them to do? Die? Because that's the law? The only way you can argue that THEFT IS THEFT (i.e. stealing from rich people is the same as stealing from people who have nothing) is if you decide to ignore the structural inequalities built into our system<sup>30</sup>*

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Another commenter acknowledges the reality of the theft by saying, “A constant point that’s made in these discussions, ‘I can’t afford to xxxx.’ Well I can’t afford a BMW, that doesn’t make it okay to steal it.”<sup>31</sup> These comments tend to boil down to the point of how ethical it is to use illegal streaming platforms—no matter the reasons why they’re available or convenient—and put it out there that this is stealing and that stealing is wrong. One person states concisely:

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*Don't steal shit. It's not hard.<sup>32</sup>*

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<sup>29</sup> P149

<sup>30</sup> R199

<sup>31</sup> R123

<sup>32</sup> J10

These discussions center more on making the other side admit that they are complicit in theft and illegal action even if they are only witnessing the theft of a film that was made available by a largely more punishable and targeted illegal action. They often come back to rebuttals by restating the initial stance that stealing is wrong. And the responses tend to go into rebuking the content or the studios (i.e. “piracy will only be reduced when studios are sincere about the theft from within their premises,”<sup>33</sup> “Who gives a shit, the crap that studios are churning out now”<sup>34</sup>, or “No, I think it's the lack of creativity in Hollywood that's killing creativity in Hollywood.”<sup>35</sup>). As such, these discussions often lead to anger or impasse, often with name-calling and politically-charged insults and often cajoling the other commenter for being so blind to their reality. Sometimes it is a more civil conversation, but the comments that get more engagement do tend to be more incendiary or call out specific people in the thread. While most comments got little to no likes or replies, (which is why I focused less on engagement) the ones that did get more engagement fell into themes on the ethics of illegal streaming. For example, this comment got eleven replies:

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*Some of your holier than thou approachs is quite disturbing. Have you ever borrowed a book from a friend? Watched a PPV event at a bar or friends? Have you ever had a friend or co worker lend you their copy of a movie? Guess what??? YOUR STEALING! The principle of stealing doesn't change with the wind direction. Watching or reading a purchasable piece of media or art without paying money yourself is technically stealing. No matter if you have borrowed it from a friend to watch or read or went to a bar. YOU*

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<sup>33</sup> K34

<sup>34</sup> K22

<sup>35</sup> L7

*HAVEN'T PAID FOR IT. THEREFORE YOU ARE STEALING IT. So get off  
your high horses<sup>36</sup>*

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And comments with high engagement in another thread specifically on the consequences of the Protect Lawful Streaming Act (PLSA) included things like “In the United States movies have more rights than elderly people”<sup>37</sup> or the crasser “This is what happens when Repubs are suking the corp phalic.”<sup>38</sup>

Meanwhile, this comment politely echoed what many in another thread expressed, but got zero engagement:

---

*For me, it's no longer about “will watching this one little movie really hurt the industry?” It's a matter of personal integrity.<sup>39</sup>*

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Another commenter reflects on a point that came up infrequently, but summarizes what others may have written had they taken their points further, that it is not a question of money that decides if it is illegal or immoral, but a question of consent:

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*And I have addressed that moral issue. Getting something for free is not the problem. Getting it without the consent of the provider, and knowing they would not give that consent if they had the choice, is the problem.<sup>40</sup>*

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<sup>36</sup> K82

<sup>37</sup> B2

<sup>38</sup> B35

<sup>39</sup> K44

<sup>40</sup> R247

Yet another commenter responded in a similar vein in stating:

---

*I think people deserved to be paid for their work if I want to enjoy it.*

*I'm not entitled to something just because it exists.<sup>41</sup>*

---

And this is where it gets into the most heated of the debates: who movies are for, who gets hurt from illegal streaming (and how one person watching one illegal video may or may not be harmful to all artists and consumers).

In this subcategory, money is meant differently; rather than how much an individual pays for entertainment, it is meant as who receives the money that supports the creation of films. The argument boils down to a fight repeated over and over in the forums: namely, that filmmakers get paid upfront and are not harmed by illegal streaming—versus the notion that in a larger sense there will be less and less money contributing directly to the creation of new content, so less content will be able to be made.

Here are some compelling comments that sum up what many others in these discussion threads share as well:

---

*I'm a filmmaker and the whole way people are paid in film doesn't have a lot to do with purchase. All that money goes to the producers, the rest of the crew is paid up front.<sup>42</sup>*

---

And on the other side:

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<sup>41</sup> S24

<sup>42</sup> J56

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*If everyone did this, there would be no money to develop high-quality entertainment or art anymore.<sup>43</sup>*

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Perhaps most civil and accurate:

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*I'm not passing moral judgement, I just want people to understand that, legality aside, how you choose to watch movies has real world implications.<sup>44</sup>*

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Because of the frequency of the debate on how piracy does or does not hurt the industry, it would be useful to study public perceptions of piracy or go further into this point with film enthusiasts and/or people who do and do not pirate movies. Perhaps a measure of the understanding of the industry of the level of involvement in filmmaking could be helpful here too, especially if illegal streaming platforms are going to ever decline instead of continue rising.

No matter commenters' stance, one comment out of the thousand or so is the best summary of what everyone seemed to say in their conversations:

---

*The people that pirate<sup>45</sup> aren't going to be swayed.*

---

Money

{MOTIVATIONS BASED ON INDIVIDUAL FINANCIAL POSITIONS}

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<sup>43</sup> J91

<sup>44</sup> D9

<sup>45</sup> R16

While the section on these findings may be short and sweet, it is because the majority of the comments citing financial motivations echo one another. It is not a reflection of the paucity of such comments but rather a reflection of a simple and common explanation. Many commenters explain their use of illegal streaming platforms as simply a matter of money. Until there is less financial insecurity in the world, this does not seem to be a justification that will be changing. Several commenters commented that they buy when they can or try to find something legally first, but, if it's too expensive, they pirate. Others referred to the oversaturation of the market and how there are so many movies out there that "buying blind isn't an option anymore."<sup>46</sup> They sample the content and then buy a physical or digital copy if they like the movie.

The vast majority of pecuniary reasonings, however, came down to the theme of being broke but still wanting to watch movies. Some commenters see illegal streaming as a democratizing option:

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*I pirate movies pretty regularly. Don't get me wrong, supporting the industry is important, but so is paying rent, and being a movie buff shouldn't just be reserved to those who can afford it.*<sup>47</sup>

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This is often the logic of film students or early professionals in the industry. They cite the ability to watch masterpieces of cinema for free as what kickstarted their passion and their pursuits in the field while acknowledging that they otherwise would not be able to afford access to these movies. As one buff said:

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<sup>46</sup> K49

<sup>47</sup> J64



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*You can't expect a young film nerd in need for some education to pay for it all.*<sup>48</sup>

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## How To

### {METHODS AND DISCUSSIONS OF ACQUIRING ILLEGAL STREAMING CONTENT}

The subcategories for this section themselves fall into two main thematic subcategories: specifics and other. The other themes show up in discussions about why or why not to illegally stream and often cite viruses and malware on illegal platforms as reasons to avoid them. One commenter aptly declared that it's "too much faff"<sup>49</sup> and that is why she doesn't bother. Others agree that it is just too much of a hassle to avoid hackers and those who upload content with ill-intent toward viewers.

Other themes that fit into the "how to" category include options to find and watch movies on YouTube, free streaming sites (though they may have ads), and consulting your public librarian. Those who leave these comments seem to have more patience and a greater drive to find a film in a legal manner.

The other thematic subcategory involves specifics of how to watch something illegally. On these discussion posts, there exists the assumption that commenters are looking for illegal streaming sites, so questions of morality or the big problems with the industry are not present. It's totally practical. Examples of such comments include "try adding .mp4 to the end of the movie title and you might find the full upload on someone's Google drive"<sup>50</sup> or "aa01.net always works for me."<sup>51</sup> There are hundreds of comments like

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<sup>48</sup> J113

<sup>49</sup> J44

<sup>50</sup> A5

<sup>51</sup> A6

these, and the posts tend to last until the sites cited in them stop working; then the post goes dry.

One thing to note on these is that some of the comments may not be from real people or that other commenters think they are not. One user warned:

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*Do not use movie crumbs if anyone sees this, those were a bunch of bots writing that!*<sup>52</sup>

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Surrounding that comment were many other comments about that site and how great and problem-free it is. Just as with the platforms themselves, the discussions about which platforms to use seem riddled with ads and links with potential malware.

These threads also seemed less common in general which leads to an assumption that those who use illegal streaming methods learn to use them by word of mouth. A further study, perhaps a series of case studies, would be insightful in learning about how people over time have developed their piracy habits or how people who illegally stream content learn about it in the first place. A better understanding of this could lead to a more practical solution and possibly less digital piracy in the future.

## Problems with Distribution and Access

### {THE SYSTEMIC ISSUES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO ILLEGAL STREAMING}

The final category in which many of the comments fall is that of problems with distribution and access, most leading to the conclusion that distribution is at odds with

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<sup>52</sup> E16

consumption, that there is a tension between the way films can be accessed and the way enthusiasts prefer to consume them.

In this category, there are many subcategories that border on dealing more with issues outside the scope of the research questions for this study, issues like image quality and preference to not have ads interrupt a movie as well as anger at the general trends of quantity over quality content and accessing media versus owning physical copies of media. Many film buffs prefer physical media and detest the unreliability of streaming services as well as the amount of content and subscriptions necessary to access that content, and they cite these frustrations as reasons why they use illegal streaming if they cannot find a decent physical copy.

Similar to those expressing these thoughts, others lament that viewing options have become increasingly limited if you want a good and reliable copy of a film without paying for multiple subscription-based services. They suggest that a decrease in the availability of print copies (and the ease of accessing them) as well as a decrease in the availability of renting options lead to increases in pirating. One woman commented:

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*Maybe they should stop closing all the video shops so we can have  
somewhere to get them from.<sup>53</sup>*

---

Other subcategories of access involve geo-blocking (the restriction of content based on geographical borders) and delayed release dates for different countries (as a base for using illegal streaming platforms instead). Many who comment about the problems with the U. S. system of movie distribution also mentioned the ways in which distribution

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<sup>53</sup> R163

is improved in other countries and that this is why pirating is more prevalent in places where distribution does not cater to the demands of the consumers or allow for more free options (like more robust streaming services or renting options through public libraries or more relaxed copyright laws, for example).

For comments that fall into these subcategories as well as those dealing with individual financial situations, enthusiasts see illegal streaming platforms as ways to increase access and audience as well as promote film. These commenters also tend to see large commercial streaming giants and big-budget Hollywood pictures as opposing forces to those who love the art for the art and not for pecuniary or political gain. One commenter shared a story about temptation to view a pirated copy that included further reasoning for his preferences against streaming and why illegal streaming video is his last resort:

---

*I now refuse to use Amazon and Netflix: if I DO stream it would be via MUBI as it's evident that they are passionate about film. However for the most part I buy blu-rays, I find it a much more cathartic and rewarding means. No buffering, perfect quality and access to additional material.<sup>54</sup>*

---

Many of these comments from passionate buffs, like the aforementioned one and the following one, seem to have an unstated subtext that certain methods of access are undesirable or too inconvenient.

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<sup>54</sup> J22

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*I prefer supporting the artist, but have been known to torrent films I couldn't find anywhere. Availability is key.<sup>55</sup>*

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But the point is clear and similar to many others in these discussions: reasonable availability and convenience that fits with consumer preferences would change their reliance on illegal streaming platforms to find otherwise difficult-to-find films. There are so many factors that go into bringing about change or a solution that can be implemented on a wider scale, so many studies and agreements would have to be performed to see resolution on these problems. As some commenters suggest, looking to other industries like gaming or music for examples of how to combat piracy or how to better align distribution and access with consumer preference could yield ideas about where the film industry can go.

In a thread addressing many of these discussions, one commenter illuminates his point and the whole of the issue in stating:

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*Piracy speaks to a problem of access.<sup>56</sup>*

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<sup>55</sup> J98

<sup>56</sup> J58

## End Credits



*Soylent Green* (1973)

Also a sincere thank you to everyone who encouraged me and put up with my stubbornness. And a big thank you to the soundtrack for [The Haunting of Julia \(1977\)](#) which I listened to on repeat in order to get this done.

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## Behind-the-Scenes Extras



*Dodsworth* (1936)

### Appendix A: Full Coding Frame

[line]\* indicates a frequent theme among comments

[line]\*\* indicates a very frequent theme among comments

- morality
  - there are worse things
  - I don't feel bad\*
  - people will do what they want\*\*
  - it's like borrowing from a friend
  - don't steal\*
  - depends, non-specific\*
  - details of specific personal guidelines\*\*
  - illegal streaming is stealing from creators\*\*
  - illegal streaming is not stealing from creators\*\*
- money
  - buy if you can
  - only buy a movie if you like it\*
  - I'm broke\*\*
  - way too much sub-par-quality content, so illegal streaming is a way to not buy blind\*
  - the expense of movie-watching is a barrier to access\*
  - physical media/streaming/theaters too expensive in general\*
- how to

- watch out for viruses/avoid malware and registration\*\*
- mention of specific illegal streaming site\*
- there's a lot of stuff on YouTube\*
- go to the library
- will I be arrested for watching something illegally?
- problems with distribution and access
  - illegal streaming as a last resort/if it's the only way to find a decent and available copy\*\*
  - distribution is at odds with consumption\*\*
  - illegal streaming is democratizing
  - illegal streaming as a way around geoblocking
  - anti-streaming giants sentiment\*
  - anti-ads during movies sentiment
  - anti-licensing instead of owning\*
  - anti-streaming in general over physical copy\*\*
  - questions about the quality of streams\*
  - better distribution methods in other countries
  - impatience for a legally available option to be released
  - decrease in renting availability leads to pirating increase\*
  - decrease in availability of print copies (and ease of accessing them) leads to pirating increase\*

### Appendix B: Anonymized Data

#### Copy of Source Chart

<i>source letter</i>	<i>source of source</i>	<i>title/beginning title of posting</i>	<i>time of posting</i>	<i>number of comments</i>
A	Reddit	Where to stream movies for free now that putlocker, 123movies, watch32, etc. are down?	2/21	26
B	Reddit	Covid relief bill to make illegal streaming a felony with up to 10-year prison sentence	12/20	51
C	Reddit	ULPT: Illegal streaming sites are illegal, but you cannot be fined or prosecuted just for watching illegally streaming videos. Only if you download can you get in trouble	2017	9
D	Reddit	The Ethics of Illegal Streaming	2015	29
E	Reddit	What are the best websites to watch movies for free without viruses?	3/21	24
F	Reddit	What's the best website to watch movies on for free?	2018	6
G	HLTV	Good movie streaming site?	1/15 – 7/17	91

H	Bleeping Computer	Free Movie streaming Websites??	2/20 – 11/21	37
I	Singletrack	Illegal streamers – why do they do it? What’s in it for them?	2016	14
J	Facebook group—Film Buffs	Quick question: How do you feel...	6/20	113
K	Facebook group—Film Buffs	What are your views on piracy...	2/17	95
L	Facebook group—Film Buffs	Something to consider if illegally downloading...	3/16	23
M	Facebook group—Film Buffs	Is it frowned upon...	1/16	20
N	Facebook group—Film Buffs	[moviepilot link] Why Piracy Is Wrong...	2/16	21
O	Facebook group—Film Buffs	[Vice link] The Rise of Netflix Competitors...	2/19	12
P	Facebook group—Film Buffs	Is this group against pirating and...	3/16	243
Q	Facebook group—Film Buffs	A question for Film Buffs...	3/18	151
R	Facebook group—Film Buffs	I’d like to bring film piracy into the limelight...	2/17	316
S	Facebook group—Letterboxd Community	Quick question: How do you feel...	7/20	69
T	Facebook group—Letterboxd Community	two posts with no comments	12/18 and 2/19	2

\*some comments had been deleted since the original posting, so those  
were not included in the count

## Reformatting Note

In the transcript below, the comments were copied and pasted from the original source, then the identifying information was deleted. Some text retained remnants of the original formatting which is why some colors and pictures and indentations are not completely uniform. I also made the decision to join line breaks from one comment together so that the one comment would be in a single numbered bullet point. Other than that, no changes have been made.

## Anonymized Posts and Comments Transcript

*source A: Reddit—Where to stream movies for free now that putlocker, 123movies, watch32, etc. are down? (February 2021)*

1. Watchfilm.net
2. Watchfilm.net
3. thank you!
4. Thanks! I'm getting so pissed putlocker.vc hasn't updated in a good week
5. Try adding .mp4 to the end of the movie title and you might find the full upload on someone's Google drive
6. [aa01.net](http://aa01.net) always works for me
7. Yes Movies Dot AG
8. Fake news, doesn't work
9. <https://yesmovies.ag/>
10. where can you stream a quiet place part 2?
11. <https://fmovies.co/>
12. Soap2Day.
13. 123movies is still up
14. Actvid
15. Vumoo.to
16. azm. to My go to site for watching films.
17. that site sucks!!!
18. Build your own media server and stream from there. It can be done relatively cheap.
19. Sucky answer lol
20. [Cinemaforgotten.com](http://Cinemaforgotten.com) give it a try
21. Netflix, Amazon Prime, Disney+, HBO Max.

22. anyone know what happened to [putlockertoday.net](http://putlockertoday.net) ? is this the kind of thing that's fixed or has the site been taken down
23. What about [Watchfilms.net](http://Watchfilms.net)? I'm getting a 522 error.
24. Same ! Came here for the same thing
25. hi, anyone know where i can watch Hotel Transylvania: Transformania? i tried soap2day, 123movies, watchfilm, the pirate bay, still nothin.
26. Netflix free trial

*source B: Reddit—Covid relief bill to make illegal streaming a felony with up to 10-year prison sentence (December 2020)*

1. How does a streaming bill make into a COVID relief package? Oh wait, American politics.
2. In the United States movies have more rights than elderly people.
3. with **5K** pages, they could sneak in **5 chapters, let alone 1 singular section that tucks away a proposal in hopes it doesn't get read. There can be numerous of those with 5k pages and a large % of the elected officials consistently getting found out to have not even read the thing in the first place, let alone the individual chapters inside it, has not assisted in giving high confidence of those who want actual good shit to happen.**
4. Senator Thom Tillis (R-NC) released his proposal to increase the penalties for those who would dare stream unlicensed works.
5. Kind of makes one want to leave America. Not this bill alone, but the direction we've been heading for decades now. It's just depressing to think that this is what the government values/is corrupted by.
6. It does. Ironically, the GOP fears will come true not from foreign immigrants coming to America but from its citizens abandoning America.
7. I don't really get the illegality of online streaming anyways. The internet is just a place people can share things. Copyright law really shouldn't hold much power there. It's like if my friend wanted to borrow one of my movies but I don't wanna go over there. We're allowed to burn a copy of our movies to have a backup. I just leave the backup on the porch for him to pick it up and then he brings it back later. Or a better example is having a big screen projector that everyone in my neighborhood can watch from. Except this projector reaches a worldwide audience. Why is that illegal again?
8. was thinking the same thing actually...
9. I would like to use the thread also to bring attention to the bill SISEA <https://twitter.com/acvalens/status/1340338322326106112?s=19> This bill would destroy many artistic and marginalized communities, and with censor the internet on a scale that would have seemed to laughable yesterday. Our Congress is more concerned with policing our actions on the internet, then they are with actually providing a fucking stimulus during a calamity. Every one of these fuckers need to be voted out of office, and it may now actually be time to begin deleting many of our social media accounts.
10. Despite the fact that this is ridiculously unconstitutional, and will eventually get struck down by the courts, I agree with the larger premise in that Congress is orbiting around the idea of actively censoring the internet, which should be concerning for everyone. Edit: the penalty being unconstitutional, not punishing streamers

11. Tho some are saying it only criminalises the websites providing copyright-infringing streams, not the users who view the streams or make them. Either way [Everyone should contact congress about this] (<https://www.contactingcongress.org/>)
12. lol has contacting congress ever done a damn thing? half the fuckers snuck it in, other half dont know what the internet is.
13. Many soccer matches that I'm intensely interested in can't be viewed in the US for any reasonable amount of money. I don't feel too bad channeling my inner Johnny Dep to watch them.
14. It's worse for hockey because they have regional blackouts so you can't even watch your own home team play.
15. Octogenarians writing laws about technology they could never understand. Watching the capitol hill grilling of Zuckerburg was the cringiest. 80 year old: So can you see whats in my facebook? Lizard boy: Its on my system. 80 year old: so can you see it? Lizard boy: Its on my system. 80 year old: -clearly confused- errrr um
16. Sounds more like "something this important that has to pass needs a few undesired side effects" Was the total immunity for corporations regarding Covid related deaths or illnesses from neglect in the pursuit of profits included? I mean that was the one thing Mitch McConnell wanted or he would never allow it to be voted on...(if you recall back in May the Tyson meat processing plants managers had a betting pool for how many workers would get Covid... Any lawsuit win would be overturned retroactively.)
17. I feel like America has become this sick parody of itself..."keep america great" the signs read...they must be living in a different america than I am. Becuase this country is shite
18. It should be illegal to have more than one subject to a bill. Then we couldn't have 5,000 page bills that pass with completely unrelated things in them.
19. Look up the Senate's germaneness rule. Then figure out who is supposed to enforce it.
20. At least they're not going after individuals. For a while they were suing or threatening every kid in a dorm who downloaded a movie because they can't go after sites in other countries where the servers are hosted in places US copyright law doesn't apply
21. Are you positive about this?? I don't want to get jail time for watching a fucking movie online
22. What? I thought this absolutely means they are going after individuals? Who are they going after, the torrent sites?
23. That's not a good system.
24. Is it odd that this makes me want to support Hollywood even LESS than I already barely do? I pay for no streaming services. I use a few free legal ones. I guess those will be under attack next. 90% of what Hollywood offers is garbage anyway. I'm building myself a nice library of physical media to enjoy over the years when there's no longer a single thing of quality on TV or streaming services.
25. They can keep the 600 bucks.
26. Well, that sounds reasonable, proportional and well thought out. How long does corruption at the highest corporate and political levels grt them? A billion years?
27. This is a problem.
28. If anyone were to get prison time for STREAMING while rapists and other degenerates and criminals are being let out in record numbers I'd expect an armed revolution
29. That's stop it for sure.
30. Gryzzl tried this too...
31. Just look at the donors for the nonprofit Public Knowledge, so-called "open internet" advocates supporting this legislation: <https://www.publicknowledge.org/about-us/sources-of-funding-for-public-knowledge/> Just a total front to help lobby for giant company interests. What a total joke.

32. As far as I know it is still not a crime watching streamed content. I think the crime is hosting it correct? A lot of these streams are hosted in other countries it kind of sounds like a bunch of nonsense.
33. not a lawyer- but this is incorrect. try to look for the actual wording.
34. You guys have a shitshow going in down there. Canada
35. This is what happens when Repubs are suking the corp phalic
36. If you asked who's worse? Republicans. But the money flows on both sides. No positive reform will happen until a public revolution occurs. Media stirs up a red vs blue and we all lose. Oldest congress ever in history right now... with a man child fascist as a leader abandoning reality, instigating violence and splitting the nation. Biden will be a do nothing and in four years most people will be distracted and will probably get another fascist but who knows... Canada looks real nice! Post covid im gonna look at immigrating in next few years. Canada has social car insurance that pays back profits at end of year! How shitty does our country look now lol At least we got \$1800 for support for a global pandemic while trillions go to the ultra wealthy or business owners and churches (don't pay taxes). This is your country and this is how much they value YOU!
37. Unfortunately it's bipartisan friend...
38. Must be nice thinking an entire party is to blame, instead of corruption from both sides.
39. Never heard of it.
40. That's evil
41. Honestly hope this results in no music added to tutorials. I can care less about the music and its a distraction 99.9% of the time.
42. Why would anyone sign something that they don't have time to read or that contains random things?
43. So... if I just download the movie ahead of time, I'm good?
44. Apparently it's only targeting the people who are downloading/streaming for profit. If you're casually streaming the bill won't effect you. But if you're downloading and then turning around and selling for profit you might have a little more to worry about.
45. actually criminal?
46. Late stage empire collapsing from internal rot.
47. It's gong to target pirates not twitch streamers
48. 10 years in jail for cord-cutting.
49. I thought it was aimed at piracy services or something and isn't that already a felony? I thought movies had a MPAA warning or something that said that unlicensed reproduction can lead to a \$250000 dollar fine or jail time.
50. This is awful. And totally useless... but I guess private prisons have business to make: profit!
51. Congress: Covid is destroying the lives and livelihoods of millions of Americans. Something must be done. People: We really need money to pay rent and buy food. Lobbyist: Whats more important is that every network is coming out with their own streaming channel so people have lots to watch. There are about forty of them now, each requires a subscription. People: We aren't going to pay for forty different TV subscriptions! We need money for food and medicine! Congress: Mr. Lobbyist, what happens if people cant pay for all the channels? Lobbyist: The People pirate the content. People: Money please? Congress: Right! To save the People, we will make it a felony to stream unlicensed content. Now time for a pay raise for ourselves and a long vacation. Lobbyist: \$\$ People: . . . . .



*source C: Reddit—ULPT: Illegal streaming sites are illegal, but you cannot be fined*

*or prosecuted just for watching illegally streaming videos. Only if you download can you get in trouble (2017)*

1. All these people in the comments trying to prove that there is any possible way that the government is going to do anything to the endless hordes of people who just stream illegal movies. Shit even if you download it and just don't distribute it you'd most likely be all good
2. Even if you do distribute it as long as it's not a large scale operation you can no one is going to stop you
3. This post is sort of correct in practice but highly misleading. First, if it is a crime in your jurisdiction to download copyrighted media, that would apply whether you stream a file or download a file and save it. From the technology perspective there is little functional difference: streaming is just a form of downloading where the information isn't saved afterwards. You are still illegally downloading the copyrighted information, you just aren't saving the evidence of that crime. Second, in most jurisdictions the crime that is prosecuted is not downloading, it's uploading (sharing copyrighted material with other users). If you use a torrent platform to download the file you are doing both at the same time, thus it is true in a pragmatic sense that torrenting a file may expose you to greater risk of prosecution than streaming it. This has nothing to do with 'streaming vs downloading' (the same crime performed in two slightly different ways), it has to do with downloading only vs uploading too (committing an additional crime, which happens to be the one that is more widely prosecuted).
4. it's true BUT there was a case in germany in wich someone got sued because he had cookies and small data chunks on his pc from the stream thus owning a copyrighted product BUT the case was dropped after 9months, it was just a scare tactic to make people abandone streaming sites
5. I rip all my downloads to VHS. Who the fuck has a VCR to prove what's on my tapes???
6. Nobody ever prosecutes for illegal downloading, right?  
<http://business.time.com/2013/01/14/mit-orders-review-of-aaron-swartz-suicide-as-soul-searching-begins/> "Before he died last Friday, Swartz, who was a well-known computer programmer — but not an MIT student — **faced a 35-year prison sentence on federal data-theft charges for illegally downloading articles** from the subscription-based academic research service JSTOR. Swartz had allegedly broken into a secure MIT computer closet on at least one occasion and hooked up a laptop in order to download JSTOR files, before he was arrested in 2011 by Cambridge, Mass., police."
7. This is totally different from steaming videos
8. Find #moviegods, if you're tech savvy enough. That's all I will say.
9. Tell me more

*source D: Reddit—The Ethics of Illegal Streaming (2015)*

1. I hope this discussion isn't breaking any rules, but I think it's really relevant, especially to people in this community who watch films that aren't always readily available. As we move into December, we all start thinking about our best of the year lists, which means there's a lot of films from 2015 we will all need to catch up on watching. The problem is though, unless we all live in New York or Los Angeles, it's really hard to see the things you want to see before the end of the year. Which means, for me at least, December is the

only month in the year when I actively have to seek out illegal streams of some of the movies I want to watch. Oscar season is the season of dozens of films that you want to watch all being uploaded online while they're playing nowhere near you. I am usually very against piracy, but there's times when I would end up having to wait months to see a movie, or sometimes never see a movie that I was excited to see at all. The other day, I made a trip to Toronto to check out a university, and while I was there, I was going to go see *The Assassin*. Now I live two hours away from Toronto, but it's the nearest theater playing this film, in fact I think TIFF may be the only place in the country playing this film. I didn't get to see the film due to time constrictions, and was very disappointed. My local art house theater is never going to play that film. But I managed to find a stream of the film on vooz. I didn't watch it, but it's there and available, and I probably will end up watching it sometime in December. This all has me thinking about the ethics of streaming films on services like putlocker in situations like this. I have no way of seeing films like *The Assassin* without traveling two hours, or waiting for months for it to show up on Netflix. I am subscribed to Netflix, and Hulu+. I'm already paying my \$20 a month for both services, and if I were to watch it on Netflix, I would still not be paying any extra to see the film. Netflix handles the licensing and paying the filmmakers for the film, so does it matter if my view is actually on Netflix or not? In fact, wouldn't I be helping in a way, because Netflix chooses which films and TV shows they want to include on streaming based on what is getting watched illegally. The question here is, with films like *The Assassin*, is it more important to see the film when it is relevant, or to see it legally? I'm interested to hear what everyone's thoughts are on awards screener season, lets talk about this.

2. For as much as Reddit obsesses over net neutrality (obviously for good reason) I feel like there should be similar outrage over availability of film. Bluray will likely be the last physical media for things like this. Then we will have to deal with companies like Netflix or Amazon for streaming if we want to do it legally. This art form is being, and will continue to be, lost in time because there is no way to see them. Can you imagine if libraries and book stores were forced to no longer provide Darwin's Origin of Species because they couldn't afford the licensing cost from the copyright owner? That is assuming the copyright owner is willing to make that content available at all to libraries.. It would be devastating to all of humanity to lose that knowledge. The vast majority of films I watch are not available on any legal platform. The place I illegally download movies has everything under the sun. There is very little that I can't find there. I would happily pay for the service I use now if it would make it legal.. that isn't going to happen though. It obviously isn't a technical limitation because the service does actually exist. This will never be a legal alternative because greed and lawyers gets involved. I encourage everyone to pirate any film they can not find legally. Do it now because there is no guarantee you'll ever be able to see it again. I'm legitimately worried for the future of art if this trend continues.
3. There are very few things you can't find a copy of but many of them must be imported and cost upwards of \$50. What is your stance on those situations?
4. I always see people say this but I never see any real truth behind it. People will say they watch "vast majority" of films that aren't available legally but when asked they rattle off one or two films that were more than likely only televised and they watched a recording of the broadcast. They also say that their website is "everything under the sun" but never take the time to think that the real majority of these torrents come from illegal copies of legal releases. But part of the original point is true, there are a lot of films that aren't available, and they aren't available at illegal sources because its commercially nonviable, in part due to piracy. In truth, streaming is really just a matter of convenience and cost for people meanwhile they want to talk about how important film is to them and they do

nothing to actually support it. By pirating instead you are pushing film and filmmakers to the margins, and just perpetuating films that people "entirely happy with the selection at Netflix" watch because they are the ones actually paying for the films.

5. I have no qualms about it. I see 100+ films per year in the theatre, own 300+ blurays and subscribe to mubi. So if something's out there that isn't readily accessible to me other than through torrent or streaming I do it without any remorse. My reasoning : my mother never streamed a movie in her life, but goes to the theatre maybe twice a year and never purchases a film either, so you know what, people like me contribute far more to the health and future of the film industry than people like her, despite a few illegalities here and there.
6. There have been [studies](#), including some funded by the \*\*AAs, that support the statement that "pirates" actually spend more money on media than "non-pirates" do.
7. I'm not a big pirate because my local library has a pretty awesome collection of movies and music. But really, what's the difference between downloading a movie from a website and getting a copy from the public library? Doing something illegal doesn't necessarily make something immoral. For example, most classic movies would be in the public domain by now if the film industry hadn't lobbied and received retroactive copyright term extensions way back in 1976. It's legal, but I consider it horribly immoral. They basically looted the public domain, and they didn't do it just for movies, but for all forms of copyrightable media. They also created a massive black hole of orphaned works that if you wanted to make a copy available, you can't locate the person to pay or ask permission to do that. It becomes untouchable - lost culture. This is also highly immoral. The law is immorally skewed to favor copyright holders over the public. Libraries pay copyright holders. Streaming/torrent sites make money by giving away other people's work. Do you pirate only these classic old movies made by these "looters"? Copyright holders are the ones who make the content, why wouldn't copyright law favor them instead of the "public"? Why do more works have to continue to go into the public domain? Does the current public deserve anything? The rate at which the current public infringes on copyrights of creators is much higher than the pre-internet public rates. The current public will pirate your work the moment it is digitized and released on the internet. Copyright law does not get enforced against the public, content creators have no power. The public never had it better, they can access every piece of media for free or no money. Content creators will continue to get exploited by both companies and a growingly entitled public.
8. Living outside America for over 6 years I streamed. The regional coding garbage, ridiculous other release dates..all that junk seems ridiculous in this day and age. But now I'm back in America I am happy to go the real route especially with friends in the film business. I get the need to support film makers. I wish distributors would catch up and actually distribute everywhere for fair prices and without unnecessary delays.
9. I have to say that the comments here are pretty disheartening, and I see a lot of hyperbole, false comparisons, and bad justifications. Enjoy films however you want, but don't fool yourself, piracy really does cut into not just profits but plain old operating expenses and real world jobs. I said elsewhere in this thread: I worked for about six years in physical/digital distribution, I have work buddies at IODA, Apple, Amazon, and nearly every major independent music store in the country (surprise! There's actually not many left). The story is the same everywhere, the industry has been reduced to maybe a quarter at best of what it used to be. There is very little money being made at almost every level. Much of the fault is with companies not providing good digital platforms back in the early 00s, but what happened is that piracy filled the gap. The rise of broadband, torrents, and smartphones made things accessible to a new generation of people who oftentimes aren't even aware they're pirating. Apps like Popcorn Time appear to be a legitimate way

to view movies. I'm not passing moral judgement, I just want people to understand that, legality aside, how you choose to watch movies has real world implications.

10. If you can't afford the product either way, pirating doesn't really have any of those implications. I can't even afford a bluray player, let alone a br collection. The only real world difference in me pirating vs me not pirating, is that I don't watch those movies.
11. This post is a little old at this point, so there's a chance no one will see this. I'll type it out anyway on the off chance that anyone wants to discuss. All the comments up to this point have been discussing *availability*. I think a lot of very good points have been made. I agree with the many comments arguing that viewing films that are otherwise unavailable can't be unethical. If I don't have the option to pay for something legally, I'm not harming the content owner by viewing it illegally. What I don't see a lot of discussion of is the general lack of quality in streaming options - a problem that's made worse by DRM and platform locking. Take Netflix for example: if you're watching in Chrome's HTML5 player, you're limited to 720p video. I have a better quality screen than that on my laptop, and the difference is very noticeable. Worse still, Chrome is the *only* reasonable option for me if I want to watch Netflix on my platform (Linux). Sadly, this problem isn't even solved by torrents. The public sites are all teeming with terrible downloads (Like YIFY, a group that averages about 1.5 GB per 1080p film). And that's nothing compared to worries about film preservation, which I'm sure is something important to all of the film enthusiasts here. Suppose I buy a film from Amazon. I have no guarantee that I'll be able to watch it again 20 years from now. That's a big deal. The problem in the past has been tapes being lost or reused; in the future it will be not having any services that have it available for streaming. Supposedly we're moving to a post-file era, where everything is handled for us automatically by the cloud. But if you want to preserve important parts of our culture, having people who store backups of the files is crucial. Usability is currently a huge issue. If I buy a film from Amazon, can I be sure I'll be able to view it on my Chromebook? Stream it to my television? Not really. Not only do all these online services sell me copies at a massively lower bitrate than a Bluray, I can't even be sure they'll work on all my devices. Suppose my internet connection chokes - wouldn't it be easier if I could just play it in VLC? Regardless of what you think about piracy, I think there's a great case to be made that all the content protection they put into Blurays these days does absolutely nothing to prevent it. Actually, I know that's the case - because I rip all my own disks for backup purposes. There's a real opportunity here. A lot of people really want quality copies of films that they can watch on all their devices without hassles or trusting a proprietary service. If content protection doesn't prevent piracy, why not just drop it? Sell 1080p mkvs of films directly from the producer in a range of bitrates, from day one. The people who are going to pirate still will, but people like me who very much want to support the industry without the billion limitations they currently want to enforce will be able to.
12. I imagine Netflix doesn't pay the same amount for all films, and the number of views a film gets probably factors somewhat into how much they get paid even if its indirectly. If you watched it illegally and it shows up on netflix and you want to support the filmmakers, couldn't you just play it in the background sometime you're not using the TV/computer with the sound off just to register the view?
13. I've read on a band that basically did that on Spotify. They had an album released on Spotify, with like 30 second long tracks of silence and asked their fans to play the album repeatedly overnight. They planned to do a tour with free tickets from the earned money. (just a little Trivia)
14. I always wait for legal ways to watch the movie. I'm lucky to live in Philadelphia, where there's a film festival and a Landmark theater that plays less-mainstream movies. And I

suppose I could take a day-trip or a weekend to travel to NYC or DC. But for the movies that I miss at the theater or weren't playing in the theaters nearby, I will wait for them to come out on DVD or streaming. I still subscribe to Netflix DVD, and that includes 99.99% of movies available. This means that I have to wait the six months to a year in order to see them. But I'm okay with that, because it's important to me that the creators get paid. Watching movies are a big part of my life and I'm happy to patronize the businesses involved.

15. It's up to each individual what they want to do, but what is legal is legal, and what is illegal is illegal, that's facts. You can ask the question in a different way, is it more important for you to see a film as fast as you can and break the law so you can make a list or waiting a little longer to watch it legally and maybe even perhaps helping to support filmmakers like Hou Hsiao-hsien? In a better world, people shouldn't have to wait for more than half a year for movies like *The Assassin* (2015) to be available on streaming services or home media. It would also be lovely if one could have the chance to see movies like *The Assassin* (2015) in a cinema almost everywhere at the time of its premiere, but that's mostly something one can dream of. Money talks, and if the big companies in charge are noticing that superhero movies or Star Wars films will sell the most tickets, that's what they will put their own money own as well. But the world is as it is, and it's a bit hard as an individual to influence big companies, time and other factors that play part in this role. The best thing is probably to keep supporting the filmmakers you love, that is if you want them to give something more to you as well.
16. What is your purpose for seeing it when it's "relevant"? Are you a filmmaker or other artist and you want to give it the chance to influence your output? Do you want to promote the film and help it get more exposure or sales? Or do you just want to be able to think and talk about it when it's still new to most people? The former reasons have been used with legitimacy for decades: there are countless artists who discovered films or music by sneaking into theaters, buying bootlegs, and borrowing friends' copies. Though they didn't immediately benefit the artist, their passion for the material influenced their own later work, the artist perhaps benefiting from the connection, or at least a later purchase, and an audience benefited from the new artist's work. If it's the latter, you want to consume something without paying for it. Maybe you'll pay for it later, maybe like many other films you will never want or happen to see it again. You won't provide any immediate benefit to the group of people who have created or distributed the film, you have provided nothing except ad revenue to a streaming site likely entirely disconnected from the mechanism that made the film.
17. Well, my take on this is that piracy is, broadly speaking, unethical, on the grounds that people who do creative work have the right to be compensated for that work. It's tremendously sad when the logistical infrastructure does not exist to allow people who wish to experience a work the ability to see it, but any systemic injustices that may exist do not, by and large, override a person's individual ethical mandates, particularly since we are acting to fulfill our desires and not our needs. That said I know that there are plenty of people, myself included, who do it, and given the conditions, people will continue to do it, because we act primarily in accordance with our own notions of individual benefit. I just don't think that we should pretend that it is ethical to do so.
18. Nobody has a right to be compensated for their work. That doesn't mean they shouldn't be compensated, but it's not their right. It's up to the creators to figure out how to get paid for their work - if they even want to be paid.
19. It's a bit off-topic but it was screening last month at [FNC \(Festival du Nouveau Cinéma\)](#) in Montréal. You should check it out if you happen to be near during that time. This year they screened the latest films from Alexander Sokurov, Apichatpong

Weerasethakul, Wim Wenders, Guy Maddin, Kiyoshi Kurosawa, Arnaud Desplechin, Sion Sono, Takashi Miike...

20. Just a fun tidbit regarding ease of access to content:
21. I can purchase the Lord of the Rings trilogy on [Blu Ray for \\$11.99](#) It costs one dollar more (\$12.99) to "buy" **one** of the LotR films(digital copy only) through Amazon. That's just for ONE of the films. My other options are to rent it for \$3.99, purchase it in SD for \$9.99, or rent in SD for \$2.99. Just to be clear, I can own all three films on a physical disc for one third the price of owning digital copies. To top it all off, a quick google search of "stream lord of the rings" returns one Amazon link and the rest of the search results are either sites where I can illegally stream the films, or posts on websites complaining about the availability of the films online.
22. If I want to watch a movie, I'll watch it by whatever means necessary. I buy a lot of blu rays, and pay for a lot of streaming sites. But some films just aren't available for a reasonable price or at all. I have no problem pirating those films. In the end I get to appreciate the art, and in the future will support those who created it when given the opportunity.
23. One thing I would like to say...I don't believe that streaming has any "ethical advantage" over just downloading the film. I mean, it's a really weird distinction people make... considering in both cases you are really doing the same thing. I say there is no real point in streaming illegally (except if you need to watch it *right now*). Just download the film and it will be in higher quality. This, combined with what you are saying about Netflix, is why I don't really like streaming services... I kind of want to support Netflix' original series, but I guess I'll probably just buy the box sets. I feel like I'm not really supporting the films I enjoy by subscribing to Netflix. I feel like I'm just supporting Netflix... which I don't, really! I dislike the subpar streaming. I dislike the *idea* of streaming. And I dislike not having access to the best version of a film. So to me, there is no question of streaming. That is no distinction. This is just the age-old question of "is it ethical to pirate?". And my answer is... kind of... maybe. Definitely in cases where you can't see the film in any other way, you are (IMO) within your moral rights (if not your legal rights) to obtain the film illegally. I think the way film releases work currently is a sick joke. I personally can't stand buying or obtaining legally a shitty transfer of a film if a good version exists. Why should I be paying for a poor version when a good version exists? It's kind of absurd.
24. I don't think anyone makes that claim... I think you are arguing against a point nobody makes. Piracy is piracy whether it's streaming or a download; nobody is claiming a difference.
25. A lot of the comments revolve around either being okay with piracy if the movie is paid for by other means (play it on Netflix in the background, pirate it but buy a ticket), or that we don't *wanna* do it, but we have no other choice. Ethics and options. I'm morally against piracy, but I "have done it before." I'm a hypocrite. It's easy and free, and I justify it to myself that what what I'm doing costs companies very little money and Netflix actually uses those habits for their own service which *does* give companies money.... none of it really matters, though. Most people don't do it because of our fear of punishment, or that torrenting is a complicated process. The ones that do it are because they know it's relatively safe and easy. Setting ethical markers down is fine, but I doubt it plays a central role in many people's decision to follow or break their moral values in this case. The fact is, piracy is actually profitable for a lot of artists and studios. HBO doesn't mind it. It makes Netflix money. Musicians can easily spread their content by sacrificing initial profits. If it was a bigger problem, there would be bigger solutions, and if it was a smaller problem, we'd never really hear about it. I personally benefit by being part of the statistic that makes the situation somewhat tolerable to those with the content. It's morally

- reprehensible, and... it just doesn't bother me. When I did my write up on Uchida Tomu, how much money was I taking from people by not buying the dvds? They don't sell at all. There's no demand for them. So I could either not watch them, or become a Netflix statistic. Maybe, if enough people started downloading his stuff, Netflix would get the rights for next to nothing, people would see it there, some would buy it... It's obvious that that's a specific case, but I don't think I'm stealing food from a baby's mouth because it's assistant director dad can't find work at MGM. I don't know. Sure, it's wrong. But so are hundreds of other actions we perform every day, most of which get a pass.
26. Piracy is not "profitable". The music business today is worth half of what it was 15 years ago. Having your own and all your competitors' products easily available for free is not good from a money making perspective. Piracy is a big problem but the entertainment industry can't do much. Tech companies continue to lobby against copyright, they have more money and even the public on their side.
  27. The Assassin [US theater location](#)
  28. I live in Canada though, and I'm pretty sure that Toronto is the only place in the country (or maybe at least the province, because I don't know what's happening in Quebec or BC) playing the film. There's always lots of places in the states playing obscure films, but it seems like it's hard to find really obscure movies outside of Toronto here.
  29. I take issue with how you have phrased the question, as it doesn't make sense: You should always watch it legally, and its only important to see when its relevant if you are in film industry or just too vain to enjoy a film without the prospective of expounding upon it at a dinner party. Your logic reminds me of that South Park episode where Kyle talks about Cartman's rationalizing as "Mental Gymnastics", and frankly this is a really good example of it. Netflix and the Content Provider (CP) negotiate rates on a case-by-case basis. So how much the Content is provided *might* help the CP negotiate a high rate because the demand is made higher through Netflix combing data of how much is pirated. *However*, the rate is always going to be depressed due to the fact that the supply is inflated through illegal streaming that is only limited by the number of illicit providers (IP) there are. At least, a basic Supply & Demand breakdown of the relationships would suggest as much. Netflix does not need to look at IP data to determine if they should buy the license to stream content, its just *one way* for them to determine the rate and if they should pick it up. Media licensing has been around before internet streaming. Even if you could brush that off, your argument rests on an assumption that Netflix *will* pick it up, and even then you have to grapple with the fact that you denied the CP with the inherent value and they instead received a lesser, de facto value. Finally, it could be *months* maybe even a year before Netflix decides to make that decision. Imagine I denied your next paycheck that long? "*So what? They are still getting paid eventually*". TL;DR So no matter what you do if you view illegally, you are screwing someone out of money, even if they get *some* after the fact. EDIT: This especially so with movies as opening weekends depend *strongly* on opening weekend revenue. It's a thing that if a film doesn't do well on limited release they won't expand it. So it isn't just a liquidity issue, you might even assisting in denying a massive chunk of revenue simply because you wanted to wait it out for an illegal stream.

**source E: Reddit—What are the best websites to watch movies for free without viruses? (March 2021)**

1. You're asking Reddit to help you commit a crime.
2. You was a hall monitor, wasn't you.

3. To be fair, he didn't say legal.
4. Depends on the country.
5. Technically there are some free movie sites that aren't illegal
6. It is not necessarily a crime to stream movies, same with torrenting. There *are* legal options.
7. nerd
8. Absolutely nobody cares about pirated shows or movies lmfao
9. Pornhub
10. I've heard that moviecrumbs.net is a good site for free movies with no ads or viruses. You should check it out.
11. Bruhhhhh how do you find this it's been 3 months lol. Also thanks for the suggestion
12. Moviecrumbs seems to not work on my xbox browser but on my phone it's perfect
13. If you're still in need of a site I would suggest <https://moviecrumbs.net>, it's free and contains zero ads or viruses and does not require you to sign up.
14. Ok thanks I'll defo look at it
15. I have been watching movies for free for 6 years now and In my opinion, **Fmovies.rs** is the safest site to watch movies on it.
16. Do not use movie crumbs if anyone sees this, those were a bunch of bots writing that! I tried it out and it never lets you watch anything just keeps going through a loop of endless ads.
17. Moviecrumbs is good just use an adblocker if ur on pc
18. Vumoo.to
19. Wcostream.com but only for animation.
20. Tubi
21. <https://www.moviecrumbs.net/> is the best
22. I've been using <https://fmovies.show/> just use adblocker and you're good to go!
23. use moview crumbs.net
24. You can use moviecrumbs.net I heard they got no ads and no buffers.

**source F: Reddit—What's the best website to watch movies on for free? (2018)**

1. Tutu App on a phone there are loads of apps which you can stream free movies on.
2. 123 movies and there will be different iterations of that and they got movies and shit They get removed pretty quickly though. 123 movies and there will be different iterations of that and they got movies and shit
3. 123 movies doesn't work for me. It always plays the wrong movie
4. Stream cr
5. Check out [this](#) subreddit. Got few ads but great streaming quality
6. Just choose from a list on moviestica: [Top 10 Online Movie Streaming Sites](#)

**source G: HLTV—Good movie streaming site? (January 2015 – July 2017)**

1. Anyone have a good movie streaming site without the nonsense with like "REGISTER HERE FOR FREE, JUST PUT IN YOUR CREDIT CARD HERE"... Thanks.
2. popcorn-time.se You can also find it google: Popcorn time
3. the best of newest movies for free and unlimited online watching check this website : [ww.viooz.tv](http://ww.viooz.tv)
4. Try : [movietv4u.pro](http://movietv4u.pro) [putlockerfree.pro](http://putlockerfree.pro) [gomovies.cx](http://gomovies.cx)
5. legal or illegal?



6. illegal ofc
7. 2015-03-19 10:29
8. 1channelmovie.com
9. Popcorn time
10. swefilmer.com ez
11. try visiting our site.. we have been updating this everyday since we launched... it is our username..
12. Popcorntime.se.....just found it....love it Projectfree tv (for tv shows) I seen someone said 1channel...that place was good but im not 100% if that website still works
13. Popcorn time is probably the best option. Alot of new movies and all of them is 720/1080p with alot of language subtitles.
14. I use the Flippis app to stream movies to my TV.
15. [sosra](#)
16. There's some movies and series on dailymotion.
17. Please try this TVShows streaming site: [santaserries.com](#) It's free, No ads, No Registration, No Surveys..
18. [watchseries.l](#) i (remove the space between l and i) and putlocker.i s (remove the space between i and s) there u go m8 it works
19. Popcorn
20. www.pornhub.com
21. [streamlord.com/index.html](#) You're welcome.
22. streamlord
23. [afdah.tv/](#) best.
24. movie4k.to
25. [superchillin.com](#)
26. this^ Unfortunately you cannot make a new account, if you dont already have one. But Superchillin is the best site out there.
27. putlocker
28. putlocker or vodlocker or whatever they are called, but i use dreamfilm or sweflix its with swedish subtitles
29. Welcome here, this is free [movie-vision.com](#) NO NEED FOR REGISTRATION NO NEED FOR CREDIT CARD On most movies you can insert subtitle.. Every day new movies Enjoy, like and share with friends !!!
30. Hello, You can try movierizer.com There is no need to register, just hit play on the movie you want
31. 2016-02-13 16:03
32. [putlocker.as/](#) No registration Your welcome
33. you're\*
34. I am using vidmate for movie streaming & downloading. no need for any registration, just download & enjoy
35. primewire.ag also works fine for me
36. [putlocker.cool](#), great website.
37. pron ub
38. You might also like : [solar-movie.pro](#) [vodlocker.pro](#) or [movietvall.com](#)
39. hltv.org
40. the best of newest movies for free and unlimited onliine watching check this website : [movies.atSPACE.eu](#) It's free, No Registration, No Surveys
41. alluc.ee
42. Here are some more for tv shows : [putlocker1.net/tv-shows](#) [vodlocker.pro/tv-shows](#)
43. You could try: [myfreegoodies.com](#) For free movie downloads and streaming. No registration, sign-up or credit card required.




44. pubfilm.com
45. [movies2watch.xyz](http://movies2watch.xyz)
46. 123movies.to best
47. Twitch. You can see CS:GO movies before they get released on YouTube and you dont need credit card
48. dreamfilm . bz
49. putlocker because it works on phones
50. 123movies.to Has TV shows too, and it'll let you pick up where you left off if you have to go somewhere.
51. I can advise you [full-movie-downloads.net/](http://full-movie-downloads.net/) website. You can download there almost all movies in good quality and enough fast after their release. Always can help me, especially when i am going to trip
52. [abcmovies.eu/](http://abcmovies.eu/) For free movie downloads and streaming. No registration, sign-up or credit card required.
53. here's a really good site i found there's not a excess amount of movies but there is a fair amount. Also you don't really have to sign up for anything just log in your email and there will be no pop ups ect. [viid.me/qibTu3](http://viid.me/qibTu3)
54. [koomstream.com](http://koomstream.com) the best of newest movies for free and unlimited online watching check this website For free movie downloads and streaming. No registration, sign-up or credit card required.
55. Check out this site I think run by a person who loves movies. [goo.gl/0JByQR](http://goo.gl/0JByQR)
56. Are there any sites that stream 1080p movies?
57. Easy little bitch boy route: Putlocker Quality superior route: Kodi server setup with plugins
58. go to watch32.is at the top you'll see cinema tab click and its mostly all the newer movies that are in the theaters right now
59. [vidmateapp.net/](http://vidmateapp.net/) Vidmate is free video downloader which allows you to enjoy offline videos on your device for free. vidmate is available for iOS, android and windows.
60. The best streaming site for movies in 24kmovies.com
61. 123movies.to
62. [24kmovies.com/movies/watch-fifty-shades-..](http://24kmovies.com/movies/watch-fifty-shades-..)  
[24kmovies.com/movies/a\\_united\\_kingdom\\_20..](http://24kmovies.com/movies/a_united_kingdom_20..) [24kmovies.com/movies/watch-the-great-wal..](http://24kmovies.com/movies/watch-the-great-wal..) [24kmovies.com/movies/table\\_19\\_2017/](http://24kmovies.com/movies/table_19_2017/)  
[24kmovies.com/movies/personal\\_shopper\\_20..](http://24kmovies.com/movies/personal_shopper_20..)  
[24kmovies.com/movies/burlesque\\_heart\\_of\\_..](http://24kmovies.com/movies/burlesque_heart_of_..) [24kmovies.com/movies/wolves\\_2017/](http://24kmovies.com/movies/wolves_2017/)  
[24kmovies.com/movies/catfight\\_2017/](http://24kmovies.com/movies/catfight_2017/) [24kmovies.com/movies/lavender\\_2017/](http://24kmovies.com/movies/lavender_2017/)  
[24kmovies.com/movies/burning\\_sands\\_2017/](http://24kmovies.com/movies/burning_sands_2017/)  
[24kmovies.com/movies/swing\\_away\\_2017/](http://24kmovies.com/movies/swing_away_2017/) [24kmovies.com/movies/brimstone\\_2017/](http://24kmovies.com/movies/brimstone_2017/)  
[24kmovies.com/movies/logan\\_2017/](http://24kmovies.com/movies/logan_2017/) [24kmovies.com/movies/kong\\_skull\\_island\\_2..](http://24kmovies.com/movies/kong_skull_island_2..)  
[24kmovies.com/movies/catfight\\_2017/](http://24kmovies.com/movies/catfight_2017/) [24kmovies.com/movies/before\\_i\\_fall\\_2017/](http://24kmovies.com/movies/before_i_fall_2017/)  
[24kmovies.com/movies/watch-john-wick-cha..](http://24kmovies.com/movies/watch-john-wick-cha..)  
[24kmovies.com/movies/the\\_grat\\_wall\\_2017..](http://24kmovies.com/movies/the_grat_wall_2017..)  
[24kmovies.com/movies/the\\_lego\\_batman\\_mov..](http://24kmovies.com/movies/the_lego_batman_mov..)  
[24kmovies.com/movies/american\\_fable\\_2017..](http://24kmovies.com/movies/american_fable_2017..) [24kmovies.com/movies/get\\_out\\_2017/](http://24kmovies.com/movies/get_out_2017/)  
[24kmovies.com/movies/war\\_on\\_everyone\\_201..](http://24kmovies.com/movies/war_on_everyone_201..)  
[24kmovies.com/movies/the\\_space\\_between\\_u..](http://24kmovies.com/movies/the_space_between_u..)
63. mogacha.com
64. lol shit sites yall posting here. i can pay for premium services because i work.
65. the one i always use for tv series is 123movies.is always a hd option
66. Hi, guys. Best website to watch movies online that I've ever seen is [viooz.one/](http://viooz.one/) I will recommend it.

67. Watchfree preaty much every movie and series you can think of
68. Hello! Here I watch free movies online, [putlocker.rip/](http://putlocker.rip/)
69. solarmoviez.to
70. Too many trashes on this list. Need something serious? Try PutlockerTime.  
[putlockertime.co](http://putlockertime.co)
71. [gomovies.sc/](http://gomovies.sc/) Check it
72. Twitch.tv
73. Watch HD Movies Online For Free and Download the latest movies without Registration at [openloadmovie.me](http://openloadmovie.me)
74. Watch Full HD Movies Online For Free and the latest movies without Registration at onmovies.tv They also have 3D movies in FullHD 1080P.
75. fmovies.se
76. Stremio
77. why is this thread from January 1st 2015 bumped now? LUL
78. One of the best online movie sites : [embedfilms.world/](http://embedfilms.world/)
79. i think the op just managed to trigger fucking google bots to register on hltv and spam their shit
80. you can watch all your best movies online at [gomoviesfree.ws/](http://gomoviesfree.ws/)
81. eporner i think
82. 123movies.re by far the best
83. If you want to watch the best of movies online there's only one stop for it...  
dudmovies.com It's bae.. The best I've ever seen
84. its hard to recommend streaming site without sounding like a scammer lol
85. New site stream movies online [ssgmovies.com](http://ssgmovies.com) (noads)
86. fire stick
87. Please visit [mymovie-dl.com](http://mymovie-dl.com) Direct Download Movies
88. Here you go guys. [cmovieshd.com/tag/putlocker/](http://cmovieshd.com/tag/putlocker/)
89. [vela.sc/](http://vela.sc/) Next of gomovies
90. [gostream.bz](http://gostream.bz) i think gomovies is moved there ...
91. I am using vidmate app . download from here: [vidmateapp.net/](http://vidmateapp.net/)

***source H: Bleeping Computer—Free Movie streaming Websites?? (February 2020 – November 2021)***

1. Help me to find out.
2. Buy a Roku device and watch thousands of movies for free along with much more. Avoid the high risk of malware caused by using P2Ps and websites advertising free pirated movies.
3. Tubi and crackle both are legit. They have advertisements but do have loads of movies and shows, I think Tubi is better as it rotates what it has and offers many movies legally and malware free: <https://tubitv.com/home> Crackle isnt bad but it doesnt change out its library too many times and is way overloaded with commercials:  
<https://www.crackle.com/>
4. Yep Tubi and Crackle do have free stuff. They are just two of many available on Roku. For \$25 (Roku Express device) you can watch tons of stuff on your HD TV streamed from the internet. Using a small \$8 antenna screwed into the back of the TV I get ABC, NBC, CBS, FOX, 3 PBS channels and 3 more channels. If you live near a large city you would likely be able to get many more over the air channels with the small antenna.

5. Yep this is a good site. 😊👍 <https://tubitv.com/home>
6. There's also Pluto TV.
7. Roku is good. I've got Fire TV. Vudu, Popcornflix, IMDB Freedrive, Snagfilms. Even Youtube and Yahoo View have a lot of free movies.
8. And what about Kodi ? I see no mention of it but in my opinion it's pretty good
9. You can also add, PlutoTV, XumoTV, Kodi, Popcornflix, Vudu Movies, Crackle, ConTV, ShareTV. These are free and legit websites to watch movies. Even Youtube is great place to watch classic movies.
10. Anyone who could suggest Anime website?
11. Doing a quick search for Anime movies....lots of info such as: [Best Channels to Watch Anime on Roku \[2020\] - Roku Guru](#) [Anime website - Google Search](#)
12. Just dont expect newest content on free streaming sites. Besides the above mentioned sites, there is also Voomoo. If you like lots of older movies and shows, there are nostalgia sites out there that are perfectly free with no sign ups or commercials. If you like more "highbrow" or "artsy" type stuff, get onto Kanopy.com. Kanopy is a video site that your local library may be connected to. If you have a library card, and your local library is connected with Kanopy, they will show up when you look up your library on there. Just register your library card on there, and you will have access to a lot of artsy, highbrow, nostalgic, and other types of movies. But you are limited to how many you can view in a month. If you are up for it.....a lot of pay sites have a free week of their services when you sign up. And there's plenty to choose from. I signed up with the new DisneyPlus channel for my free week. But they didn't have enough on there for me to pay money for it, so I cancelled before my last free day. I have a friend who registered for his free week with Shudder, because he loves horror movies. He was able to catch up on a series he likes a lot, before he cancelled at the end of the week. Hope that helps
13. Risky to stream movies suggested by Vumoo. They may contain malware and most often are pirated.
14. The only problem with Voomoo that I've had, is that they just don't play. Now Putlocker, thats a harsh site with tons of popups, ads, and malware. There are lots of other sites online that have free movies with no ill-intent to their viewers, but usually it's just niche movies, underground movies, or "cult classics". There are a lot of sites out there for fans of the "Bad B movies". Depending on what you want to watch will be the basis for what you need to search for.
15. Crackle is good one.
16. **Kanopy** is worth getting. I just watched a movie on it. It can easily be linked to Roku, too....which I just did and it allows you to stream to the TV if you don't want to watch on your computer or other device. Tons of free stuff...I used my daughter's library card number as there is no local library around me that sponsors Kanopy. Thank you **[name]** for mentioning **Kanopy**.
17. I just happened to come across Kanopy when looking to see if my local library had videos online. It's more or less "art" films, but there are a few mainstream movies on there. I'm tired of Netflix, been trying to find another site with more, or different shows and movies. Netflix has just become more Bollywood than anything else. The only two shows I really like on NF anyway are Lost in Space and Sabrina. Other than that, I couldn't care less.
18. One thing I failed to mention in my last post....NO ADS!....unlike all the other free stuff on Roku and other devices.
19. **Crackle** – great search function makes it easy to find both popular and obscure shows and movies **Popcorn Flix** – best for classic movies and old-school TV hits

20. crackle is awesome for people that come from countries that can't access Netflix. Just do a simple google search and you can find other grey areas ways of watching movies online, I'm using xxxxxxxxxxxx as always just smack adblocker and antivirus and you're good to go. hope it helps.
21. <https://exhibeflix.com/> You can watch some Top Quality stuff in here for Free 1 Year
22. Are you referring to internet service or a specific streaming service? If you are referring to internet service, you are limited in your options as to what providers are available in your area. If you are referring to a streaming service, it depends on what your interests are. Vudu offers a lot of movies, including a selection of both free and paid per view. Also, if you are a Disney, Star Wars, Pixar, or Marvel Fan, Disney+ has access those libraries.
23. A free, legit site and really very good archival quality > <https://archive.org/> , enjoy surfing there! 
24. Linkedfilm is a good legal website. It does not have excessive ads and no sign up is required <https://www.linkedfilm.com/>
25. So, what is the best free streaming service at this moment?
26. I watch movies on Popcornflix <https://www.popcornflix.com/> and can recommend it.
27. I have made out a list of some best free alternatives which will let you to watch movies and TV shows for free. I am about to complete this list. Let me know if you guys want to watch movies for free and with some amazing servers.
28. I am dropping down a link to list of the best alternatives to watch movies and tv shows. I have made multiple options list in case one is not working, you can rely on different sites.
29. After reviewing the site linked to by [name] and the streaming services reviewed by
30. the website....I am deleting the link provided by [name]. Most of the streaming services
31. behave like adware and malware. Only one service I recognized as being legit.
32. I like imdb tv and tubi. here is a list of what movies are currently on each. Tubi <https://bingebit.com/browse?service=33&browseSubmit=Update+Options> Imdb TV <https://bingebit.com/browse?service=20&browseSubmit=Update+Option>
33. sometimes download these apps are too troublesome for me, I just use browser movie sites, but before I go to their domains I download the "brave" browser app, then go to my favorite domain for watching movies online e.g.: [Fmovies](#), [123Movies](#), [Xmovies8](#) brave browser will practically block all their pops and ads so no worries, been using it since 2017, and my mom loves it! hope my 2 cents helps.
34. [123Movies](#) is really reliable when it comes to movies.  I personally use this when Netflix does not have what I want to watch in their vast catalogue. 
35. I'd look at pluto TV, it is free but with ads. They have classics like tge old MacGyver with Richard Dean Anderson.
36. if u want to watch movies and series for free,, its pretty nice, just donate something time to time for the server maintenance, but for the rest is really cool <https://mystreamworld.club/>
37. download this app for pc,ios and android if you want to watch free films,it also has series link: <https://ouo.io/GHaP200>

**source I: Singletrack—Illegal streamers – why do they do it? What's in it for them? (2016)**

1. Why do people spend time and money setting up illegal streaming links? If you buy an Android TV box with Kodi installed, you access thousands of very recent movies etc. Now I understand why a viewer would buy the box but what's in it for the people who set up computers to stream the content? As far as I know there is no revenue in it and it must take fairly decent computing power and bandwidth to do it. So why bother?
2. Lots of revenue in it, just look at the number of pop-ups and adverts you get on streaming sites...so I've been told
3. There are none if you use Kodi with the video add ons....so I've been told.
4. Used a lot abroad where things are either too expensive or inaccessible.
5. I heard that put locker is choc full of ads and they block you using a blocker. Where might I stumble across idle chit-chat about Kodi?
6. <http://kodi.tv/>
7. No idea, but I'd be inclined to stay away from any sites that come up in a google search for "chrisb the beast"
8. I imagine the majority of users accessing putlocker, etc. aren't using kodi which means there is still ad revenue from popups....so I've been told
9. At one level, I'd say it's an extension, rightly or wrongly, of the type of philosophy behind the open source movement. At the other end as people have mentioned, it's about cash and that ranges on a scale of purely fancial to a bit more sinister, with viruses and the like. Basically there's an entire range of reasons and it'd be impossible to pin it down.
10. I know of one guy (and it's entirely possible others here do to) who was posting an absolutely prolific amount on a fairly decent site, which I won't mention, but just think Youtube. Although it wasn't youtube. When I say prolific, I mean he was basically posting up HD versions of a nights tv every day. He's english, so it was uk broadcast stuff. He also posts up versions of recently released movies which he seemed to get from various sources. He takes enormous pride in being the first person on that site to post film x or programme y. He has a pretty big following who shower him with praise every time he uploads something and he would lash out at anyone who would request something he'd already uploaded or who criticised the quality of his upload for example, and of course his followers would lambast this person too. He'd block anyone who displeased him. After some digging I found out he was disabled, seemingly housebound and quite depressive. Then he changed his status effectively making his videos private, available to people who he chose, and of course that came at a price. His suggested donation was a minimum of \$10 per month via paypal. I'd say it's a very profitable enterprise for him now.
11. Why stream when you can download for free. I used to be a uploader till the sites when 'click-bait' happy. They had good forums and a neat crowd until the people that had a god complex moved in. Now i just download US tv shows or a movie.
12. Ads (click-generated revenue) and malware usually.
13. "if you can't tell how a website is being funded, you're the product" same as on here really, this 'free' website is funded through the ads, which is why its one of very few sites that i have adblocker turned off for.  
however, in the world of illegal streaming sites, the ads are a potentially little more vicious
14. I'd say, as someone who used to upload quite a bit\* (when my company's IT guy was onsite), a lot of it is ego in a 'look at what I can do'. Another aspect is the community. It was a UK TV torrent site and when it closed I did miss the site. I missed the thanks which let you know that you were making someone's life just 1% better.... when you live 6,000 miles from home, watching TV from your own country can make a big difference when

you're feeling homesick. I never made a penny and it only cost me a few pounds on hard drives. Okay, a NAS box with 10Tb in RAID0. It didn't take much time as it was pretty much automated and it was a good learning experience. \*UK TV. Again, got it onto the site first and would seed several terabytes a day.

**source J: Facebook group—Film Buffs—Quick question: How do you feel...(June 2020)**

post:

Quick question:

***How do you feel about accessing feature films through illegal sites (for example, clone or copy sites of 123movies or Putlocker)?***

[context] I am a master's student in library science and would love to be a film librarian and/or work in a public library. I'm developing the proposal for my master's paper and wanted to scope out what people's experiences are with illegal sites. Please do not feel the need to share personal experiences if you are not comfortable--though any comment is welcome.

1. photo cred: Blow Out (1981)
2. My opinion is if you can afford to buy films legally than you should but if you can't then it's not the worst thing in the world to pirate stuff. There are cases where piracy is the only way to get a decent quality copy of something and cases where it's not even possible to buy a film legally. I would use torrents instead those sites are bound to get you some serious cryptominers and all kinds of stuff.
3. Thanks!! And yea, I'm so conflicted when it's the only option to watch something online...
4. what I tend to do is pirate most things and if I really like something buy the Blu ray and I have a really big collection of them now so I don't feel to bad about it. I think the way films are distributed is kind of at odds with the way we consume media now, often a film is released at the cinema then it stops playing at the cinema, then there's a 3 month ish wait for it to be released on streaming or DVD/BLU but what usually happens is a copy shows up on pirate sites during that time and the studios just give money away but waiting so long to release it.
5. Wow, I've never thought about it like that, it makes so much sense!!
6. That's a good way to put it, that distribution is at odds with consumption!
7. Mostly I watch films through Netflix, Amazon legally. But I have been know to occasionally stream through movie box etc, it's usually if I'm skint and have no money to rent off Amazon. Honestly I rent 2-3 films a week, costs me a fortune. X
8. I totally get that and am the same way!
9. I would only illegally download if it were the only way to get the movie. Back when Natural Born Killers originally came out the bbfc was not going to give it a certificate so i got a pirated video tape. The same idea would apply to the sites you mention. I want money to go to film makers primarily just as i want to support musicians. Downloading music does get musicians heard and can generate revenue in a round about way though. I am not sure movie downloads have the same impact necessarily.
10. Don't steal shit. It's not hard.

11. I had no money in my teens and wouldn't have seen anything if it wasn't for WatchFree, especially trying to keep up with Marvel and that
12. I have a huge collection of hundreds of DVDs back in my home in Scotland but I live in Portugal so I can't watch any of them. So I watch online or pirate. Also if I cannot find a particular film on a streaming service then I will pirate it, or see if it's on YouTube or something. There were also occasions when I did have access to my DVD collection but a particular film cannot be purchased anywhere, so I pirate it. A lot of films need better distribution tbh. I don't pirate music though as you can find pretty much everything you need on streaming services.
13. I don't illegally download or stream anything, however I get annoyed when a studio or distributor makes it hard or sometimes even impossible to legally buy it. In that case, I have no ethical problem with it.
14. I pay my way when I can, but download occasionally when there is no other way, I feel no guilt whatsoever as I do make an effort to pay.
15. I cannot afford anything but I recently got a Netflix sub for the 1st time. Man from earth is a film which benefited from torrents

3:43 **Release and marketing**

The film screened at the San Diego Comic-Con Film Festival in July 2007, and premiered theatrically in Hemet, California, and Pitman, New Jersey,<sup>[3]</sup> in October 2007. It was released on DVD in North America by Anchor Bay Entertainment on November 13, 2007, and became available for digital rental and sale at iTunes on September 22, 2009. It won the grand prize for Best Screenplay and first place for Best Feature at the Rhode Island Film Festival in August 2007.<sup>[4]</sup>

**Publicity through filesharing**

16. In 2007, producer Eric D. Wilkinson publicly thanked users of BitTorrent who distributed the film without express permission, saying that it lifted the profile of the film far beyond the financier's expectations;<sup>[5]</sup> he encouraged fans to purchase the DVD or donate.<sup>[6]</sup>

▼ Reception

▼ Soundtrack

▼ Play

▼ Sequels

III ○ <

17. Wow! I haven't heard of anything like that before--thanks!
18. it's a great film, watch it and has an interesting history of it's production.
19. If there's s movie without a dvd release, and no other way to see it. I will use torrent sites
20. Here in South Africa a lot of films like Parasite, Lighthouse, Uncut Gems etc get released months later so only then will I torrent, but I'll always buy when they come out anyway
21. Illegally downloading is an odd thing because some say it doesnt effect the industry as much as they let on. Sometimes it allows films to find audiences that wouldn't normally and then other times it stops independent artists / creators from carrying on. I am of the belief that those that want to pay for it will pay for it and those that dont will find a way.
22. I now refuse to use Amazon and Netflix: if I DO stream it would be via MUBI as it's evident that they are passionate about film. However for the most part I buy blu-rays, I find it a much more cathartic and rewarding means. No buffering, perfect quality and access to additional material. Furthermore seeing my collection in front of me gives me a sense of pride, especially as I'm giving money back to people who make/distribute/restore these films. I was once recently tempted to watch a film online (for free) on YouTube. The film being Derek Jarman's Blue. The film is essentially one frame; so was it worth paying £12 for? I clicked on the video and paused two seconds in. I thought it was personally immoral to continue; Jarman made a personal and poetic story



- about his experience with AIDS: to continue for me would be gratefully disrespectful to Derek and what he went through. So I bought the BFI Blu-ray, and it was completely worth it. This might seem over-dramatic; but I hope the additional context would help benefit a potential argument/opinion.
23. Definitely appreciate the comment! I love the reverence and respect, and the point about additional features is something that's sadly lost in a lot of online streaming...
  24. What about a free streaming site that plays ads during the film, but gives some of the ad revenue directly to the independent filmmakers? This is the case with Filmzie ([filmzie.com](http://filmzie.com)). It's a new streaming service that obtains all the legal rights to the films. **FILMZIE.COM** Filmzie
  25. I hadn't heard of this one--thanks!
  26. personally for me, the last thing I would want is an advertisement disrupting the film. Everyone consumes films differently in the end of the day: immersion is key for me though.
  27. Yeah, true. Youtube has ads in the middle of whatever you're watching and it's definitely disruptive. But knowing that the ads are there to actually pay the filmmakers is kinda cool. I'm used to watching movies on TV (old school I know 😊) so I'm kinda used to some breaks.
  28. (I do agree--I don't like ads during movies either.)
  29. If they aren't available on a platform I'll stream them. If I live them, I'll buy them on physical media if possible. I want to burn my own in the future when possible
  30. I do not approve. People in film deserve to be paid.
  31. That's fair.
  32. if you have option to not use those sites, don't use them.
  33. This is a bit off topic but I'm curious: in Sweden where I live we have a streaming site that is run by the public libraries, it's completely free and works just as a library normally does, you "rent" the movie and can stream it for 24 hours and you have a specific amount of rents per week. It's amazing and such a good idea, do you have that in the USA or other countries? And while it doesn't have as big of a collection as illegal sites do, it still has a great mixture of old artsy movies and new movies like Parasite etc.
  34. In Australia we having streaming of documentaries through libraries. I'm not aware of movies streaming for free as that would take away from the pay sites Netflix, Amazon etc But through you can borrow dvds or cds for free from public libraries physically. There's also two government funded tv stations (SBS, ABC) that have on demand streaming films, world films and documentaries for free, and not just crappy titles.
  35. In UK libraries you have to pay
  36. I'm aware of three sites in the US: Kanopy, Hoopla, and Overdrive. I've only used Kanopy, and it's definitely more of the artsy/Criterion/indie/cult classic selection with lots of documentaries as well. A great resource, but it's also doesn't offer as extensive or recent a selection as commercial streaming platforms. Also I've run into the problem multiple times where my library only pays for some of the collection and you have to get a request approved to stream a specific film if it's not included. Hoopla seems to have a more recent selection, but I haven't used it before, just browsed. I'm not sure about Overdrive. I think the system you describe would be amazing. I wonder what it would take to implement here.
  37. Used to live on torrents. Haven't for about eight years now though. I think Netflix changed it all. A tenner a month and all that. I recall not long ago being in DVD/music shops thinking "I wish I could afford this BRuce Lee movie, this Marvin Gaye album, and I wish I could have all the Beatles albums again. Now I can have all that for the monthly cost of one album. I do not feel guilty. Movie moguls drove prices up and bled

everyone when they could, we are ruined by the cost of snacks in the cinema, for no reason, they claim its costs but yet the ones in arcades and streets worldwide do not. So I no longer use but that is down to better options and not morality. Good luck on your paper

38. I respect your earnestness about your lack of morality, it's more than can be said for most torrent users, former or otherwise.
39. Oh yeah they come out with the most absurd rationales. Some even try and tell you they buy as many as they steal. Hilarious!
40. Thanks so much! And yes--I really appreciate the honesty.
41. I think it's stealing and I discourage it. There are so many legal ways to watch almost any film these days, and one resource many people forget about is the public library. They don't have the one you're interested in? Talk to your librarian and they'd love to help.
42. I think this is so true, and as a library science student I definitely agree! I think the trouble is that it's so much more convenient to use illegal sites, and people tend to go for the path of least effort/lowest cost (including time as a cost).
43. I'm pleased to hear someone else does that! I'm in the UK and I rent loads of DVDs from my library. They order them in from other branches for me too.
44. I can't be bothered with the illegal sites - used to be too much fuff, and often poor quality. I buy a lot of DVDs 2nd hand for very little money; legal, but the film industry does not benefit from that either.
45. I'm never usually one to get on my moral high horse, but I personally know I lot of people who make their living from film and I can't stand people who pirate and try to justify it to themselves. I just wish for once one of them would cut the shit and say "I'm stealing something. It's because I do not wish to pay for it, and it's more convenient. It's as simple as that" I would then have at least some respect for their honesty, if not their integrity. Instead we invariably get this nonsense about "films reaching a bigger audience" or some other half-baked argument to enable them to continue their immoral practice whilst pig-headedly denying that that is the case. It's almost a Trumpian approach to movie watching! I have in the last found myself out of work, or in low paid jobs and it has left me unable to spend any money on film (which I love with all my heart), even when I've been desperate to do so. But out of respect for the people around the world working in the industry - very few of which are financially well-off - I would never dream of stealing what they have endeavoured to professionally create. Unfortunately this uncovers a wider point, about the worst thing about the internet being the provision of anonymity, enabling unethical behaviour.
46. I work in the film industry and I do it sometimes, it just depends on the movie. I don't really mind at the end of the day, I'm still gonna get paid regardless. Plus, if you're trying to pirate a new movie, 100% of the time you're gonna get shitty quality which is not the way to watch a movie.
47. The problem is [Name] that we have yet to observe the long-term effects of piracy on the film industry, but the majority of studies suggest that it will cause the industry as a whole to decline, so the day may come where you won't get paid regardless. I absolutely agree with you about quality though, and it's another thing that confounds me whenever I hear someone say they "love film" and also pirate it in the same breath. If they "loved it", surely they'd want to watch it properly?
48. Tbh I'll use them if I can't find a film anywhere else.
49. I get too worried about infection. I finally have a new desktop that I turn on and it starts immediately, I do not want to spoil that so that is another reason I don't I suppose
50. oh god yeah I do worry about that 😂 like I said they're a last resort for me. If I want to watch a particular film I'll try and see if it is streaming somewhere, then I'll see if there's

a copy of it on amazon or eBay and if not then I'll look online if I really want to watch. I probably only do that around once or twice month though so I don't feel too guilty 😂

51. I pirate very rarely these days, but I did so primarily for either availability or quality. If I could not find a film for sale, or if a DVD was just weirdly expensive, I would pirate it from a torrent site and see if I liked it before buying. If I had reason to believe a film would be awful, but I wanted to see it for myself, I would pirate it. (Suicide Squad would be the most recent example of this, I didn't want to rent it and give WB the satisfaction. Which is petty and immature, I know)
52. This does apply massively to foreign media. I still illegally stream some anime shows and movies on various sites, because while services like Crunchyroll are great, they're still only a minor selection of what's available.
53. I won't do it.
54. I never use them, last time I did was in 2009, back when pirated DVDs were still relevant.
55. I pay to see most movies in theaters. If I miss something I will probably stream it on a pirate site. But only after it is out of theaters. Now that the window between theater and streaming service is smaller, I don't really do it as much anymore.
56. I try to always buy, but if it's not available on one of the multiple streaming services I pay for or I don't have a physical copy, I torrent. I have no problem with torrenting. I'm a filmmaker and the whole way people are paid in film doesn't have a lot to do with purchase. All that money goes to the producers, the rest of the crew is paid up front, long before release
57. Well if you are indeed a filmmaker, let's hope you have a second career to fall back on because your logic is ludicrous. Where the hell do you think the money comes from to pay the crew? The fact they are paid in advance is of no relevance whatsoever - as if people are going to show up and work 16 hours a day based on the potential success of a film? No one would ever work on any film if the system were set up that way because more than half the time when no one watched the film, they wouldn't get paid! The overall "pot of money" which funds filmmaking - whether through mainstream or independent financing- is astronomically affected by piracy, fact. When shit really hits the fan in years to come which films do you think studios will prioritise? Mindless popcorn trash, or films with things to say? They'll put money in where they think they can get it back out, and interesting films will become far, far rarer and harder to make. And those rare small studios that only try to release interesting films will have less of a pot and will have to be more selective about which projects they finance. Which means we will lose potential masterpieces because of the actions of selfish, ignorant, stupid people. That is a travesty to me, and should be to you as a filmmaker.
58. Piracy speaks to a problem of access. Personally, I pay whenever possible. Some films from various parts of the world aren't possible to buy. I don't think people should pirate films they can pay for, but people need to have the possibility of legal means—that's not always possible. Many masterpieces of world cinema can't be found any other way. In many parts of the world, people watch all films through pirated dvds, because there's no other way to see them. I think we take access for granted. It's also impossible to stop pirates. It's been tried many times. Back when Netflix was one of the only streaming services and everything was on it, piracy declined. It's increased due to things getting splintered up. Many people can't afford multiple services. Art needs to be accessible in order to ever find an audience. That future you're describing is the system that already exists. It's not because of piracy. And for all of cinema's history, more potential masterpieces were never made than the amount of masterpieces that were.

59. These are great points!! Thank you 😊
60. Well, saying originally that you “have no problem with torrenting” is fairly at odds with “I try always to buy” and “I pay whenever possible”, wouldn’t you agree? They are mutually exclusive positions on the subject. My problem is that by mentioning that you’re a filmmaker who has “no problem” with torrenting you are speaking as a member of the industry and implying that it is acceptable to people within that industry, which clearly from some of the other responses on this post is more than enough to encourage others to steal without conscience. And presumably you know people in the industry, as I do, who are kept awake at night by the problem of piracy as they may have committed their entire career to a trade that is in decline due to illegal activity. I will concede that it may be morally acceptable in very rare cases where films are genuinely not available in any other way - particularly if they’re older and the financial ship has already sailed. But saying that traditional, ‘mainstream’ piracy “speaks to a problem of access” is pure nonsense. It speaks to a sense of “I can pay for it or I can not pay for it, so I’m not going to pay for it and fuck anyone that it impacts on”. Almost everyone who pirates could very easily access the films they steal, they just choose not to. The instances you mention where there are no legal means of viewing films otherwise are the exception, not the rule, and I’m sure like me you have attended film festivals or screenings or otherwise gone out of your way to watch films that are otherwise unavailable. I can’t think of many genuine masterpieces of world cinema that aren’t available via traditional means, but perhaps you’ve seen more films that I have. The “Can’t beat ‘em, best join ‘em” argument holds no water whatsoever. I have in the past found myself unable to afford to follow film as I’d like to (including right now), but that doesn’t mean I have the right to make decisions that impact on the livelihoods of other people in order to serve myself. I understand that there may be too many services and that increases piracy, but that doesn’t justify it on an individual level one bit. The system I am describing is of course the model of film production that has always existed, but my point is that it is exacerbated by piracy and made worse, and the quality of film is going down as so many promising projects slip through the cracks. Many films of the American independent period of the late 80s/early 90s wouldn’t have a hope in hell of being made nowadays; they’d be too big a risk. This will only get worse. Perhaps as your career progresses and you struggle for financing you will learn this the hard way. Unless you’re the next Michael Bay (😂) Lastly the fact that masterpieces have been aborted in the womb in the past is sad (although where you have got the impression more have been lost than made throughout history I’m not quite sure, it’s not as if there are historical statistics out there, apart from well known cases like Eisenstein’s Mexico film), but piracy just makes that instance even higher, so why does that make it acceptable?
61. I personally disagree with said points (see below), but at least they’re well made. And well done - pot decidedly stirred! 😂
62. What do you suggest we do to address piracy?
63. You’re right - we’ll probably never totally eradicate it. But intelligent, conscientious people (as you appear to be) can make individual choices and engage (or attempt to) in meaningful discourse with others who may not realise the impact that piracy has, beyond soundbites. This is an increasingly vast world and we should never promote the idea that one person’s actions don’t make a difference, because they absolutely do. I’d definitely like to see more aggressive, consistent anti piracy campaigning, it seems to have petered out particularly here in the UK. Show an ad with a gaffer with five kids and no food in the cupboards to feed them instead of some new media hipster wanker in LA or London moaning because they can’t afford cinnamon on their iced latte. Make people realise that these are working people, the same as everyone else. Don’t admit defeat so easily.

64. I pirate movies pretty regularly. Don't get me wrong, supporting the industry is important, but so is paying rent, and being a movie buff shouldn't just be reserved to those who can afford it- it lets me pay what i like for movies. Generally, i'll see anything new at cinema, shamelessly pirate old movies, and buy the odd classic thats important to me. netflix/amazon are generally a shit ton more convenient than illegal streams, but their libraries aren't exactly exhaustive
65. NARC!
66. I wouldn't access them because they're full of viruses, quality is poor, and the artists are not being paid. I'd rather wait and watch it legally.
67. They're a last resort. There are so many movies that are hard to find. Giants like Netflix and Hulu hardly stream classic or obscure genre movies. The only option would be to pay \$50 for an old vhs tape if I wanted to see it. I buy the majority of my movies but I'll use a streaming site or torrent if there's absolutely no other way for me to find it
68. (This is closest to my stance too)
69. I have no problem with it considering the way cable is structured and the sheer amount of streaming services on the horizon to make your monthly bill just as expensive if not more so than cable. Illegally stream away. I do typically buy physical copies though. Certain things are also out of print and can only be found on some of those illegal sites. Ya know like Megaforce! 😄😂😂
70. so you don't care that thousands of people worked on each of those films? You basically get to steal from them and ignore their hard work, not to mention the law. Jesus.
71. Thank You.
72. wow, love living in a society where people ignore the law out of convenience. Copyright protects all artists and I'm an artist so I don't want my work stolen either. Such disrespect. Pathetic.
73. yup
74. you can give your work away that's your right, you don't have a right to determine what's correct for others work including mine so GFY with that crap. Also I didn't say it's was a moral law I said it was the law. We live in a civil society meaning we agree to work to together and laws are our way of doing that. Careful with your hubris, that's a slippery slope. Also how arrogant of you to think others have the same approach as you in the art world.
75. by advocating to steal you make that assumption. Maybe you should stop using excuses and look at what piracy does to artists. Or you could just keep stealing and acting like it's some Robin Hood style stance, but dude you are Disrespecting even the unknown hard workers of the movie industry. Do you walk into museums and walk off with paintings? No because that's stealing, this isn't different you just want to justify that it is so you can just watch what you want instead of giving the artist their just dues. Think about it chump.
76. museums are not free. You obviously haven't been in a while. Dude I'm a democratic socialist, but I still believe artists get their due. And instead of saying stream illegally if you poor maybe help the poor. If you want to talk politics that's a bit of a different topic, and one I'm well versed in, so please with you red herring argument. You can excuse steeling all You want, it's still steeling.
77. dude you miss all the points. Your hubris is getting the better of you. Good day.
78. typical that I don't want to argue with a guy that thinks his way is better than others? Please dude you aren't worth that much energy.
79. yup I have alerts just Like you. Your point? I'm human and susceptible to flaws, how about you?

80. please. Your snark is all That got me. I bet if this wasn't the topic we might just get along. But dude stop stealing.
81. typical.
82. lol first of all the people that work on movies aren't being hurt. They are typically payed before their work is done. Do I mind taking a few cents out of the pocket of someone like Johnny Depp or a multimillion dollar production company by streaming the new pirates movie one time? No, I don't. 😂😏
83. yup and that makes you a thief.
84. lmao [gif of Trump shaking his head]
85. oh and now an ass and a thief.
86. ~play nice, please~
87. That's an intriguing point about museums though!!
88. I feel like that's a tricky one. I grew up in a lower-class family and most of the time, I had to stream illegally if I wanted to see all of Kubrick's work or PTA's filmography, or even Citizen Kane. I'm working toward becoming an industry filmmaker rn, and regardless of my success or failure, that "path" wouldn't be there if digital piracy weren't an option... but also, feel that plight bc if I make movies I'm tryna get paid, boi, and imma turn into a pirate and Swashbuckle a mf ass that steal my mf movie 😂
89. Personally, all depends in availability for me. I would never pirate a film or TV show if I can go to a theater, or it's on streaming or I can buy it separately. Where I live, we don't have some streaming services available, like Hulu for example, and the insillary market is not very good. I use it if I can't find what I'm looking for anywhere. I think piracy is wrong when people pirate movies that they have the ability to pay for, doing that is just wrong
90. In Canada, where I live, streaming isn't illegal, just downloading. Therefore I use Stremio for most things. Although I do buy a lot too.
91. I try to live my life according to Kant's Categorical Imperative. Would I be happy if everyone in the world took this same action? In the case of illegally accessing electronic entertainment I consider: if everyone did this, there would be no money to develop high-quality entertainment or art anymore. I don't like that world, so I choose to refrain from the action. If I chose to steal it because I know other people will buy it, that is exploitation.
92. maybe there's an argument for illegally streaming old classics: if everyone did it, Netflix would make them available!
93. I like your civil disobedience. Haha.
94. I understand it takes many ppl sometimes to make a film etc. and so many have to be paid. However, alot of older movies/made for tv or some shows are absolutely no where to be found on any site or Amazon. Ebay etc. Same with some music. I don't see anything wrong with it depending. And sometimes ppl are dirt poor living in the middle of nowhere with no nearby theater etc.
95. Yes, I often run into "it depends..."
96. I own hundreds of blu-rays and DVDs and I pay for streaming services and VOD rentals, and I visit the cinema at least once a week - but I still download off torrents from time to time. I have no issue with movie piracy. I lend my blu-rays out to friends, isn't that the same thing? My friends get to see those movies for free without paying for them. And what about buying pre-owned blu-ray's, shouldn't that also be considered a problem? Because the artists don't see any money from those secondhand sales.
97. I wish everyone in here looked at it that way. I only stream like that when I can't find the material on any other streaming service I have. I mean the most pirated movies out there are some of the best selling movies like avatar and the Avengers.

98. I prefer supporting the artist, but have been known to torrent films I couldn't find anywhere. Availability is key.
99. Personally, I'd prefer not too & would rather just see the film at the cinema or wait for it to be released onto DVD.
100. Scummy. I wouldn't touch dodgy streaming sites.
101. My opinion is independent projects don't sail the seven seas. If its a major Hollywood project, all I can say is 'ARRRRR!'
102. Not me. It may start out with a good reason and the best of intentions. But it seems to always creep down the slippery slope to eventually become "take money away from the filmmakers". Filmmakers have more than enough trouble funding their projects as it is, without cheating making it even worse.
103. Torrent the big budget movies, pay for the indies. There is a lot of money in the mainstream film industry.
104. When I assign my high school students to watch a film for extra credit I specify no illegal downloads and ask them to staple or attach a ticket stub or proof of purchase. I do this after a discussion on ethics and keeping independent film alive. Also, I teach Ethics and Social Justice
105. Personally I don't have an issue with it. Cause growing up my folks only used to take me to the movies only so many times a year so I started torrenting and stuff fairly early on. But now I usually pay to see everything in theaters I wanna see but older movies I still will torrent or stream 🧑🏻
106. ppl are paid for the movie they make before it goes out. box office, DVD sales, it doesn't change what the workers were paid for it. it goes in the pocket of the company distributing it. so saying pirating films hurts film workers is BS
107. No. It. Isn't. The relevance of how and when film workers are paid and the fact that they aren't rewarded or penalised based on the success of each individual film they help to produce is totally irrelevant. Piracy is contributing to the overall decline of the film industry, which make no mistake means \*people's jobs being put at risk in the long term\*. It isn't studio heads or film stars that will bear the financial brunt of less money being available to be spent on films, it's the grunts on the ground.
108. the burden should not fall on the consumer or the low level workers. it should be on the obscenely rich studio heads who are steering the ship.
109. Yes it should, but you need to more pragmatic. That will never, ever happen. Like it or not, if it wasn't for the rich and the opportunity movies provide to make men rich, there would be no movies.
110. It is very very hard to get ahold of many movies where I live and importing them is just too cost prohibitive. I own blu-rays, dvd and boxes of most of my favorites (which are many) and I pay two streaming services, also I go to the theater a lot (I spend more with movies than with food). If things are outside these options I have no qualms about seeking alternatives. I don't feel one bit bad, for example, about finding alternatives for a movie that is on US Netflix for example, but I blocks me from watching it using my paid VPN service. Yeah yeah, capitalism and all that, but some policies are just too bullshit for me to care.
111. Because of my unusual tastes I find myself having to either pay an extremely expensive mark up for a criterion or just not watch the film. I've created a sort of justification, I only torrent older films as I'm pretty sure the money is just going to the studios by that point, I'm sure the royalties of Stalker aren't going to the family of Andrei Trakovsky.

112. I watch movies on sites like that pretty regularly. I have Netflix, D+, Prime, and Criterion, but at the end of the day they can't have everything. I could only afford so many movies if I bought them.
113. I feel fine about accessing movies illegally. You can't expect a young film nerd in need for some education to pay for it all. 😊 Unfortunately the government of the country I'm residing in is not cool with it at all. 😊😊 1000 euros immediate fine for any illegal downloads. That's about 1100 dollars.

*source K: Facebook group—Film Buffs—What are your views on piracy...(February 2017)*

post:

What are your views on piracy? Can you say you have NEVER used any torrent site or illegal source to get a film or even a song ?

(Hypocrites, kindly stay away 😊)


1. I live in a country where most Hollywood and almost all of the world cinema films are not released. Nor do we have DVD parlours nowadays where I can rent from. I am subscribed to every single streaming platform available here and watch everything that's available on Netflix, Amazon Prime and the likes. Everything that releases in theatres I make sure to watch in theatres. So much so that if i want to rewatch something and it's still running in cinemas, I make another trip. But I cannot help but use torrent for films that don't release on any of these platforms. Sigh. Plus even those that I have watched in cinema I download cause more often than not crucial scenes are chopped off by our insensitive parochial censor board.
2. India? 😭
3. yep 😭😭😭😭
4. I'm telling you, place where I live ( a small town from Gujarat) we don't get to see good films. ( Hollywood films as well as offbeat INDIAN cinema.) The only films which come to theaters (those are dubbed in Hindi) are few superhero films and famous series like fast and furious. 😂
5. yeah. Sad state of affairs. Although every year around the awards season PVR does an oscar run, screening all nominated movies. I have stopped watching screeners ever since they started doing this. Even then there are last minute cancellations. Phir insaan kare to kya kare !
6. Aur censor board. Bond ki kisses nikal di thi. So now I can't imagine clockwork Orange or irresistible or city of god in Indian theaters.
7. Except for metros, even major cities don't get a lot of releases. Even in metros you won't find indie films and the irony is that most of the indie movies are better than big studio releases.
8. the satellite telecasts are worse. Recently Spotlight was on MN+ and they censored out all scenes related to people talking about the abuse that is the fulcrum on which the entire movie pivots. Imagine. Why show it at all I say !



9. I have never. I watch Netflix, use Red Box, TCM and other cable channels and purchase blurays of my very favorite films.
10. The only way that I could be somewhat okay with someone pirating something is if it's unavailable in any other way in their country. If there are legal means for you to obtain something than you have no excuse
11. I'll only watch if the distribution is very limited or if it's an 18 I just can't wait to watch (I'm 17) like the Hateful Eight, but I'll very often buy the DVDs once they're out
12. I view it as "whoever watches, loses out on the theater experience". Somebody could also watch it and then recommend it to a friend, making them basically pay back the debt they just created. Ive definitely used a torrent site i guess. SurftheChannel was the BEST.. Megavideo.. Letmewatchthis lol NovaMov.. It was my childhood when i didnt watch bought movies and wasnt gonna go to the theaters.
13. I have streamed marketta lazarova, just because, at that time, i could not find it anywhere legal.. other than that : NO 😊
14. Friends call me Blackbeard...and it's not because I drink rum at 10am. Whoever says streaming or torrenting is killing the industry is full of bs.
15. You drink rum at 10am? 😊
16. Nah...I stop drinking rum at 10am
17. Piracy is good. Theatres and bluray is illegal, piracy isn't.
18. I use torrents. I think as long as the products are highly priced, there will be piracy.
19. I have only done it once- for Game of Thrones. If you understood the situation in Australia you'd get it .
20. It's so cool to hear everyone's justifications for piracy ...it's totally entertaining tbh and the reasons are epic lmao 😂
21. I do it only cos I'm still studying. And my parents don't let me but DVDs.
22. Who gives a shit, the crap that studios are churning out now most people have seen before in the previous remake, I wouldn't download anything independent or low budget..
23. the Pirate Bay is my Blockbusters. I rent there, then decide to make a purchase or not.
24. Never.To be honest i would not even know where to look for a torrent site.I am clueless on pirating lol.
25. I've just about never used piracy. I don't judge people who do tho.
26. I stream stuff that isn't available anymore, and dissertation stuff cos thats time-sensitive
27. Yes, I can say I've NEVER used any torrent site or illegal source to get a film or song.
28. I want to change my answer to I've got bills and can't afford to pay for all my entertainment.
29. I've always wondered how everyone got see all these movies new releases and old ones ...now I know it's because they're not rich but have desktops for downloading anything and everything lol I'm a little slow sometimes haha
30. I've never used a site, but have purchased copies of DVDs overseas.
31. Most of the piracy prints are leaked from within the boundaries of the Studios, theses prints are known as time coders & are often used for promotions & awards , they are not camcorder prints from the cinema screen ,who is at blame here? If studios fail to restraint control on their products then its tedious to blame the public for watching the movies on net, if its available then the public will watch, its very simple. Point being - this is a massive failure on behalf of the studios..Note; camcorder piracy is old school, we are talking of HD prints leaking from studios & with the availability of the net it makes piracy unavoidable, studios are not oblivious to these facts, all has been taken in account...you have opinion..?

32. It's like Pamela Anderson's home made porn movie was allegedly stolen but she made plenty money from it 😂
33. Just because it's unavoidable and inevitable doesn't make it right. If you feel like stealing is an okay thing to do it's on you. Not the studios, or even the person that made it possible. It's on you
34. Why is it on me? you need to elaborate..? If studios are not taking any responsibility for the leakage of their products from their secured facilities , then why should the public be held responsible for that..? explain..?, i did not say stealing is ok, i stated how the studios lack capability & are incompetent to secure their coded prints, those prints are shifted from their premises, are they not..? those coded prints are a property of whom..? public or studio..? you need to look at the epicentre of piracy problem & not just blame the public. Piracy will only be reduced when studios are sincere about the theft from within their premises.
35. In my youth, in my youth. Now that I'm older, Netflix, Spotify, Amazon and a ton of blu rays.
36. I've pirated games and films many times. There is no harm in pirating successful titles that's already made lots and lots of money. Pirating stuff from smaller companies though, that's a bad thing since the losses will actually be noticeable to them.
37. Yes there is still harm and that's why piracy is a crime.
38. No, there isn't, if they've already made several millions. Just because it's a crime doesn't mean it's bad
39. Also, the claims that every pirated movie is money lost for the studio is as false as it gets. If people had to pay for every movie they watch, they would've watched a lot less movies. And I'm not sure that's a good thing either.
40. Once it's left the theatre its made 90% of its money and as far as I'm concerned its open season. Don't fool yourself. Hollywood has broken its own box office records consistently for the last 5 years. Your not "hurting" anyone with a Blu-ray copy of anything.
41. Torenting since 2009 and proud. I have bought a few DVD and VCDs of local Indian film but never for Foreign films. DVDs are over priced while BlueRay is in another level for Hollywood films. Local theatres don't play many good releases and when it does it is censored by Indian censor board cutting down all the shown nudity and too much violence (that hanging scene in Hateful 8 got chopped) so torrent is godsend. As for music I have many audio CDs and spent a lot of my money on it.
42. ❤️
43. Haha! I remember that! The scene where jack paints rose like one of his French girls was censored! 😂😂😂
44. It's not about NEVER... I used to pirate like a maniac. Had huge DVD folders full of movies, music and software (before big portable HDDs were a thing)... Then I realised that I was doing something greedy... Seeking to benefit myself at the cost of the wider community. I dumped all my disks in the bin and haven't pirated since. For me, it's no longer about "will watching this one little movie really hurt the industry?". It's a matter of personal integrity. I refuse to make exceptions. There are many popular shows and films which I haven't seen because they are licensed to this or that cable company, and I'm not willing to buy a subscription. So if I can't afford it, I just don't watch it. I choose something else that's on Netflix or prime. Immediate access to every piece of entertainment my heart desires is not one of the 30 universal human rights. The fact that people think it is their right ("it's the distributor's fault for making me wait") is a

symptom of how greedy and detached from reality society has become. No offence intended to any individuals here. Everyone draws their own lines. This is mine.

45. Well said. There is no excuse.
46. If the movie is good I will pay to rent or see in theater after. But ill say im damn glad i didnt lay \$19 to see Resident Evil
47. 
48. I don't have any problems with people who do it in the face of the economic status of the world when they can't afford it. Given that I am not omniscient and don't know everyone's situation, I don't judge. At the same time, it bugs me when people are very very open about their illicit access to movies we were going to get in the first place - I was personally miffed by how many people who I knew lived in America had The Lobster sitting in their Top Ten at the end of 2015 because that hinders the success of one of my favorite movies of the decade. Me, there's several reasons why I personally don't do it (expect in the case of movies that are complete rarities in which downloading is the only manner in which I'll be able to watch it). I like art and I want to support art, and that means that if I recognize what I enjoy, I want to make sure that person has my financial support to make more of it. I also work on film in numerous manner - freelance crew work, online criticism, officers of local film festivals, and of course being a filmmaker - and I feel it'd be very VERY hypocritical of me if I were to attempt to leech off of the industry I am in fact a part of. That's kind of a principle I hold to myself. Even for movies I don't like. Even for movies I feel actually hurt the industry more than piracy. I like the cinema. I like the experience of being in the theater and I like either being myself in a big dark room or being surrounded by people who are in a unified reaction to something. Either way, it's fun for me. And hell to go back on the first reason, there's a lot of barely running arthouse cinemas in Miami that I try to make as much as I can so that they can keep running and we can keep receiving arthouse pictures. But the biggest one... I just like having physical media. I like the tactility of having a movie as a physical object in my hand, how it brings out the collector in me, the promise that an insert or a cover will make of the movie inside like a precursor hype. So, yeah.
49. There has actually been studies claiming that people who pirate movies also spend a lot more on entertainment. I would be one good example. I have a DVD/Blu-ray collection with over 2500 titles. A lot of those, and I mean a LOT, I never would've bought if I hadn't been able to get my hands on it through the internet first. There's so much crap being churned out, that buying blind isn't an option. But if it's good, they get my money eventually.
50. Being a movie buff in India pretty much means being a pirate
51. Out of choice
52. For music, I used this app called music tube which essentially allowed you to download YouTube videos. I essentially used that for almost all the music I listened to, and honestly I still use it today. But I'm also beginning to use Spotify which seems quite good at the moment. As for films I have a set of rules when it comes to watching them online (aka piracy). If it's some big summer blockbuster film, I'm usually ok with watching it online. Mainly because I know those films will more often than not make their budget back, so I don't need to worry about the film industry losing money. I'm also okay with watching older films, films which have come and gone, done what they needed to do, made their money back etc. I recently did this to watch Trainspotting for the first time. When I'm not comfortable with piracy is when it's a film I truly want to support, a film I want to see make money. This usually goes for smaller indie or Arthouse films. The only other time I'd watch a film online is if I have no other way to see it. This may be if it's a

film not available in my region. The most recent example would be Beyond the Black Rainbow. I really want to see it, but it's not available to buy anywhere where I live. So the only way I can really watch it is online. The last thing I'll say is that every film I've watched online that I really liked, I'll likely buy the bluray for. So I do want contribute some money for what it was I watched.

53. Spotify is awesome.
54. Have you tried loudtronix.me It's similar to music tube but not an app. A website.
55. If it's not an app then it's pretty much useless for me. Plus Music Tube and Spotify are pretty much good enough at the moment. But thanks for the suggestion anyway.
56. I've downloaded pretty much everything I've watched for years. All my friends do it so it's just what I'm used to. I'm not flush with cash so I can't really afford to be going to the cinema all the time. I'm quite hypocritical as I hope to work in film someday. I do try and buy Irish films as it's a very small industry. I recently found out I was paying for Netflix for over two years without knowing so there's some karma although I'm not sure how much the artist actually gets from Netflix. If more artists did the Louie ck Horace and Pete thing (selling it on his website), I'd probably buy more but that was just a very reasonable way off-putting it
57. If I can't find it, it's out of print, never was printed or just not available on a medium I can access (NA only and I live in EU). I have been known to get specific cuts of things if I don't like something enough to buy 3 different versions. There are also a couple of box sets of tv shows that's prices far exceeded my means. For the most part though, I'll buy it.
58. Would Youtube count? That's where I sometimes watch movies that are hard to find elsewhere (Netflix, Amazon, my local library). To me, it's a last resort if all my legal options are exhausted. I don't like watching something on an illegal platform in general, but only as a last resort.
59. I say if it's good and in the cinema buy a \$10 ticket. If it sucks, me downloading it or streaming it would be a blessing to them. As for the good that only hits blu ray or just dvd. I begrudgingly wait til I find a cheap second hand copy since the idiots didn't give it a theatrical release. In terms of late releases most the time I'm like meh and just wait but it can be total BS for some movies. As for something like Mr Nobody, I will keep watching it illegally til it gets an Australian release since I have no legal way of watching an Australian copy.
60. I live in a city that is pretty backward when it comes to showing timely releases of multiplex movies and you can forget about watching any martial arts and/or Asian films. Literally, the only way to see these types of films is to download (forget Netflix).
61. Here where I live, I didn't see Assassin's Creed because it was either dubbed, or at an inconvenient hour for me. Not that I think I missed too much not seeing that movie, but this often happens with other good movies I really wanted to see, so I either go out of my way to see it in another city, or not at all.
62. The "goody bags" they hand at the Oscars equates to about £160,000 per person. If they're complaining about the loss to the industry, how about reducing the obscene amount of money they pay their leading artists, if they love their craft what's one less Porsche in the garage?. There's enough money in film for them to support the so called lesser studios themselves so I'm not going to lose any sleep over pirating a few movies.
63. i'm a professional pirate but only with old, foreign, or low-budget films that aren't readily available. I never download new films because those are easy to come by and when I know a film is worth watching in the cinema, I definitely make a few trips there to see it. Like for example I watched Silence on the big screen 3 times. For the rest I just download or stream online because that is the college student life I lead.
64. There was a time I took advantage of piracy every day, because I love movies and there were so many that just never got here (I live in Brazil, mind you). But that was years ago.

Now we have many services that facilitate that a great deal, like Netflix for TV shows and a good catalogue, or Google Play for new releases. Through the internet, we can find a lot of home video options as well. Continuing to use piracy would be counter-productive, because now I have all the options I didn't have before, so if I want them to stay and improve, I should use those means. Nowadays, I rarely use piracy, save when a foreign movie I want to see just doesn't show up anywhere... or when a movie I've been waiting to see finally comes to a theater nearby, but only dubbed (sometimes they do that to save money). I hate dubbed movies, so I resort to either another theater further away, or download. But to answer the question straight, yes, I still use piracy. What can I say? I love movies, and sometimes they don't get here. As an aspiring filmmaker myself, a part of me would prefer that people saw my movie rather than anything else. At least, that's my excuse. (This applies to video games too, but I'm glad to say I felt no need at all for piracy in this case. When I had a PS1 and a PS2 as a kid, believe me when I say I NEVER saw an original game FOR YEARS. There simply wasn't any around here, none, nothing, they were all pirated. When the PS3 came around, they started producing the console nationally, and that was a great help. Now, with my PS4, I got my favorite store in the city with ONLY original games. I heard that some people "unlock" their consoles to allow pirated games, but come on... you can afford a \$400 console, but you can't afford a \$60 game? Get the fuck outta here.)

65. I'm not a torrent user at all. I've not settled in a country and have divided my time between the US and UK. Most of the time it's easier to stream stuff online than to deal with DVDs of different regions. I don't own a tv and multi region on iMacs is a pain. So I do stream but I own what I end up streaming because it's more convenient. I have watched some stuff that I don't own and then bought a copy.
66. I don't advocate piracy because it hurts the industry but unfortunately I'm forced to watch a movie online when it doesn't get released until x months after America or worse still will end up straight to Blu Ray. Either way I ensure that I buy the Blu Ray later on if it's good enough...
67. I would take issue with the word "forced." 😊
68. Well forced in the sense that I won't wait 4 months for a DVD release but having to wait a for the cinematic release is different and I should just accept it
69. If you watch a movie without having paid for it then it's stealing. Pirating any of that material is a loss for the studios meaning that we get less material at the end of the day. I have no respect for anyone that does it, and there's no excuse for it.
70. I used Napster and a file sharing video site when I was in college, but that was 17 years ago. I always buy now.
71. I was down in Puerto Rico when 22 Jump Street was filming. There is so much effort and work that I saw going into the production I feel it's all worth my money.
72. I only view it as ok in a certain set of conditions. If you can't access it at all or if you have already seen it in the cinema (therefore they got your money,) but you want to see it again but no one is willing to see it with you. Those are the only times I'm ok with it.
73. I stream Bob's Burgers and Brooklyn Nine Nine. I will buy them when they are all available. I could probably watch them on TV but I live in the UK and I am not willing to give BBC fascists money for a service that I'm not using.
74. I used to have a large collection of DVDs, the total number was close to 1,000. Sold them all, got them no more. Got a few Blu-ray's but the main sources of streaming films for me are Now TV and Amazon Prime.
75. That seems a shame, I'm quite proud of my DVD collection, I couldn't imagine getting rid of it.

76. also had over 800, but some just aren't worth owning. Bit too late to sell them now, but it's good to have the movies you just know you won't find easily online...
77. I got rid of them to start a brand new collection. Not of DVDs but Blu-ray's. I've got a few good ones so far.
78. You're right. Some are just not worth owning. I've had lots of those DVDs.
79. I used to grab albums but that's because I wasn't willing to buy the whole CD when the band only puts one or two good songs on it and the rest is filler crap. If it's a good album all the way through I ALWAYS buy the cd!
80. I dream of a day when books and movies are readily available at any time...and for free. If filmmakers want money, make good movies worthy of buying the bluray for the bonus features.
81. Never. If rich guys like me would pirate what'll be left for the artists ??
82. Some of your holier than thou approach is quite disturbing. Have you ever borrowed a book from a friend? Watched a PPV event at a bar or friends? Have you ever had a friend or co worker lend you their copy of a movie? Guess what??? YOUR STEALING! The principle of stealing doesn't change with the wind direction. Watching or reading a purchasable piece of media or art without paying money yourself is technically stealing. No matter if you have borrowed it from a friend to watch or read or went to a bar. YOU HAVEN'T PAID FOR IT. THEREFORE YOU ARE STEALING IT. So get off your high horses"
83. What? We're not allowed to lend books now? CLOSE ALL THE LIBRARIES
84. Did I say the library? Maybe you should read my statement a little more carefully. I said borrowed a book from a FRIEND not the LIBRARY. By borrowing that book from a friend whose PAID FOR IT. You yourself are NOT PAYING FOR IT therefore you are getting that person's work FOR FREE. Is that fair? Why don't you ask any author if they think that's fair for them?
85. I'm sure the author will be fine with it.
86. You assume. I guess you KNOW that. And that the author according to YOU wouldn't want everyone to buy their book. Only some, then share it with the rest. Yep. That sounds like they would LOVE that scenario. Spend years writing a book and then agree that they only want some people to actually pay for it. You tell yourself that
87. Wow you're really worked up about this
88. Lol. Not at all. I'm just not hypocritical about WHAT the definition of things constitutes. My statements were made after reading the paragraph long diatribes of some who went to great lengths to berate those who have downloaded films under the "that's stealing" finger waving. We all have stolen under the definition even if we its not directly under the scope we would like to believe it means.
89. I wonder if reading a story to my son is breaching copyright- if so I committed that crime every night for 12 years.
90. Lol. As I said. You can get specific. If you want. Not paying for art or media that is purchasable technically constitutes stealing.
91. Lol
92. As with any ethical issue there is an extreme position at each end and a big grey area in the middle. Very few people take the far extremes. Most people figure out a spot to draw a line somewhere within the grey area based on the demands of their conscience. That's totally cool and I don't judge people for that at all. But when people start trying to argue that piracy is somehow good or noble, I'll happily wade into the debate guns blazing. Haha.
93. I completely agree with that. Which is the reason I "waded" into this with my statements. To finger point those who pirate is ridiculous when we've all done and continue to do so in many forms. One form doesn't supersede another just because WE say so. Stealing is

stealing. Not paying for PPV and watching it for free (as an example) is the equivalent of not paying for a film etc etc. In the end, someone isn't getting paid for their work and your benefiting from that by not spending your money.

94. Never used one but I encourage piracy of the Hollywood system.
95. I am still a student so i have no choice but to use pirate sites. There are no dvd stores near my area and even if there is i dont have a vcr or a dvd player. And my parents are not going to buy it either.

*source L: Facebook group—Film Buffs—Something to consider if illegally*

*downloading...(March 2016)*

post:

Something to consider if illegally downloading

Hannibal season 4 was cancelled 'because of illegal downloads'

[https://www.digitalspy.com/tv/ustv/a787246/hannibal-season-4-didnt-happen-because-of-](https://www.digitalspy.com/tv/ustv/a787246/hannibal-season-4-didnt-happen-because-of-illegal-downloads/?utm_campaign=maintwitterpost&utm_content=bufferb3c5a&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter)

[illegal-](https://www.digitalspy.com/tv/ustv/a787246/hannibal-season-4-didnt-happen-because-of-illegal-downloads/?utm_campaign=maintwitterpost&utm_content=bufferb3c5a&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter)

[downloads/?utm\\_campaign=maintwitterpost&utm\\_content=bufferb3c5a&utm\\_medium=social&](https://www.digitalspy.com/tv/ustv/a787246/hannibal-season-4-didnt-happen-because-of-illegal-downloads/?utm_campaign=maintwitterpost&utm_content=bufferb3c5a&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter)

[utm\\_source=twitter](https://www.digitalspy.com/tv/ustv/a787246/hannibal-season-4-didnt-happen-because-of-illegal-downloads/?utm_campaign=maintwitterpost&utm_content=bufferb3c5a&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter)

1. So sad
2. Hmm cant really believe it. Look how good other series do like got
3. I have to say that does seem a bit spurious and just one person's opinion: if it was so well-loved why weren't the other channels/platforms interested in picking it up for more seasons? There are a variety of opinions on this stuff; it doesn't seem that clear cut to me. <http://www.alphr.com/.../is-piracy-actually-helping...ALPHR.COM> Is piracy actually helping Hollywood?
4. No there was a brilliant article in the times i think it was called " How illegal downloading/piracy is killing creativity in Hollywood ".
5. lol I thought it was reboots. sequels, prequels and remakes.
6. As I said, there are a variety of opinions available!
7. No, I think it's the lack of creativity in Hollywood that's killing creativity in Hollywood.
8. I thought this was an article from the Poke at first glance..."TV Producer blames audience for not buying the suppositories and fizzy drinks advertised during ad beaks"
9. you've done that thing where you've read a clickbait article and taken it as gospel.
10. It's always the viewers fault not their fault. The show was quite frankly over the head of most tv watchers . Hence lower ratings.
11. I agree BC- it had some very WTF moments, which the average viewer would just be lost in. A wonderfully weird show. Art house TV.
12. Hannibal's problem was that the critics loved it but the mass audience didn't... 😊
13. This sounds like typical Hollywood propaganda.

14. Bollocks
15. I call BS because this was a national broadcast channel that anyone could watch free online in the US. So if anyone was downloading it , it would have been either from outside the country or catching up to the current run before it hit Netflix. Game of Thrones is the largest pirated show so far and even with the loss from pirating they make a crap load of money.
16. Exactly. An "illegal" download would basically have the same effect as if someone Tivo-ed the episode. I remember when the home VCRs first came out. Hollywood was so afraid that people would have the ability to "time-shift" their viewing habits. They sued back then and claimed it would be the demise of entertainment as we knew it and all of the studios would go broke.
17. Too depressing subject matter for the GoT demographic and no nudity didn't help.
18. BS
19. Bollocks. They don't want you do pirate things because they want you to buy them, not because they desperately need the money. Have you seen some of the budgets of these shows?! They're not exactly short of cash.
20. I call bull\$hit
21. So, illegal downloads of a show aired on most TV packages killed it? Yeah, I'm not buying it.
22. Stupid story considering it was on Netflix
23. I'm pretty sure that's the same one eyed baddie from Casino Royale but not 100%

*source M: Facebook group—Film Buffs—Is it frowned upon...(January 2016)*

post:

**Is it frowned upon to watch movies on youtube (et al). Or is it tantamount to piracy? If**

**ok, anything worth while? Asking coz I'm an old fart!!!**

1. no way, there are a lot of rare classics on youtube
2. Hey, if you can find em fill your boots!
3. nope free assembly
4. but legally yes
5. It's a nice way to catch up, if you're missing out!
6. I watched Friedkins the Sorceror in 10 parts with subtitles simply because you can't buy it anywhere, and because I don;t want to buy it -
7. It's not piracy in any way. Not always very good quality unfortunately though.
8. You can thank me later...<http://youtu.be/Wd0iCAp4xVw> YOUTUBE.COM The Hitcher 1986 full movie
9. Cheers [Name]
10. I already know that you'll love this...
11. ...and no, not frowned upon as this is Movie Buffs and not Movie Snobs. He's over there.... Splitter!
12. Fwee Wodewick!!
13. "Oi hold up... You haven't given us time to hide!"



14. As long as the uploaders are the rights holders, all good. Just a couple of weeks ago, I watched Nanook of the North on Youtube: being from 1922, it is well out of copyright. One of these days, I will watch Birth of a Nation that way too, since it neatly frees me up from the dilemma of endorsing its reportedly reprehensible sentiments with my own cash.
15. There's a difference between public domain stuff and rare prints and flat out piracy, song guess it depends.
16. If it's on there then watch away. It's down to You Tube to deal with rights issues, not the viewer.
17. Anything somebody owns the rights to and cares about enough to send a nasty letter on legal letterhead gets promptly taken down by Youtube. So if it's still there tomorrow, watch it with a clear conscience. (This doesn't apply to some other websites that keep wriggling free of legal consequences, either by being based in some other country without full legal exchange or by staying under the radar [partially by staying out of Google and partially by changing their address frequently]. If you found it though with either a Youtube or a Google search, it's almost certainly legit.)
18. Film Buffs watch films.
19. Following is on there, low budget but good
20. I only watch shorts sometimes since most I've found are bad quality. I'd rather not watch it then.

**source N: Facebook group—Film Buffs—[moviepilot link] Why Piracy Is Wrong...(February 2016)**

<http://moviepilot.com/posts/3764784>

“Why Piracy Is Wrong And Why I’m Sorry

1. The only movies I have torrented are ones I already own (which makes it fair use) or something I simply can't find for love nor or money. The latter doesn't happen very often, probably no more than I could count on my fingers. But if have exhausted my search to buy it, the I feel theres not much else to be done. Some things just fell into a black hole of production between video tape and DVDs or even from that time it happened to be shown on a local television station in 1991.
2. I totally agree with you , but what about if you live in the middle of nowhere with no cinema?
3. I do partake , but I do go to the cinema when I can, I try to get there once a week but that is often not possible, if I have the time I go, so I wouldn't say it impacts my cinema going, blurays are another matter of course.
4. As a filmmaker, I'm 100% fine with piracy, I never would have experienced the films that influenced me without it, neither would other poor kids, my main concern is that only quality films are released. I do have a problem with people who can afford the films, just pirating for no other reason than to hoard money, thats some bullshit.
5. I stopped pirating years ago, I'm an adult who can buy movies now, but I understand when you are a kid living in a conservative household and you won't be able to see it.

6. Nice to hear some honesty from someone who is not manipulated by the mainstream press propaganda [Name] and can see the bigger picture.
7. My blu-Ray collection is consistently growing...And I frequent the theaters in support of the art itself. I think we are evolving into a society that promotes movies that are good over those merely popular...Everybody go see "Spotlight" and "Anomalisa" right now.
8. dI personally never download films. It irritates me that so many people do it. All they look at is the big salaries paid to the stars as a way of justifying the theft. What they don't think about are the technicians or extras that ultimately are put out of work because people stop going to the cinema or buying the DVD etc. The sad thing is the younger generation don't think there is anything wrong. At some point all we will get are the big blockbusters small independent films and nothing in between. Rant over and I feel much calmer now.
9. In a day and age with everyone stealing from everyone, I don't blame people for following the in the footsteps of the corporations or even governments that show examples that; if there's a loophole....take it, if there's a way around...then you're not in the wrong. The system is broken and not by "pirates".
10. Exactly, well said. I mean piracy did not bankrupt the GLOBAL economy. Banks did!
11. It's not only that, what about our stolen identity, calls, texts etc...What about BS fees and taxes etc...There's no honesty or integrity in the commercial world and certainly no way to make (a lot) money without living/working in grey areas, which is where streaming "pirated" films is.
12. btw....who still downloads films? There's loads of free site that offer streaming which isn't illegal. But to the NSA guy reading this....I don't pirate anything. ever. ;D
13. Yep and jail broken Amazon Fire sticks.... NSA guy, I don't have one.
14. You can get much better quality on a download. Such as a higher bit rate and dts HD master audio. You don't get that streaming. High quality mkv's are on a par with a bluray
15. I don't know [Name]. The movies I've seen on the fire stick are top quality and extremely clear.
16. I know they are visually but they have there limits. I stream download and watch Blu-rays. They all have there strengths, but nothing tops Blu-rays followed by downloads for quality. If you have hi end kit you need the best quality available.
17. Yeah nothing tops Blu Ray but the fire stick movies I've seen don't look like typical streaming movies. They are much better quality
18. I love cinema and I've been an avid collector of films for over 30 years. I've spent a fortune on physical copies (VHS, DVDs and Blu-rays) over the years and will do so in the future. But sometimes piracy is the only choice since so many films are really hard to find or are left unreleased for whatever reason.
19. Not to mention censorship in some territories like the UK. It often feels to me like the BBFC are actively encouraging piracy with there censorship. Because for butchered films like Ichi the Killer you have to look elsewhere.
20. The whole argument about the impact if piracy is spun by the media and the money makers of movies the studios and lawyers. It's not quite what it seems. For example some studies which are obviously ignored by the Hollywood Studios show that many pirates are the biggest buyers of legitimate copies. You could call it trying before you buy. The other pertinent aspect is loss of revenue. You often hear them say they made a "loss" yet they never had the money in the first place. You cannot lose what you never had. You could call it a loss on projected profits. Yet the language is skewed as if they have genuinely lost something. Whilst what they mean to say is they think piracy has impacted there profits, but they have not made a loss. Another example when they talk of "losses" there figures make the assumption that every illegal downloader would have purchased the file, had they not illegally downloaded it. This is totally innacurate as we know that

when things are free people get greedy. There is an argument to say piracy has democratised and empowered purchasers to only buy something that is genuinely good, which will obviously not make those taking huge profits happy. Piracy of films in many ways as with MP3 was a reaction from consumers to an industry that was not giving them the choices for consumption they were after. The industry stubbornly stuck to physical media and only switched to other revenue streams such as digital downloads because of the impact of free services like Napster over time. There are so many sides to the argument that are never discussed in the mainstream news media, It's always full of bias to further the capitalist money making ideology. In many ways piracy is bad and in some ways it can have beneficial effects, but there is very little in the way of balanced Intelligent analysis of its genuine impact or real cause. Don't believe everything you read. Much of the industry's whinging about piracy is their frustration at the empowerment the consumer has gained from technological changes and how it has enabled them to make a more informed decision before buying, consequently buying less and buying more intelligently. That equals less profits for them, which they blame on piracy.

21. To cover the above I pay for a monthly membership to the Cinema and have a large and growing collection of purchased films. I have Netflix subscription. I also gets films by other means, if you catch my drift! 😊

**source O: Facebook group—Film Buffs—[Vice link] The Rise of Netflix**

**Competitors...(February 2019)**

post:

[https://www.vice.com/en/article/d3q45v/bittorrent-usage-increases-netflix-streaming-sites?utm\\_source=dmfb&fbclid=IwAR3hFvKXR8s3H3Y6vnKA3tojYU01I8nkMiMWTao0E-23hb58WjokkliRqAk](https://www.vice.com/en/article/d3q45v/bittorrent-usage-increases-netflix-streaming-sites?utm_source=dmfb&fbclid=IwAR3hFvKXR8s3H3Y6vnKA3tojYU01I8nkMiMWTao0E-23hb58WjokkliRqAk)

“The Rise of Netflix Competitors Has Pushed Consumers Back Toward Piracy



1. Good old standard physical media.. 😊 my go to...
2. You try telling them...
3. I don't know... I have Netflix, Prime, Hulu, DC Universe & all of the “premium” movie channels along with their On Demand counterparts. I'll add Disney+ the day it launches. My immediate family each has a subscription to one of these and then we “share” it with each other... subscribing to the premium movie channels on DTV cost more than double the price of all the streaming channels combined... but my family members households (other than me) spend less than \$15 a month to have all of these viewing options available to them with the system I put in place a couple years ago... 😊
4. I have Netflix and prime only, any tv show or movie that's not available on either of them I download of torrent sites
5. isn't that getting more and more difficult to do as the service provider is blocking these sites?
6. Not for me, I can find almost anything on the right torrent sites

7. VPN.
8. I don't have any vpn
9. how do I use a vpn for a Mac?
10. sorry , don't know about Mac , my anti virus (avast) has a paid extra addon , just turn it on/off as required , can be used on android also.
11. I enjoy Netflix. But I wish there was a way I could access Amazon and Hulu by just paying for one package.
12. Why is it that we have to pay for ten different corporate streaming services??? Why is it that they used to manage different corporations on the same channel??? Eg mgm/universal/orion etc movies could be put on one tv channel yet it seems so difficult now? Greedy corporations

**source P: Facebook group—Film Buffs—Is this group against pirating and...(March 2016)**

post:

**Is this group against pirating and is there some who is not or what is your policy?**

1. why don't we just agree to not talk about it. we all know it's a common practice.
2. He sounds like a cop lol
3. Hello there kids, do you know where I can buy some drugs?
4. Lol I was totally thinking that
5. at the drugstore...
6. 
7. well i am and you're under arrest
8. Personally I don't believe that it is a good thing but I also believe that the industry should cater more to the needs of viewers.
9. I've seen a lot of blu ray collections and shit, and since you are film buffs, i didn't expect you to download films god dammit
10. We don't talk about fight club or pirating
11. no pirating is killing the entertainment industry.
12. 
13. My view really is, if you dont do it, fine. If you do thats also fine. We're here to discuss the films not argue over how we see it. For now at least piracy is a fact of life
14. Shouldn't charge so much for dads then there wouldn't be pirating
15. Dvds that should say
16. DVDs are considerably cheap. They're less than Blu Rays and a lot of digital downloads.
17. Wouldn't call ten pounds for new Dvds cheap
18. They CAN be very cheap but like Ian says new ones can be 12 to 20 pounds still
19. For some reason the cost of DVDs varies a whole lot in different countries. When I get DVDs from most of Asia and add the shipping cost, they're still usually cheaper than I'm used to paying here in the U.S. In Japan on the other hand DVDs typically cost two or three times what they cost here. (check out [www.amazon.co.jp](http://www.amazon.co.jp)).
20. Yo Ho Ho, and a bottle of Rum!
21. Not a fan of pirating. If you do dont advise others to do as well. Art is made with hardwork and tears all artists deserve compensation

22. I dabble but only on hard to find films or those that haven't had an official release.
23. Never.
24. I always buy movie tickets and DVDs to support the film making unless the movie wont be released here where i live for months then i have to see it so i don't get spoilers and only then do i go to movie 4k
25. I don't think it even needs to be mentioned how a movie was viewed, nothing to do with having discussions about said movies anyway...
26. I stream or go to tell cinema for latest stuff. If not bluray
27. I only pirate when i have to, like now, where im not in a position to watch my collection, or even show yous what i got. I have to get my movie fix somehow.
28. Im not against it cause i have done it sometimes. There are billions of movies and tv shows out there and its impossible to buy & watch them and like them enough to think you've got your monies worth. Sometimes its for the sake of convenience and the fact that i wanna try something out. Sometimes i watch something illegally and then go out an buy it cause i really liked it. Some may call me a sucker but i see it as supporting something i care about. Like a sponsorship sorta thing if you will. I don't think any method of watching something is perfect or sacred and i think all methods have their benefits
29. I just posted this in another forum -- it's an article by director Wayne Kramer (The Cooler, Running Scared), and he makes it clear how harmful piracy is to indie filmmakers, not just the big studios. [http://creativefuture.org/stand-creative-series-wayne...](http://creativefuture.org/stand-creative-series-wayne.../) **CREATIVEFUTURE.ORG** Stand Creative Series: Wayne Kramer ~ CreativeFuture
30. Mostly i only download big movies from big studios..
31. If you regularly pirate movies, you are not a movie lover.
32. But if you do it every so often, its fine?
33. surely the fact you want to pirate movies shows you are a movie lover as you are risking your neck to watch!
34. No, it's not fine. I'm making allowances for people who may have done it once or twice before realizing it was wrong.
35. If you truly loved movies, you would pay their creators for their work.
36. so you're saying if people don't pay for films, then they don't love them? or aren't allowed to be a movie lover?
37. My friend lent me the dvd of the prestige and I loved it. Technically i didnt pay for it, so therefore i cant love it?
38. I'm saying that if you want your own copy of The Prestige, you should pay for it like your friend did.
39. technically you did imply that, so you're saying every film you've ever seen you've paid for?
40. Regardless of the point, i have done
41. I implied nothing of the sort. I said that piracy is wrong and people who do it are not true movie lovers.
42. But that would make someone lending someone a dvd wrong... which is ludicrous
43. No, because that copy of the movie was already paid for. That's fine. The problem is if you go and then download your own free copy. That's piracy.
44. but I'm asking have you paid for every film you've seen? because what you're saying is, is that if people are watching films for free they aren't allowed to be called a "movie lover"? there are free viewings of films sometimes does that mean we can't watch at the risk of not being a true movie lover?

45. I said that if you pirate movies then you are not a movie lover. If you go to your friend's house and watch their legal copy of a movie, then technically it is "free" to you . . . but that is not piracy, because someone was showing a legal copy of the movie. It's about pirating content, not about seeing things for free.
46. What if i download a movie illegally and then buy the dvd later. Not cheating anyone out of any money
47. But then you said that if i loved movies id have paid for a dvd like my friend did. Later you said if id seen it at her house, it would be fine. You only changed your tact when i said id bought my own copy
48. I said that if you wanted your own copy (not just watching your friend's) then you should pay for it. Having only watched your friend's copy, you haven't yet pirated the movie, so my original statement about not being a movie lover doesn't apply yet.
49. But ive seen a film that i havent paid for, so therefore im not a movie lover
50. Still not what I said.
51. "If you truly loved movies, you would pay their creators for their work"
52. I truly love the prestige, didnt have to buy the dvd though
53. How about you take that comment in context, as in my first comment stating that it is piracy that calls into question one's movie love? That's what that comment is intended to refer to.
54. Doesnt matter at all in the context. Right i once borrowed iron man on dvd. Have never bought it myself. Now can i still love movies?
55. You havent adressed my first comment. If i download a movie and then buy the dvd does it equal out? Can i enter the movie lover paradise?
56. If you are buying DVDs of these films then no, I am not saying you can't be a movie lover. If you are buying the DVDs you are not pirating.
57. But technically i pirated first.
58. What if i buy the dvd, then find myself on holiday, desperately wanting to watch sex and the city 2. Ive paid for it, but can i then morally pirate it
59. I fail to see what this logical loophole is intended to prove. Is it just about you getting to be "right" about one corner issue? Do you think that the majority of piracy is being done by people who already bought the movies?
60. Doesnt matter about the majority. Im talking about me. You're backed into a loophole corner, and youre contradicting yourself.
61. Congratulations, you won the logic wars. Does this prove piracy is okay now?
62. It proves that your original statement is wrong. Maybe preserve judgement before you make such sweeping statements
63. Okay then I will revise: "If you regularly pirate movies, you are not a movie lover. Unless you are one of those rare birds who regularly downloads illegal copies of movies you already paid for, then that might be okay."
64. But then youve escaped the dvd issue. Its a constant loophole. Although being referred to as a bird is an interesting moment of my night
65. If you watch your friend's DVD you are not pirating. You are watching a legal copy that has been loaned to you.
66. But i am still watching a film i havent paid for. Which was your secondary point.
67. Said friend could lend the dvd do 100s of people and the company still end up with the cost of the dvd.
68. But you haven't pirated it, which is my primary point.
69. Does it matter? I havent paid the company for it. Just like people who pirate it. Lets just drop it. Maybe think before you make sweeping statements like the above.
70. Sure that person could, but that's still ONE copy that is being passed around. It's not making copy upon copy upon copy for many people to own, which is what piracy is.

71. There's a reason why piracy is wrong and loaning physical copies is not. The latter is not seriously damaging to intellectual property. The former is.
72. And I have thought about this very deeply. That's why I am comfortable making a sweeping statement like that. Piracy is not okay.
73. You say potato, i say potahto (that does not work in text... ). Same thing. He could lend it to thousands of people (unrealistic i know) legally.
74. I say piracy, you say something that is not piracy.
75. Maybe think deeper. Contradiction upon contradiction and backtracking. Goodnight
76. "Contradiction upon contradiction and backtracking." Pot, kettle, etc. Learn the definitions of words.
77. Sigh theres a reason i dont get into these sorts of debates.
78. At no point have i backtracked or contradicted myself. Youve done it throughout. Im not even finished with my arguments.
79. You said you were finished! Now you're back. Contradiction!
80. Haha
81. At what point did i say i was finished?
82. My brain is spinning
83. Usually "goodnight" means you're leaving. Is there another meaning I'm unaware of?
84. Well, that was a very interesting thread.
85. my face reading this discussion. [picture of exasperated cringe]
86. Yeah it did go round in circles.. a lot.
87. i stream most of the films i watch, frankly because I'm a poor bitch and cannot afford to buy every film i want to see, i also don't have a chance to watch all the films i want to at the cinema, i personally don't think there is anything wrong with it.
88. That other guy was generalising in the worst way...
89. i just don't see how theres anything wrong with it? we can't possibly spend 3 quid on every film we watch, i have millions of films i watch a month how would i possibly afford that?
90. So let me get this straight -- you want me to support piracy because you can't get everything you want for free?
91. Im saying that some people like myself are not currently in a position to watch any of their physical collection. I have paid 1000's for what i have. I have supported the industry immensely. But right now i have no TV, and my collection is in boxes. I need to be able to watch something. Pirating is the only way i can do that.
92. Once i have a job again, and have the necessary equipment, i'll be buying again.
93. i don't see why you would or you wouldn't. whatever you say people are going to stream movies in this economy where poverty is high. people can't afford trips to the cinema when its 9.00 a trip, therefore are they not aloud to watch films? from what you've said i sounds like you are suggesting you can only watch films if you pay, which is ludicrous because the majority of the population who have drawn creativity from the films they've watched have come from poor areas where they cannot afford the cinema and are forced to stream.
94. My goodness, what did poor young filmmakers ever do before there was the Internet? Somehow they found ways to see films without stealing them.
95. im not saying that, of course I'm generalising, I'm just saying you cannot say that you aren't a movie lover if you don't pay, thats ridiculous you may not agree or like the fact that people stream but that doesn't make them less of a movie lover than if you have paid, if they love the films they love the films.
96. They say they "love" the films. But being unwilling to pay for them makes it seem like a shallow love indeed.
97. Thats ridiculous.

98. These justifications for piracy are ridiculous.
99. Im not gonna stop watching just because you say.
100. how do you know you love a film until you watch? you could pay 10 pounds and hate the film? you could love the film you watch online and buy a brand new blu ray disc later on? It seems like you are contradicting yourself.
101. In other words, "Nyah, nyah, can't stop me!" \*fingers in ears\*
102. Wow.
103. I don't know if I love a film until I watch. But that first watch I pay for (I rent it or I pay for a ticket).
104. im not trying to offend you I'm just trying to suggest that its possible to turn a blind eye to how people do things different to you, everyone is different therefore if you are going to post a comment as ridiculous as your first one you should expect peoples opinions different to yours. if you are rich enough then well done for paying 3 pound every film, i really doubt massive film company that make billions are going to thank you for having loyalty in buying films
105. 🙌 brav - fucking - o. Im done explaining myself to you. Obstinate, and out of touch with those who dont have the resources to do something they LOVE. have found a way, and you sit there mr. High and fkn mighty. Woweee.
106. It's not about being thanked, it's about paying the people who produced the work (if at all possible) and not breaking the law.
107. people break the law everyday its the real world, you can't stop that, so insulting comments saying were not movie lovers because we don't pay, is arrogant and delusional because you're insulting nearly everyone who has ever streamed a film
108. It is absolutely my goal to insult people who pirate films. They deserve to be insulted, because they are stealing content.
109. well you might as well leave this group because I'm sure 75% stream, its 2016 you are not going to stop people
110. Also, read what I said: people who REGULARLY pirate movies are not real movie lovers. I'm not casting judgment on anyone who has ever broken a law; we are all human. I am casting judgment on people who WILLFULLY and KNOWINGLY do so, with regularity.
111. well you didn't say that to start with you said whoever pirates movies is not a movie lover, could of been more specific, this is a welcoming group i feel you should understand that people have different opinions to you and leave it at that.
112. that is flat wrong. Please read my original statement. I said, "If you regularly pirate movies, you are not a movie lover." See that word "regularly" in there?
113. what constitutes regularly though? once a year? once a month? can you honestly say that every film you've ever seen you have paid for? because you if you have paid for every film, then lucky you, you clearly are a rich man but don't look down on others because they do things differently to you? there is no need to say you would insult them because its a stupid idea trying to stop the world from pirating, its never ever gonna happen, just like people robbing banks or killing people, its out of your control so learn to deal with it and accept that people have different opinions to you.
114. I'm saying that we all have slip-ups, but you shouldn't make it a regular behavior. Seems like a lot of folks here do; they are the ones I am saying are not true movie lovers.
115. I am not looking down on people for thinking differently. I am looking down on them for stealing content.
116. i didn't realise you were the leader of the world and decide what we do with our lives.
117. Oh good heavens.



118. So, [Name], I guess the theaters should switch to a "pay afterward, but only if you liked the movie" policy. If people can't see that they're not entitled to things just because they can't afford them, then I don't know what else to say. It's ridiculous logic. If I can't afford a steak dinner, is it okay to stick a Porterhouse down my pants the next time I go to the store? No, I wait till I can afford it, and if I can't afford it I make do with hamburger.
119. so every film you've ever seen you've paid for?
120. also if you are comparing this to buying a steak dinner? usually with restaurants if the steak is not suited to you then can bring you another or sometimes if you your money back, cinemas don't do that.
121. No, I've borrowed friends' discs and I've checked films out of the library. I've never pirated a film, but even if I had, that wouldn't make it right. So you're saying we should only pay for the films that suit us? If you're not liking a film after half an hour or so, most theaters will refund you. But if you watch the whole thing and don't like it, that's just life. You paid the ticket price, and the theater showed you the movie. That's the transaction. There isn't a quality guarantee, nor could there ever be.
122. I'm sorry but hve you never broke the law? In any way shape or form? Well I have if you class this a legitimate crime, and I will continue to do so, I'm not gonna pay for every film j watch because I have millions of films I want to watch and it will cost me a fortune, that's my opinion and my life to choose what I do, so just accept you aren't going to change people's opinions
123. Movie piracy is not fine and I'm not justifying what I do SOME of the time but when a films release is not for another few weeks in my country only then do I stream...
124. Let's just agree to disagree about this topic. 🙄
125. I have acquired a couple of films by other means when the UK release was either astonishingly expensive or non-existent. I tend towards the mind set that I will not condemn downloading, as ling as those doing it are suitably ashamed. What annoys me is those who are oblivious, or evn proud, of stealing from the creators of the work they are enjoying.
126. I'll never believe anyone who says they've never watched a pirated movie though. Ever. Even if it was just the once, it was still done.
127. I never have and never will.
128. I stream via an Android TV Box with Kodi installed. I spend an awful lot of money on the film industry, enough to more than double or even triple some film fans on a yearly basis. Let's not forget it's illegal to lend a movie too but no one gets on their high-horse over that. The movies I stream I wouldn't have paid to watch most of the time so they'd not have got my money either way. Sometimes if it's a great movie I'll always buy it anyway. I streamed The Revenant but still paid £15 to see in IMAX. What I find very interesting is that when it comes to the billion dollar type releases like Star Wars there's no streams other than shitty cam-corder ones which you'd never watch anyway? If the major production companies want to deny screener copies from ending up on the web they seem to achieve it. I don't think they really care.
129. you summed that up in the best way possible.
130. It's a mine field dude. I'm with Peter on this one, people will comment to sound whiter than white on this while smoking a reefer and contributing to the funding of terrorism etc. Streaming is here to stay...oh shit, I didn't put my seatbelt on earlier when I ran up the shop...oooops!
131. yeah there is a big discussion on one of my comments about it, i just think its a cheaper way to watch whatever you want, people these days cannot afford to go the cinema at 9 pound every time, i personally have a 6 page of films i want to see if i

- brought all of them then watched it would cost me a fortune! i have lots of dvds but only the films i love, if i stream a film I'm not going to waste money if the films bad and i can sit back and not worry weather or not the film was worth the 9 pound!
132. Why do you think you have a right to see everything you want to see? In the pre-internet days, there were way more movies I wanted to see than I could afford to. I guess I should have sneaked in the theater or stolen some money somewhere so I could exercise my "right" to see everything I wanted to. By the way, I've never heard that it's illegal to lend a movie. It would be illegal to charge people to come over and watch a Blu Ray, but if you lend your copy of Frozen to your mom, you're not breaking any laws.
133. It's classed as distribution dude
134. "The copyright in this video recording and artwork is owned by Sony Pictures. Warning: all rights reserved. Unauthorized copying, reproduction, hiring, lending, public performance and broadcasting prohibited" Sorry [Name] but you're a law breaker too.
135. Was all the porn you've seen in your life bought and paid for? C'mon now don't be shy, we're all grown ups here!
136. Sorry, [Name], lending a DVD is perfectly legal. I looked it up. It's covered under the "first-sale doctrine." If you legally purchase a copyrighted work, you have the right to loan or sell it. That's why the government isn't bringing charges against libraries or against a buddy of mine for lending me his copy of Guardians of the Galaxy.
137. And the porn?
138. Bought and paid for I hope 😬
139. If you can't be right, be funny, is that it? Yes, the porn is all bought and paid for, on your mom's credit card. 😊 And that's just a joke. I honestly have no real anger over this issue. Clearly, people are gonna happily keep breaking the law. I just wish they'd be honest (with themselves, I mean) and realize that for all their justifications, it's still stealing, and it negatively impacts the art form we all purport to love.
140. I admit it's stealing [Name]. What makes me laugh is when people like to point it out in a way that makes them appear to be whiter than white in a public forum like their poohs don't stink. If you're telling me you've never seen a pirate video of anything I'll laugh myself to sleep.
141. Come to think of it, I've seen a few discs that a friend lent me of some classic foreign language films that are literally unavailable in any legal form because of screwy rights issues or lack of copyright holder interest. But in those cases no one's bottom line is affected and there's no legal alternative. If that's enough to qualify me as a hypocrite or cause my heretofore sweet-smelling pooh to stink, so be it. But ripping off a copy of The Revenant or whatever because you lack the discipline to save a few bucks for a matinee ticket or a digital rental is a different kettle of fish.
142. I watched it in IMAX two weeks after streaming, must have been guilt.
143. mind if I ask you about your Kodi box? I currently have a hard drive that I play my media files off , however it only has a simple file browser for selecting your files, looks rubbish , if I connected it to a Kodi box , then that to a TV , would I get the better looking library type browser I've seen images of? or is it only for streaming stuff off the internet?
144. I always remember that in the VHS days it was common practice and not taboo to copy movies.
145. What a load of shit. People have pirated films for decades, and the industry is still booming.
146. Independent film makers will always find creative ways of making movies, and will maybe get even more creative as time goes on with less funds? But piracy has always been there.

147. Piracy has always been there, but never on the scale that the Internet makes possible. That's why it's a bigger problem now.
148. All illegal and immoral acts have "always been there." I can't bring myself to think of following the law as "a load of shit."
149. Illegal and immoral? We are talking about movies here for fuck sake, not murder.
150. Oh, is theft now legal and moral? I hadn't heard. Great news, pirates!
151. I'm not going to murder you, so you should be okay with giving me your wallet.
152. and realistically, who downloads independent movies anyhow?
153. In the article I posted, Kramer's Running Scared was watched 200,000 times illegally on YouTube. And that's just one half-forgotten film.
154. people who pirate also buy more, so meh.
155. What do a lot of people do? They watch a movie at the cinema, or at home, or pirate it some how....And what happens when they love that film? In a lot of cases they go out and buy it if they are truly into it.
156. you goddamn right
157. Netflix is like 8 bucks a month, folks. So's Hulu. The public library usually has tons of DVDs for check-out. It's not the end of the world if you have to wait a year to see the latest Marvel movie. It's just a pain in the ass, which isn't typically considered a solid defense for stealing.
158. To add to this, TONS of movies are available on iTunes, Amazon, and Google Play for streaming. The account is free, and you pay 3 or 4 bucks to rent a movie, sometimes less for older movies. Plenty of very convenient and legal options out there.
159. But [Name], that's 4 bucks I could spend at my favorite coffee place for a beverage I know I'll enjoy. What if I paid 4 bucks for a movie and didn't like it! How would that be fair? I mean, look, there will always be things in the world that you don't like. Like murder. That's just the way it is. So for you to get on your high horse and judge people for stealing and murdering and whatnot is simply not realistic. Sheesh.
160. I've gone the digital route as of lately. Significantly cheaper and a wide variety of streaming services to cater to your tastes
161. That doesn't address the issue of piracy though. There are plenty of legit digital sources. Just saying 'digital' says nothing of legitimacy.
162. Pretty sure he's just saying that services like Netflix, Hulu and iTunes are widely available (though not everywhere, I know) and don't cost much. So it's not like piracy is the only inexpensive choice for movie lovers.
163. "Legal" services. Netflix, Vudu, Mubi, Fandor, etc.
164. I am saying it right now: even if I love a film, I have no inclination to watch it again. If I were to pirate, I probably wouldn't buy afterwards, no matter how good.
165. I'm a saint. I have NEVER EVER EVER downloaded a movie or watched anything illegally. Piracy is STEALING ...you wouldn't steal a car would you? I'm sorry that all your poos smell like shit cause mine smell (and taste) like unicorn candy !
166. Everybody has either stolen something, exceeded a speeding limit, dropped litter, smoked weed or physically weed in a public place or broken the law in some shape or form.
167. Of course. But what's your point? Abolish laws because they're going to be broken anyway? Or that anyone who has broken a law of any kind has given up their right to think certain acts are wrong?
168. Neither, but pointing the 'it's stealing' finger gives an air of pompous saintliness which ignites my 'I'll have fun with you sunshine' button.
169. I guess, but I don't find it nearly as pompous as the entitled attitude that drips off so many of the piracy advocates.
170. That's very true

171. Here's a good one. I bought 'The Accused' about 10 years ago on DVD and fancied watching the other night. I quickly checked to see if an HD stream existed. Having found a 720p version on-line I watched that instead. Now that could be known as a piracy paradox.
172. bahahaha! Piracy paradox lol
173. Good name for a band
174. Great name for a band
175. I am not against it. though when it comes to music I do try to buy it when I have the money. but for movies the people who actually worked on the movie generally already get paid before the film comes out and they generally don't get royalties or anything so fuck it
176. Uh, yeah, people tend to get paid for their work, that's true. (Although not always, as the article by director Wayne Kramer that I posted above proves; salaries are often deferred, at least in part, to keep budgets down for films that might otherwise have been impossible to finance). I got a paycheck when I managed a record store, but we still frowned on shoplifters. It's the profits from the films that make it possible for more films to get made. Anything that eats into the profits is a problem, and is a factor in the rising price of tickets (which are still kind of a bargain for a couple of hours of entertainment).
177. my point is anyone who is important to the filmmaking process, which is what I care about, and isn't solely a money hungry jerk, makes their money not from sales. which is why music is different for me and i pay for it once I have the money to
178. I wanted to comment earlier but I there's no wifi on the open seas.
179. It's really hard to read rules because not only do they keep getting bent or broken by the government and corporations...but also because I have a patch covering 1 eye.

180.



181.

182. Most of the time the film industry only has itself to blame,i use an android box with kodi and most of the time its for tv series that dont get shown in the uk or delayed by a year.Also goes for movies,most of what i watch is because its been delayed,anything from John Wick,6 month delay gap,Creed 2 months,the list goes on,if movies where released simultaneously then we wouldn't have to find other ways to watch them.
183. <https://media4.giphy.com/media/SSmDlehhBmGvm/200w.gif>



184.

185. Never 'streamed' (is that really what we're calling it now?), bought or watched a pirated movie. Never will. I don't see the point in cheating myself on something that I love. That simple

186. Can you imagine how many films people would have lying around if we bought each and every one we watched just to satisfy the holier than thou types? 🤔🤔🤔🤔

187. So...having a physical film collection is a bad thing and paying to see a movie makes me a holier than thou type? You're insane.

188. I'd probably have a walk-in closet

189. I'm against it where possible. I'm fortunate enough to be able to afford import costs and know how to bypass region locks, but anyone with my expensive taste for rare non-Hollywood films not available outside their respective countries as far as I'm concerned gets a free pass. I am, however, against Netflix on moral grounds, and there are no other streaming services where I live. That being said, once my first feature film is finished, please feel free to pirate it. I don't expect it to get a wide release outside Europe.

190. When will it release

191. My documentary project will finish in Summer 2016, my feature film is currently in casting and I hope will finish by Summer 2017

192. You have any trailer or just a clip, so i can see example?

193. There's unfortunately nothing I'm allowed to show publicly at this time.

194. Who and how many are you working with? Is the title on IMDb?

195. On the documentary project, roughly 11 members of staff. The feature film is currently in casting and full-time staff has not been finalized.

196. What's the feature films title and plot?

197. Working title is "Apostates" and the story is about a woman whose best friend shoots himself, and her following obsession with the events surrounding his suicide, particularly how and where he got the gun in the first place (which are very hard to find and get a license for in this country).

198. Sounds pretty interesting. Surely i will watch it, if i get the chance mate

199. Thanks. I look forward to the critique.

200. Just hit me up, when you get updates

201. Considering people are against Piracy on the grounds that film-makers lose money, what is everyone's stance on pre-owned sales?

202. Can't see a problem... watched, unwanted items have gotta go somewhere. Where better than to someone who wants them?

203. It's perfectly legal to sell pre-owned discs, so no problem.


204. i download and have a cineworld unlimited card ... best of both worlds

205. Good Question these were all ex rentals and 90% of my collection is from pre owned



206.

207. Sooo.. anyone know when a proper torrent of Deadpool will be leaked? And when the blu ray will be released?
208. thats the only film I WONT dontload, the dvd extras will be amazing, seen it twice at the cinema
209. Seen it twice too, and i will buy the blu ray, but before it comes out, i will download to watch it again, you understand?
210. yeah, ive been pretty reserved about not downloading it
211. I respect that
212. I have culture curzon membership and Netflix, Amazon and Mubi accounts. Only time I watch films illegally is when they are obscure European films which are illegally placed on YouTube and aren't available in the UK
213. I don't download films illegally because as a massive film fan I respect the time and effort that goes into making any film, even if it's a movie that is god awful the people that made still put time and effort into making it
214. except fantastic four, because fuck fantastic four!
215. no i am not against pirating at all.
216. Are there other acceptable forms of theft, or just this one?
217. yeah, actual products are unacceptable. a long stream of 0's and 1's i couldn't give two shits about.
218. i go to the cinema, pay for blu rays, have netflix and amazon prime as well, but i still have no problem with piracy.
219. Those 0's and 1's are consumed in the same manner as a physical disc. The product is the movie, regardless of format.
220. but there is no theft of any physical object. so it is not the same. at all. i mean, you can think it is if you want, that is up to you, but it isn't. the majority of people who pirate would not have paid for it either way, so the only difference really is that they see something that they wouldn't have paid for, the studios are losing nothing.
221. It's not up to me, or even you. The law defines it as theft. If not of a physical object, then copyrighted intellectual property. You do realize piracy is illegal, don't you? People can self-justify however they want, but they shouldn't kid themselves into thinking they're not breaking the law.
222. who says that they think they aren't breaking the law? drugs are breaking the law as well. some people just don't care about the law
223. I realize that. And people who admit that are at least being honest (no pun intended). But you'll forgive me if I'm not exactly impressed with people who feel entitled to things they don't own just because they want them. That's the same logic as the guy who steals your car, even if there's no physical object involved.
224. That's different

225. it really isn't. its maybe along the same lines as people who download schematics and blueprints of a car to make their own, i'll give you that. but it isn't the same as stealing a car. and even if you do steal a car, it isn't harming the car manufacturers
226. Yes, a different kind of theft.
227. this is getting into semantics about types of theft. Unless these arguments have worked in front of a judge, it's kind of moot.
228. it would be a different situation if someone downloaded illegally with the intent of bootlegging and profiting from it. but most people download a movie once then delete it to make room. or stream it directly. it really isn't the same. and in a world where the profits of movies are literally skyrocketing year on year, i think the false flag that it is damaging the industry has to be dropped now. if you are a dolly grip, you are still going to get paid regardless.
229. but the discussion isn't about whether or not it is legal, we all know that it isn't. but you can probably count the amount of people prosecuted for downloading on both hands. no one cares, i don't even think the studios care. for example, not a movie i know, but the bosses at hbo are happy as a pig in shit that game of thrones is the most pirated tv show. they know it doesn't damage them and it is all publicity. and i mean, c'mon, don't you think its a bit of a coincidence that all the oscar nominated movie were leaked before the oscar season? it seems obvious to me that it is a studio leak. conspiracy theory? possibly, but it is a very plausible one
230. Yeah, and I likely wouldn't prosecute a downloader in the same way I would a pirate. As for no damage being done to the industry, tell it to Wayne Kramer. It may not damage Disney or whoever in a way they can't handle, but it effects everything from financing to ticket prices to one degree or another.
231. next time i see him i'll bring it up
232. Leaked movies probably do come from within the industry a lot of the time. There are thieves everywhere.
233. i'd put a guess that a lot of the time they come from the highest level
234. You never smoked a joint ever [Name]? That's against the law too...
235. I don't think he has
236. What about my piracy paradox?
237. Jerry, you sound like you'd be really fun at a party!
238. Wow, I didn't know all the cool kids were into stealing. I'll try to loosen up.
239. lol
240. Wah wah wah. I think the law actually has something to do with morality.
241. 

242.



1. I stream dumb Hollywood movies via Amazon, Xfinity On Demand, Netflix and Hulu 2. I always buy physical copies of more esoteric or independent releases 3. I buy those releases because they're fun to collect and I want to support true independent artists 4. Hollywood steals from the viewer 5. I'm not opposed to piracy in some cases because I don't really think stealing from Warner Brothers or AOL is wrong 6. I've only pirated a movie I have not seen through other legal ways twice in my life 7. I really do think if you pirate some movies then you're not a movie lover 8. Criterion, Kino, BFI, Arrow, Film Movement, Lorber, etc put a lot of effort into their releases and are not solely after your money 9. If you pirate those companies' releases then you're an asshole 10. Most of you are assholes anyway
243. nice ending there.

*source Q: Facebook group—Film Buffs—A question for Film Buffs...(March 2018)*

post:

A question for Film Buffs. What's the groups thoughts on torrenting/illegally streaming

films?



1. Personally I prefer to pay for/source films legitimately. Not only do I hate watching movies in poor quality, hence avoiding pirated movies, but also I believe if someone has put a lot of time, effort and money into something it's only right to pay for it. Piracy is in effect stealing. On the flip side to that though I do feel the distributors and cinemas don't help themselves by making some films difficult to see (and it's the same for certain TV shows). For example, my local cinema rarely shows anything other than blockbuster bilge so it's difficult to see the films I want on a legitimate viewing. Also the on-demand services such as Sky Movies, Netflix, Amazon Prime, etc. don't always have certain titles available or at a reasonable price. So, on that basis I do feel, as much as I tend not to go down the piracy route myself, if you're going to make it difficult for the audience to access your content do not be surprised if they steal it.
2. Personally I think that all those big film companies and multinationals like apple, amazon and Netflix are really annoying. They decide in what time frame I can watch certain movies, on what device I can watch them and which movies I may watch by in which part of the world I live. But I think this is not an excuse for illegal downloading. I think not paying for a film or series is stealing. And there are several ways to rebel against these big monsters in a legal way. Region code. Some film companies don't use them anymore, but if you buy second hand dvd's this may be a problem. The solution to this problem is buying a region free dvd player. I have a region free apple dvd player/writer hooked up to my computer. I buy region 1 dvd's via the internet. As I don't like to watch on my computer I've bought WinX DVD Ripper to rip the region 1 dvd's I bought, change NTSC to PAL and burn a dvd, so I can watch it in my comfy chair on the tele. Where I live the copyright law states that you're allowed to make one or two copies for personal use. Some say companies like Netflix only make certain films and series available for the American Netflix. This problem can also be solved in a legal way by getting a VPN subscription. This makes it possible to make Netflix believe you are in the US even though you're not. This only works if you have a Netflix subscription. So you're paying for Netflix, so why do they think they have the right to prevent you from watching certain films and series just based upon in which country you live. This sounds like discrimination to me. Then there's the I have no money argument for justifying illegal downloading. What's wrong with just being patient? I don't have money to buy all the new dvd's I want. I have to save up if I want to buy something. And I just think new dvd's are too expensive. So I wait till they become available second hand in internet or when I find them at a flea market or second hand shop. 😊
3. It's possible that for some properties Netflix doesn't have international streaming rights.
4. Ah, I didn't know that. But that's the decision of the film companies, I can imagine. Like the region code I never understood why they want to reduce the market when they can make more money by selling their product all over the world.
5. What if a Person dont like Netflix and Streaming or Streaming is not practical and DVDs/Theatres are overpriced, less selection and censored? Clearly atleast then Downloading is the option right?
6. Not in my opinion. I think people should get paid for their work. As I already stated I find that new DVD's and Cinema's are too expensive so I wait till a film is available second hand. I think with the internet nowadays I can buy almost every film or series I want. Even if the dvd hasn't been released in my country. I'm not sure how it works with censored films as I live in a country with no censorship. But I guess you can order an uncensored version of a film on line at a website in a country were there is no or less censorship. I doubt customs will open every package to see if there's an uncensored dvd in it. I wouldn't recommend it if you live in a country ruled by a dictator though. I get the feeling a lot of people illegally download because they are impatient, because it's easy

and it doesn't feel like a crime. I know I must sound like an old biddy, but I remember before the internet the joy of finding something I was looking for for a long time for. Finding that one book or comic that made my collection complete. Now you can buy almost everything within a second of a mouse click. Personally I missed the searching bit. But I try to control myself and be patient and a lot of times it pays off when I find a dvd, book or comic I want on a flea market for less of what it costs on the internet. But the patience bit is hard sometimes though I must admit. 😊

7. \*in David Bowie's voice I'm afraid I can't help it
8. nothing wrong with that
9. If it's my only option, I'll do it. A lot of foreign films are hard to come by.
10. I think that if it's not available on Amazon Instant or Netflix I will find it on YouTube or Vimeo or torrent
11. I'm against it. I don't care about the argument that the movie industry charges too much for their products.. I mean, seriously. Look at the movie credits and think about how much hard work goes into making a film. If you illegally download or stream a movie for free, you are a thief.
12. I have no other option for watching movies except for Torrenting.
13. Does anyone remember the days when they actually made films worth buying on DVD and Blu-ray?
14. Only do it if I know it's literally the only way for me to own a movie. My copies are I, Daniel Blake and Sunshine on Leith are bootlegs because they never got an American release
15. Besides the "I love films but I'm poor" concerns that I think a lot of people are going to raise here, copyright law in America has deep and fundamental problems that significantly harm artists that are smaller/less well established/less well funded. Because of this, it's important to support the channels which allow piracy to occur, because in many cases, they are the only thing keeping out-of-print works from being lost forever. That said, supporting the channels which allow piracy to occur does not necessarily mean pirating everything. Even if copyright law is well and truly ridiculous in its estimates of financial harm, it's still true that in many cases piracy does harm filmmakers, even if it often does so to a much smaller extent than Hollywood would have you believe. So, if there's a filmmaker involved in a project that you genuinely want to support, then supporting them financially by paying for their stuff is important. Also worth considering is the fact that not all films are affected by piracy equally. While big films can easily eat minor piracy losses, smaller indie films are less able to do so. Therefore, you should consider the impact that your decision to pirate has, not just in terms of how well you like and want to support the people involved, but in terms of how much of an impact choosing piracy would actually have. Finally, there are certain situations where paying or not paying for a film is itself making a statement. For example, if something unethical came out about the filmmaking process, and you have serious ethical reasons for not wanting to support the film, but are weighing those concerns against a strong desire to see the film, piracy is a decent way to split the baby. All in all, the decision to pirate something is a complicated and multi-faceted decision that I don't think can be answered by a simple pirate / don't pirate, but rather, needs to be addressed on a case-to-case and person-to-person basis.
16. DVDs cost too much, theatres have limited release in my country and ticket prices at least 2 times more than the avg ticket, TV sucks. So Torrenting all the way.
17. I usually buy the Blu-Ray/DVD but if I'm gonna be paying £30 for a shitty DVD I'll just watch it online.

18. Even if u do it, try to pay back the filmmaker in some way for example I am still a student so when I can earn by myself I will surely buy blu rays of all those great films I watched especially the indie ones
19. Usually, the success of a film is decided by box-office receipts... By the time a film is released on DVD, it already has a gross figure attributed to it, so any films downloaded from Pirate Bay don't really have that much effect on its success... Back in the dark days before DVD and VHS, all profits from a film came SOLELY from box office receipts; home video was merely the icing on the cake in terms of profit... This is why pirating hasn't killed the industry like the doom mongers foretold... In fact, the box office has never been so healthy...
20. its there so why not
21. Here's another argument. Until artists start caring how much the consumer is being gouged by Cable and theater companies; I could care less about their compensation. It's getting ridiculous. The most progressive artists are embracing the movement. The only time I feel like it's actually important is when it comes to someone like Shane Carruth, who funds everything himself, including distribution. But even he supports free sharing I believe.
22. I would counter that by saying that movies are more readily accessible and cheaper than they've ever been. Between MoviePass, Netflix and renting services, I can watch as many movies as I want in the cinema, as well as almost any movie I can think of online for just over \$20 a month.
23. There's nothing even remotely similar to MoviePass here in Germany
24. Yeah, unfortunately, I was really just talking about the US.
25. Litteraly stealing
26. litteraly cant be. If I steal an apple, you have one less apple. If i torrent a movie you still have a movie.
27. Its legally classed as stealing therefore it is
28. Where in the world is it classed as theft?
29. Stealing: to take (another person's property) without permission or legal right and without intending to return it. Doesn't mention making copies of a thing.... At all.
30. It's piracy, not theft. Still not legal.
31. "not legal" let us pick that one apart... 😊 The police won't prosecute you. The ISP will write to you and say "stop it" they will do that 3x and then they will stop sending letters. Not legal implies it's not illegal. If it was illegal, you would say that.
32. It is illegal, but enforcement is spotty and the punishments usually not severe (unless you've done it a whole lot). Jaywalking is also rarely enforced, but still illegal. The moral question is another matter. Surely the absence of punishment doesn't automatically make it "okay" to do something.
33. ummmm jaywalking isn't a UK thing. I don't know that it gets prosecuted in the US that often. In the US filesharing isn't a felony or a misdemeanour. It is a civil matter. its right up there with "I should have told my landlord I have a dog" Morality? You brought that up. You can be as "moral" as you like, just don't pretend those are the rules everyone should live by.
34. I don't do it unless it's something not widely available. Almost anything you want to see can be streamed or rented by mail these days. Something like MoviePass makes it easier than ever to see movies cost-effectively in theaters. If your stance is that you shouldn't have to pay ANYTHING for movies, I don't think that's ethically tenable. Ultimately there are people who work hard on these films and who should be compensated. And yes, my stance is U.S. centric. I understand that people in other countries may have more

- troubles with distribution. That's why I say it's more acceptable if the work is unavailable for purchase.
35. I used to torrent or rip my friends collection. Torrenting allowed me to consume more content but it didn't help with my love for film due to poor quality and no special features. I stopped torrenting several years ago and pay for or buy all movies I see. Good or bad. Now, my addiction of buying movies has pretty much taken over my life lol but has also rejuvenated my love for film. When I'm near my collection I can't stop staring at it... theres something about building my collection that gives me a quarter chub.
  36. I'm hard against it since it's effectively stealing. When you buy a DVD, you're not paying for the object of a disc and box. You're paying for the ability to watch the film. Just because you're not taking a physical thing when you stream, doesn't stop it from being stealing. Label aside, it's taking money from the people who make it so people earn less and less people are employed.
  37. I'd sooner stay street legal but the fault is the movie industry for overpricing their products and failing to grasp new trends until way too late
  38. Oh yeah, most DVD's going for £3 or less is a nightmare...
  39. New films on DVD or Blu-ray still go for £14-22, but you missed my second point. Hollywood got into legal streaming 5 years too late.
  40. New films, yes which is why I wait a year or less for them to go down.
  41. Sad but true....here movie tickets and new release films at daft prices.
  42. Indeed, cinema used to be cheap entertainment. Not any more. Tickets are routinely £11+ and far more in London. As an amateur actor, I'm pleased to tell you you can see a live show on the amateur stage for much less! 😊
  43. In Australia our tickets were getting as high as \$25-30 dollars (approx upto £15 ) which is stupid as when you pay for a family to go its a big deal and usually not often. That said I took a recent trip to the cinema and saw a film for \$18 (so £9 ish)...
  44. Its a difficult question. The majority of the time I use streaming to watch a film not out in my country yet or streaming exclusive type films which won't be released on a format or rare films I just can't find. However the guilt does set in. Most people wouldn't want to have blu rays taking up shelf space unless you are collectors and cinephiles like us and I can understand that but at least stream or rent legally instead of going to 123movies and such. Governments like my own Australian government are already being a nanny country and blocking free streaming and torrenting websites. That tells you that the ethical message isn't getting through. Do you even pay attention to the "recording of video prohibited" messages in a cinema? Do you even pay attention to the "thank you for legally buying this movie and not pirating" message when watching a DVD? nope you probably just skip past that and the trailers but at least you most likely got a hold of a movie legally. Point is is that if you can obtain a movie ethically and legally then do the right thing where budget allows....Secondly last week I picked up an almost brand new copy of Brawl in Cell Block 99 on Blu-ray from a pawn broker for around \$5. Where was Vince Vaughan's share of the profit from that escapade? Heaps of us posting on film buffs about cheap scores from second hand dealers but a director won't even see a cent of that profit eh?
  45. Original sale = profit. Pawn store sales is resale. No one loses out in that scenario. It is if you buy a bootleg or stolen copy its an issue financially. I am a huge collector with a large collection (as in video attached) but I see both sides.
  46. For independent films its never good to stream films purely because sales are their lifeblood. They work twice as hard and on half or less of a budget, so why penalize them because of laziness. That said big budget Hollywood affairs depends. If the film is a quality film and not another churned out chewed up and spat out pos like half the dribble

out now. Then perhaps it aint so bad. I used to torrent a lot because we miss some important releases downunder and why should I wait 4 months more, plus our cinemas were very expensive, and I ask why we have to pay over the top shipping fees to catch up with the rest of the world? Seemed silly not to in that case. However ticket prices are finally dropping here little by little and I can get a fair few things quick on demand now, so as I said it is a rarity for me.

47. Is it wrong? Yes. Do I do it. Yes. Will I stop? No. But I only do it for films that have been out for years/months not recent ones
48. It's a tricky issue and one without a right answer tbh. Answers on both sides have many justified angles. For me, I say go for it. The current environment enables greater consumption than ever, so why not make use of it? I wouldn't be able to see more than half as many films as I do without it. I know I'm not entitled to see them, but I think it's fair game to. Like currently I'm watching an illegitimately acquired copy of Melville's 'Second Breath'. That film doesn't even have any distributed copies here, so I'm left with very little choice because I wanted to see it. By extension, a lot of world cinema either hasn't got Region 2 distribution, or it is incredibly expensive. It's unfairly priced compared to mainstream film, so it's like being punished for wanting to enrich your cultural capital! Ah well, perhaps I'm just an entitled millennial who expects everything for nothing, but it has been a god-send for mass-consumption of film.
49. Those arguments that it killed the music industry are just WRONG (and pretty laughable)
50. It's part of evolution. The ones truly thriving aren't fighting against it, the best artists are actually embracing it.
51. Totally disrespectful to the artists IMO. I also think that as a viewer, paying for a ticket increases your enjoyment / appreciation of the art.
52. There's no right to see every movie you want to see. When I was growing up, the issue was moot, because there was no internet or home video. If you wanted to see a movie, you had to see it in the theater or when it came to TV, which might take years. On the upside, local TV channels showed lots of movies, especially in the non-prime time hours. When VHS came in and video stores opened, it was a godsend for film buffs. Today's cinephiles don't really have much excuse for torrenting (I'm talking mostly U.S. here; I know the situation is worse for those in India and other countries). Most streaming services are reasonably priced. You can rent innumerable titles for around 3 or 4 dollars a pop. Redbox is even cheaper, and libraries charge nothing (except late fees). If you (or your parents) have a cable subscription, particularly if it includes Turner Classics or HBO (or other premium channel), you'll have plenty of choices there. I'm against illegal means as a matter of principle, but I do think there's no harm in seeking out rare films that for whatever reason are being kept out of the marketplace by their rights holders. If they've decided there's no compelling reason to make a film available to the paying public, then they are in effect forgoing profit, so checking out a stream of it on YouTube or some other site doesn't bother me (some may feel otherwise). There's a difference between saying "I can't see this film because it's never been legally released in a consumer format" and "I can't see this film because I don't want to spend \$2.00 at a Redbox kiosk." And if your problem is that you don't have \$2.00, well, there are a great many things you do without when you're broke, and somehow your life goes on.
53. Some extra quick thoughts I'd like to throw in. I sometimes go to my local libraries because they have DVD copies of movies to rent for free as long as you return them on time. It's a great way to save money on movies while also supporting your local library. So if you live in a city with a library feel free to stop in sometime to rent some movies from it. I'm hoping in the future libraries will have more streaming services around to. I believe LA and NYC libraries let you stream some movies already.
54. Good reminder!

55. I will say, this seems to be a strictly US thing. UK libraries charge for rentals.
56. I actually borrow more DVDs than books!
57. I did during college (I was a broke wannabe filmmaker, give me a break) and I did a little post college until I got slapped with a strike from my service provider... haven't in 2 years.
58. I'm a filmmaker based out of Chicago founder & head of **Twilight City Studios**. There's multiple ways you could support my studio. One of them is donating at least \$1 on patreon. Another is buying a movie I worked on called **A Clearer Picture** behind a paywall on VHX, subsidiary of Vimeo, another is subscribing to the Youtube channel. I'm at 317 subs right now and I need to get pass 1,000 in order to get monetization back on Youtube since Youtube took away my partnership. So yes all of you here who have Youtube accounts please subscribe to the Twilight City Studios Youtube account.
59. If you could get say, half of Film Buffs to follow you, how much would you get back?
60. If half of Film Buffs subscribed on Youtube that would totally be enough to get the partnership back on Youtube.
61. When I was a kid, we we get hold of pirate VHS videos and share them round among friends - everyone did it at the time and we didn't see that that we were doing anything wrong. We would still go to the cinema as a night out and still rented from video shops - so we didn't feel watching the odd pirate vhs was the end of the world. Now that I'm older and the wiser I have a more understanding of the economics of the industry and also I have developed a few moral fibres. It's funny how people don't see software, films and music downloads as stealing - but not paying for it is depriving the artists/owners/publishers etc of the money that they earn to feed their families as it were. I don't know anyone who hasn't at some point downloaded a tune/used a piece of iffy software given by a friend on a CD or watched a pirate - same as I don't know anyone who hasn't driven 35 in a 30, or eaten a few grapes from their basket walking round waitrose ....people don't see these things as criminal - it's 'not really breaking the law' because 'everybody does it'. We had a discussion in the pub a couple of weeks ago and after a few drinks most people owned up that the main reason they dont download films/software or music from pirate sites is because they are worried about viruses and malware - and not because of any feelings of moral obligation to the owners of the material.
62. Usually against it especially for indie filmmakers.
63. It's unstable and the quality is crap. I have a "box" but I never use it.
64. Damn dude that Kodi stuff is awful.
65. I stream. It's enabled me to see films that I've been unable to find anywhere up until now, films I've always wanted to watch. I know what I'm looking for though and I almost always go on to buy the films I stream on Blu-ray. That's never not going to be a thing. I love my collection and I'm proud of it....like everyone else on here is of theirs. I still go to the cinema but rarely. Blade Runner 2049 on IMAX was the last time. Only the must-sees.
66. I'd say it's about 90-10 for me. I watch most movies in the theatre, on bluray or via Netflix or other (legal) streaming providers. I work and I count movies as a hobby I like to spend money on. It's a matter of availability, though, so if there's a movie that won't play near me or be available any other way, I'll stream it. Haven't downloaded a movie in over five years now - if I want to own it, I buy a physical copy (or two, if there's special editions or a nice artwork). 😊
67. It's terrible, stealing and I think poorly upon anyone who does it. I also do it myself... but only when other avenues of viewing aren't viable.

68. It can't be stealing, literally can't. If I steal an apple, you have one less apple.  
If I torrent a film you still have the film.
69. If you have a creative idea, and I use it to make money, you still have your idea. Is that stealing? What if everyone torrented? Is it stealing then, if the filmmaker still has his film, and no money, but everyone's watched it? I just think that torrenting/streaming is irresponsible - it lays the responsibility of supporting artists and the industry onto the shoulders of other people who are willing to pay.
70. Nah your are blaming the customer and engaging in speculative hypotheticals. Try again.
71. At least give me the time of day to respond to what I said.
72. ok: Copyright infringement is not theft. You cant steal an idea in law. Calling it so don't make it so. If everyone torrented? Thats your idea not mine - its reductio ad absurdum. You want to chase that straw man? have fun. You think something is irresponsible...ok.. but you have no evidence to cite harm. I have a 307 page report that says it does no harm.
73. At least read the report... Ok ? [https://cdn.netzpolitik.org/.../09/displacement\\_study.pdf](https://cdn.netzpolitik.org/.../09/displacement_study.pdf)  
**CDN.NETZPOLITIK.ORG** netzpolitik.org
74. Thank you for your response. Just because there's no law against something, doesn't make it "right," though. I'm not arguing law, but morality. I also disagree about my point being reductio ad absurdum. I'm extrapolating. I guess it comes down to what sort of moral code you attend to.
75. LOL you are claiming something is stealing, thats a legal term. When I read "morally " something is wrong thats fine.. just don't try and impose your morals on anyone else.
76. Morally I object to being ripped off... Remember when you had loads of movies on VCR and the movie companies came round and replaced them on DVD? Yeah me neither....
77. Yep. You're right about my mixed semantics, there, although pirating is illegal. I wasn't trying to impose my morals - just present them. I apologise if it came across differently.
78. lol where is it illegal? You seem to be mixing up your terminology. It's not a felony or misdemeanour is it? It's a licencing issue. Thats contract law dispute resolution its a matter for civil suit. its up there with " failure to let a landlord know you have a dog" As opposed to Murder.
79. I have to go, but I'll try to get back to you on this. Thanks!
80. See, I'm the kind of guy who wouldn't hide a dog 😊 I guess that's what it boils down to. Thanks for the discussion.
81. asking the question "what if everyone torrented?" is not, as you say, a straw man. In fact it is a paraphrase of Kant's test of the Universalised Maxim. In Kant's ethics, the way to determine if something is right or wrong is to consider what the impact would be if everyone did it. I wouldn't like 7b people to spit gum on the street every day, so I won't spit my gum on the street. However if 7b people all cleaned up a piece of rubbish on their way to work, it would be fantastic, so I think I'll do that. This is a way of trying to understand which actions are "right" and "wrong" without consideration of laws, which vary over time and across nations.
82. I was actually thinking of Kant and deontology! I just wasn't sure I wanted to go there 😊
83. Except as you know - Kant (who is hideously limited) is on about "absolute goodness" and not "relative goodness" (so its really only of use or value to an impartial, rational spectator taking pleasure in contemplating the good) So It's clear to even a casual observer there is a fundamental issue with making a thing "good" without qualification or further analysis. There is no obvious answer to the "what happens if everyone will stream movies" Except - "everyone will have the movies"
84. best to avoid it, its a terrible argument.
85. Haha. I disagree there, but I figured it would muddy up the focus of the discussion.

86. yeah, thats what people usually say when they have no actual argument. Best to read the detailed rebuttal, I had to simplify it for the audience 😊
87. Sorry we audience members don't live up to your intellectual standards, Art. Way to propagate a good online discussion 😊
88. the answer of course would not be "everyone will have movies" but rather "nobody will have movies because there would be no film industry. Art requires investment to flourish. You may certainly disagree with Kant's ethics. Perhaps you prefer egoism? But to say that it's a straw man is quite ridiculous. It's a very valid way of determining how to live a right life, and many people employ it.
89. Nope we have gone from misunderstanding and misrepresenting Kant to "Cats and Dogs will Marry." Literally, the only thing you can say that is true if everyone downloaded movies, would be " everyone would have movies" Any other consequences are speculative. I don't have to agree with Kant, I just have to understand if its applicable to the discussion. It's a simple test: Does it drive the conversation forwards or am i not getting this?
90. Cats and Dogs will Marry?? You've lost me there I'm afraid.
91. Yeah thats what happens when you make up consequences to confirm your bias.
92. Ahh I misremembered the quote:  
<https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Ghostbusters...> EN.WIKIQUOTE.ORG Ghostbusters - Wikiquote
93. Ahhh, I follow now. Thanks.
94. There is a really thorough report on piracy stating it has no impact at all.  
[https://cdn.netzpolitik.org/.../09/displacement\\_study.pdf](https://cdn.netzpolitik.org/.../09/displacement_study.pdf)
95. I've seen reports saying the opposite so results are a mixed bag.
96. Great I watched your trailer... hit me up when you have read this report!
97. In all seriousness I think all methods are viable in their own ways. I watch films illegally sometimes cause its hard to afford everything and some things arnt easy to get hold of.
98. Pirating has pretty much ended in the music world, it's down hugely. Was it fines? Was it next gen crypto? No. 99c tracks and Spotify. Change the model, stop overcharging your customers it becomes a non issue.
99. THIS!
100. Ok than maybe you could buy one of my movies [Name]
101. its it reasonably priced?
102. Only \$1 to buy & \$0.99 to rent <https://twilightcitystudios.vhx.tv/buy/a-clearer-picture> TWILIGHTCITYSTUDIOS.VHX.TV A Clearer Picture
103. TRT is 45 minutes
104. Here's a trailer [Name] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFEsUoy2-sI> YOUTUBE.COM "A Clearer Picture" Trailer
105. In US dollars just to clarify.
106. Nahh bro - but ill happily chip into a Kickstarter. I'm sure you are very talented and I hope everyone here watches the trailer and makes up their own mind on your work.
107. You could also contribute to the [Patreon](#) for my own studio.
108. Could contribute at least \$1 on a monthly basis to [Twilight City Studios](#)
109. Up to you of course I appreciate your support. I also plan on doing Indiegogo fundraisers. <https://www.patreon.com/twilightcitystudios> PATREON.COM Twilight City Studios is creating films, videos, and other media | Patreon
110. Anyone who does it is the devil. I stay away from that sinful shit!!!!
111. I use it as a last resort if I really, really wanna see something. HOWEVER, if I love the film enough, I will legally buy it on Blu-ray (or if it gets a theatrical release, see it again theatrically so I can give it my money).



112. I torrent all the time. As for blockbuster films, I also sneak into them all of the time as well. Personally, if I was a filmmaker. I would want people to see my films by any means necessary.
113. lol
114. perfect logic
115. Do it, man! Art should be free for all.
116. Artists should be able to feed themselves.
117. True, but all artists especially indie ones need exposure too. The ones who made it don't need our money, I suppose.
118. But it's the indie artists that need the money more than anyone. That's like the photographer who's told he won't get paid, but he'll get "great exposure." I guarantee he'd rather take the money. Besides, the ones who made it are still supported by an enormous network of little guys who haven't made it, and need money as much as anyone. Not to mention the middle-men who sell the movies and run the theatres. Torrenting is just a big middle finger to every single person down the production line.
119. Look, we don't even have easy access to DVDs here for example. I watch films in cinemas but sometimes I want to have them on my computer. I bet most of the films I watch now I wouldn't have been able to watch if I was so against torrenting. It's a matter of availability above all. I do respect what you are trying to say and I for one want to be a filmmaker one day and I would obviously want to be able to feed myself in the process no matter how much I respect art and want to make it for it's own sake. But in a utopia, I would love for art to be available for all and for artists to not have to struggle to make it. I think the problem is bigger than this, it's the capitalism behind it all.
120. I can appreciate that. I'm not sure I would blame capitalism, but I see what you're saying.
121. If you want movies that cost more than a few thousand dollars to produce, you need capitalism. No one is going to spend millions of dollars on a film and then put it out into the world for free with no chance of profit.
122. I buy 99% of the time. I like to see physical items on my shelves. Now and again I stream but I never download. I don't even know one single site to download movies from.
123. Mixed, like for example Interstellar was the most pirated film of 2015 so I thought it was awful it didn't make more money but at the same it means more people see it...
124. I avoid it as a personal rule. Especially since I started getting into filmmaking, I just think it disrespects the artists and the work they've put into their films.
125. (As pretentious as that sounds 😊)
126. it's not pretentious and it's actually a reasonable and justified opinion especially for you getting into filmmaking.
127. Filmmakers should be getting paid for their work.
128. Filmmakers don't work free!!
129. I do love a DVD. So if it's something I love, I will buy it. But in our house, we stream. The movie theaters show one original version movie a week. On a Tuesday. At 9pm. It's like giving a heroin addict a fag to satiate their habit.
130. My family have always been poor, and so I've learnt to torrent movies. That being said, I buy a whole lot of films too, I must own almost 1000, and I go to the theatre quite often.
131. FBI is getting creative these days...
132. You sussed me out man! They have a marvellous benefits package...

133. Couldn't afford to buy all the films I watch but I buy all the films I love. On the other hand, buying 2nd helps the industry just as much as streaming films. I know, terrible arguments, but I love films too much not to watch new ones and I couldn't if I wouldn't stream
134. Since it's nearly impossible to find original Blu-ray's/DVD's in my country, I kinda have to torrent to watch movies. I do see all of the new ones in the cinema though. I torrent only the new ones that don't release here. I would really love to see an A24 film in the cinema, but they never get a release here.
135. If you live in India most of the times you don't have much options other than downloading a torrent
136. For indie films
137. Well if every film I want to watch is made available in some format in my region, I won't use torrents but then I read that PTA himself has never subscribed to any streaming services. He used his friend's account to watch, lol!
138. I do it for old films, never new ones.
139. Mainly older ones for me too. 70's and 80's classics I should have seen and haven't. Streaming is a dream come true for that. I buy 'em on Blu-ray if I love 'em, which I nearly always do. Just wish they'd scrap region coding, it's pointless now and for a collector, a complete pain in the ass.
140. If I can buy the film, I will. If I can't, I'll use the internet
141. Don't care about them. I prefer quality DVDs and BluRays. But not everyone has money/time/opportunity to buy everything.
142. You can torrent DVDs and blues rays
143. But I can't torrent them on my shelf. 😂
144. Still doesn't compare to the real thing... I am easily distracted. I need smooth crisp quality.
145. The quality for a digital bluray is the same as hard copy. Or do you mean you like to physically have something?
146. I mean streaming (even with highest internet speeds) is still not consistent.
147. If it's a film I really wanna see then torrenting over streaming
148. Torrenting has changed. I don't even know where to go anymore.
149. The pirate bay is still around...that's what I heard 😏
150. Last time I tried it wasn't the same kind of process. I got confused and gave up. Ah well. My collection will just keep growing...
151. I hate that I do it but I can't afford to be buying every film I wanna see

*source R: Facebook group—Film Buffs—I'd like to bring film piracy into the limelight...(February 2017)*

post:

I'd like to bring film piracy into the limelight. Films are going out of print because of illegal downloading, sharing and pirate copies. It is not a victimless crime. Piracy is eroding the industry and film buffs should be leaders in prevention of piracy.

1. I never download I prefer physical media , but as I live in a rural area nowhere a cinema then it's hard, great if I live in a city 🌃 where u have choice I just wait for the boy ray release and order online
2. That's the way to do it mate.
3. Thanks for clogging up my kids' future with your non-biodegradable plastic boxes.
4. no thanks should go to you for being a thief. Please don't teach your kids your ignorant view.
5. Aren't you Australian?
6. People in glass houses..
7. I don't download illegally, I watch every movie I see either in theaters, on iTunes or on Netflix. I am however not the police, so I can't say I really care if other people do it.
8. I use [DVD.com](http://DVD.com) and Netflix, Hulu, RedBox. It is true that a reason for hard discs dying out is because of Pirating. Same with the music industry. I've also had memberships to Facets (rental) on and off. You pay for toilet paper but won't pay for art? Do you know what that says about filmmaking? [DVD.NETFLIX.COM](http://DVD.NETFLIX.COM) Rent Movies and TV Shows on DVD and Blu-ray - DVD Netflix
9. Toilet paper is far more useful.
10. Toilet paper buff - are you?
11. I like to be sanitary. I also buy wet wipes.
12. I live and work in Malaysia and a lot of the movies I want to see are either cut to f\*ck or just outright banned (at the cinema and online streaming sites like Netflix etc), so I'm forced to download. What's the most \*realistic\* alternative? I'm all ears
13. I only own physical media, old fashioned, I guess. And I only buy official releases. Like a previous poster said, I have acquired "bootlegs" before, but only of very obscure, unavailable films. If there IS an official release, I will buy it. And I never try and stream films that are still in theaters.
14. Do u still have your McDonalds in CFC package and drive cars that take leaded petrol? No wonder it's been so hard for renewable energy to make a break through
15. I agree with on everything except the film going out of print thing. Films are going more and more out print because of digital technology. Most projectors these days are digital projectors. I'd say with the exception of couple filmmakers most films are being made using digital cameras.
16. The people that pirate aren't going to be swayed. Piracy is theft, if you're okay with it than that's your business. I hope that one day we'll live in a world where it's punished to an extent that people realize it's wrong, but for now we don't.
17. I'd like a system where you go to the cinema and pay what you think the film was worth AFTER you've watched it. Deadpool? Here's my \$20 sir. Nine Lives? Fuck you, here's a nickel and I'll see you next Thursday...
18. Awesome idea, for some of the films I've seen at the cinema, like The Talented Mr. Ripley, they could fucking pay me money for wasting 2 hours of my life watching that shit.
19. haha yeah, I'll say 😊
20. It's a different sort of theft though u aren't stealing something as such u are duplicating it, if i watch Godzilla for free it doesn't mean a poor family in India can't also enjoy watching Godzilla
21. As a movie fan love to have a physical copy and enjoy the social features, cover art etc.. usually buy them new and used on amazon and also have a local trade in store so never pay for them £3 for them

22. i actually dont watch so much movies anymore that i dont own , most of time if i am downloading or streaming something its tv shows. and in holland downloading was always legal until 1 or 2 years ago:)
23. I pay good money for good film. Spent well over a hundred dollars on Fury Road at this point, and nearly as much for John Wick, and Deadpool. I watched BvS, but I'll never pay a dime for that sort of trash. Poor poor Zac Snyder right?
24. Then why'd you watch it? If you can't be bothered to pay for it, don't watch something.
25. Exactly, cinemas should work on a try before u buy basis
26. I saw BvS 3 times in theaters. Don't worry about Zack Snyder or WB, I got them covered lol.
27. U can return a broken dishwasher but u will never get 2 hours back
28. I watched it because I love film, and I had the nothing more important to do.
29. I watched it because I love DC Comics lol.
30. Batman & Superman mean the world to me lol
31. I was only using BvS as an example.
32. so fucking pay for it. You don't love something if you're not willing to support it.
33. I do not love BvS
34. Now here is a good point. BvS was widely panned as being dreadful by critics and a lot of fans, reducing a lot of peoples interest in wanting to pay to watch it at the cinema or on DVD bluray. Surely poor reviews hurt the industry more than piracy does?
35. Nah. I knew I didn't want to pay for BvS because I saw Man of Steel.
36. It doesn't matter how much it harms the industry. Stealing is illegal and immoral. Wether it hurts anyone or not
37. I wasn't specifically aiming my comment at yourself, [Name].
- 38.** So you've never used a tape recorder or VCR then, [Name]?
39. Making a terrible product, and trying to trick people into giving you money for it is wrong.
40. No I've never recorded something using a vcr. My family had one when I was growing up, mostly for Disney movies.
41. And they never used it to record anything?
42. I know fant4stic four is supposed to be terrible. I haven't bought it and never will. If it's on Netflix I will watch it, but I'll never buy it. Or steal it. Also I have no idea if my parents ever recorded something on it. I was a kid, and I'm don't see how this is relevant. We're all adults, talking about a current problem
43. What problem?
44. It's relevant because the use of a VCR to record anything from TV is copyright infringement.
45. they want as many people as possible to watch stuff the revenue comes from more than just ticket sales
46. The problem is they expected you to pay for Fantastic 4.
47. So, if I do a shitty job at work then my boss has every right to not pay me for the day?
48. Do you make art?
49. I'd be fine with that, it'd make people do their job properly.
50. Tangerine was shot on iPhone 5s' and its a great movie
51. Alright well like I said in a previous comment. No one is going to get through to people that think stealing is awesome. Have fun with your stolen movies. Good luck in life with that type of attitude.
52. Well it's not done me any harm so far and I've been downloading movies for years and recording them off TV for even longer..
53. Has anyone actually got any examples of how quite unquote piracy has affected the industry? Cold hard facts?

54. [Name]. You've not explained WHY it's wrong.
55. If you can comprehend why it's wrong to rob a bank or mug someone then you're fully capable of understanding why it's wrong to pirate. It's theft no matter how small it is. Walk into a Walmart and try to walk out with a blu ray without paying for it.
56. It's a victimless crime
57. Zac Snyder is not Walmart. Zac Snyder wants you to watch BvS. Even if you can for free.
58. You've given your opinion, I've given mine. Your cool with people stealing I'm not. Let's move on now. If you get robbed then I hope you smile and say thank you sir. Otherwise you're a hypocrite
59. Just 1 more thing I want to add. The reason why multi-billion dollar studios don't invest in smaller indie movies, is this. They see no profit in them.
60. But I'm not cool with people stealing from a bank. You need to understand the difference
61. there is no difference! If I steal a candy bar it's still stealing. If I steal your bank account info and take your digital currency it's still stealing.
62. And I'm not okay with you stealing either a candy bar or my digital currency.
63. Then stop stealing your movies 😊
64. You know you don't actually own the DVD/Bluray when you buy them... Right? You only buy the right to view it at your own discretion.
65. I would not buy a shitty candy bar either. The difference is Zac Snyder wants me to watch BvS.
66. And they want you to buy a shitty candy bar...and you don't you have to eat the candy bar or watch the movie. If you steal it, you're still choosing to consume it
67. What if I stole the candy bar and gave it away?
68. No they don't give a shit if you enjoyed, or even consumed the candy bar. They only wanted you to pay for it. Snyder wants you to enjoy BvS regardless of whether or not you payed for it.
69. Then Snyder doesn't know me at all.
70. I don't understand why you feel the need to argue this. It doesn't matter who wants you to pay for it or watch it. YOU are ultimately the one stealing something, or buying it. I buy what I consume, no matter what it is.
71. I argue it because you are calling me a criminal, and basically calling me a piece of shit thief repeatedly. Are you a Narc, [Name]?
72. I'm not a narc, nor have I called you a pos thief. If your cool with it it's on you. That's what I've been stressing, it's on you. It doesn't affect me one way or another if you steal it. I just hate it when people try to justify their theft.
73. What exactly is it we're supposed to be stealing?
74. An experience?
75. Well, that's just like, your opinion. Man..
76. Only Our Lord can truly judge us (oh, and [Name], of course).
77. I'm not judging you, you can do whatever you'd like. But you should know that if your downloading pirated films then you are in fact stealing. Your taking something that doesn't belong to you. I don't care what you do, I just hate that the majority of pirates don't think of it as stealing. If you're okay with theft then that's your choice. You do you buddy
78. You seem to post a ton of comments considering you don't care what people do. But then that's your choice. You can do whatever you want.
79. Caring about the subject and caring about the individual are very different things
80. I have downloaded a couple of times, but only things that did not have a western release at all. The rest of the time, if I can't afford it, I don't watch it. I understand that other

- people make different choices, but I hope they at least have the dignity to feel shame while they commit crime.
81. 0 Shame here.
  82. Well, there should be. I think of pirating films like dropping litter, or farting. Most people do it from time to time, when the socially acceptable situation is not available, and it only does a little harm when one individual does it. However, some people seem actively proud of it, in a way that really galls me. Treat it like it is: a shameful breaking of the rules, to be done in private and hidden away, and maybe discussed in a discreet way behind closed doors.
  83. How repressed you are!
  84. Ah, so you've met me [Name]. Welcome to the English.
  85. Ehhh may have contributed to that 😞 not proud and i have made a point of buying all the movies ive pirated in at least a physical form expecially ones i really enjoyed
  86. I admit I have pirated movies BUT only after seeing if I can buy a copy of the film .. some of the obscure .. especially foreign films are not available to purchase.
  87. That doesn't even make much sense because any film going out of print would also be nearly impossible to find a torrent of.
  88. I hate having the physical copy it's a waste of space and resources, I don't even download now cos of disk space... streaming all the way
  89. TV was killing the film industry 60 years ago, video cassettes 35 years ago. Maybe the industry is a little more hardy than we give it credit for.
  90. Put out More great movies worth waiting for and if possible don't make me wait and give me the releases I want in Australia or get stuffed.
  91. The funny thing is, most pirated movies come from a screener copy, screener copies that are distributed to industry insiders. So who is to blame for piracy?
  92. If I leave \$100 on the counter and then someone comes and takes it then they're in the right? It was there! Of course I took it!
  93. You're missing the point of my comment. It's industry insiders that release the screeners to a wider audience.
  94. No I'm not missing the point. My point is that it's on the individual taking it. It doesn't matter how it became available, if you take it then it's on you. Don't push the blame, don't try to justify it.
  95. But the industry clearly wants them to be viewed by a wider audience.
  96. Then it would be in Netflix or YouTube. Not piratebay
  97. You're still missing the point, only industry insiders get screener copies, so it's the industry itself that are responsible for the "piracy".
  98. I don't care where it comes from. I don't care who it does or doesn't hurt. I am not okay with stealing, therefore I don't steal.
  99. Good for you. You want a cookie?
  100. I'd love a cookie...as long as you bought it
  101. I made them
  102. Have you ever picked a flower, [Name]? because that's stealing, you know!!
  103. I've picked flowers out of my own garden
  104. I would say the cost of Bluray & DVDs is the reason people pirate in the first place.
  105. Really? In my experience, the average cost of a DVD movie released more than a year ago is about £3.50. A lot of them you can pick up from somewhere like Amazon Marketplace for less than £2, or from a charity shop for literally pennies. Buying and owning films has never been so cheap.
  106. It wasn't always so cheap, which is why pirating became so wide spread.

107. It has for the last 10 years or so, which is plenty of time for a scene to have faded if the demand for it were what is feeding it.
108. Maybe the industry just needs to adapt?
109. Just a few minutes ago (Facebook is saying 4 minutes), you accepted my point that buying has gotten a lot cheaper, removing your stated reason for people to pirate. What does the industry need to change, if not that?
110. It HAS adapted. That's why the studios pretty much only make blockbuster franchises, reboots and remakes that have the best chance at making big enough profits to keep them in business. It's why they make far fewer films than ever before. It's why theaters are being renovated and made more comfortable, with ticket prices rising accordingly, so they can maximize profit at the exhibition level, knowing that piracy will eat into both theatrical and ancillary profits.
111. I would say the high price of DVDs and blu rays is to an extent caused by piracy. If piracy did not exist at all, films would almost certainly be cheaper
112. Viscous circle then.
113. Yup, it really is a sticky situation.
114. People on here lecturing each other about breaking copyright law like they've never broken a law in their life. Easy to preach from a high horse.
115. So because hypocrisy exists, it's okay to break the law? Personally, I don't care what you do. But I don't think it's getting on a high horse to suggest that people be honest with themselves about what they're doing. Steal all you want, but don't expect everyone to think it's okay.
116. I wonder how many people carping on about breaking the law on here smoke weed? lol
117. In a discussion that's on topic, neither side can be said to be carping.
118. I don't even see the point of carping. They're bottom dwellers.
119. [#SmokeWeedWatchingIllegalDownloadsEveryday](#)
120. Eh. At least I don't have to walk past dumbasses wearing Pirate Bay shirts or Extratorrent hats every day on my way to work. 😊
121. If films are going out of print, you better keep seeding.
122. yeah man, keep those seeds going
123. A constant point that's made in these discussions "I can't afford to xxxx". Well I can't afford a bmw, that doesn't make it okay to steal it. Get over yourselves, if you're too broke to do something that sucks, but there's plenty of alternatives. I drive a Kia for example, I eat chicken instead of filet mignon. Go to the library instead of stealing, watch Netflix.
124. I love my Kia.
125. Or buy a used BMW
126. Not all of us live in places where Netflix is a plausible alternative to watching torrents. Where I live, Netflix has a limited selection, their subs don't match up and many of the copies are rubbish. Our local cinemas rarely show any decent foreign films while arts cinemas are decaying or closing every week. Without torrents, we'd be culturally cut off from the rest of the world and unable to participate in discussion such as this.
127. Isn't going to the library to get books you didn't pay for sort of the same thing as pirating movies?
128. I'm sorry but in countries like Morocco, with a very decent salary you can't buy original copies from Virgin or Fnac and we don't have movie shops, so you're only way is to download torrents. And even in cinemas they project dubbed versions of films French language and rarely the original version.

129. I agree with the original post. Why can't you be patient and wait before you see a film? Before I had Now TV I used to wait a year to see Game of Thrones on DVD.
130. Because I want to see them now.
131. Bye bye film industry
132. I have Season 5 ready to watch and just re-watched season 4. I don't want to get into Season 5 too soon as then I'll be waiting for season 6 on DVD. I watch them this way because I'm not a pirate and love having them on DVD to watch again. Awesome special features too. Aidan Hughes
133. you need to join a group against the film industry. If you are so poor that you can't buy a DVD, who is paying for your internet connection? Did you join this group when the discussion boards closed on IMDB? Please stop trolling!
134. I am using next door's wi-fi. 😊
135. Also, I am against Special features. I don't want to hear commentaries, see the actors doing interviews nor do I want to know how the special FX were created because all of those things just take me out of the movie.
136. ... and you should stop mocking those who have little or no money to spare. I have both my grandmothers living with me and taking care of them (and my three brothers) leaves me with zero to spend on entertainment.
137. I agree with you there.
138. I meant about extras. Not grandmothers
139. Thanks, Ben. Ever since I joined this group, I've become close to certain members but others make me feel unwelcome, stupid and poor.
140. Well. I do think you should pay for films.
141. I would love to but if I had \$15 to spare, I would fix the roof and buy my little brothers some shoes so they can walk to school.
142. How can I get a job when I have to look after everybody and no-one will give jobs to gays?
143. Hmm. Now you are sounding like a troll. Where do you live?
144. come to morroco 🇲🇦

145.



146. davai, brat davai. free downloads!
147. I don't pirate, but I think there are plenty of other reasons why the market would be shrinking for movie disc production. I think the people who pirate, for the most part, are people who don't have the disposable income to go to the movie theater for everything they want to see, nor to buy everything on Blu-ray. There are almost no more Blockbuster-style video rental stores anymore, so the availability to rent movies has decreased significantly. Redbox hasn't sufficiently accommodated that. And so movie distribution companies also lose out on selling the DVDs to those video rental stores.



They could've charged a lot more for a DVD packaged with a case and front-and-back cover layouts like we see on movie cases we purchase from retailers. Now they're producing hundreds of DVDs and selling them for less than before to Netflix / Redbox / (delivery service here). Sure, piracy is taking some money out of their pockets, but it's not much, comparatively when you look at the ways they used to be able to sell their product. And that's not even factoring in the realities of legal streaming. Movie production companies don't print as many physical copies of movies anymore because of Netflix / Amazon / Hulu / etc streaming outlets, plus On-Demand from Cable Companies, and from digital copies that people get when they buy certain Blu-rays (because some of the times those digital copies are gifted to friends, or so i've heard). The concept someone mentioned about buying movies second-hand never helped the market, either. Those were movies that someone sold to second-hand shops, whether it was someone who got a movie and decided they didn't want/need to watch it again, or it was a video rental store who had excess merchandise they didn't want on their shelves. Neither of those types of transactions involve giving money to the people who create the movie. If anything, I believe that the people pirating movies would have, prior to the invention of Torrents or other means of downloading movies, either borrowed the VHS or DVD from a friend and copied it, recorded it from television, or simply not watched it at all. And I think the more people who watch movies, the better. Not to say that anyone SHOULD pirate movies, but I think there's a partially positive impact it's having, because lesser known writers/directors like Taika Waititi get more buzz because more people have seen his films, which helps encourage other people to watch something like EAGLE VS SHARK, and that leads to films like HUNT FOR THE WILDERPEOPLE get a wider distribution, which helps him get the job directing THOR 3.

148. Well said. And of course when you speak intelligently. The finger waving, God's that judge this group can't respond. Which accounts for the lack of response to your fine point sir!
149. How about you post Hollywood's record breaking profits that have topped itself year after year for the last 5 years? Keep drinking the cool-aid. As far as I'm concerned you should respect a film's theatrical release. Once a movie hits Blue ray, your absolutely WRONG to suggest any copies of that are hurting anyone's bottom line.
150. Yep just bring up Hollywood up don't even bother mentioning the indie filmmakers.
151. Hollywood is the generalized term to summarize the filmmaking industry. Most indie films don't get a theatrical release so that's a completely different discussion than what I made a statement about. I don't give a rat's ass if IRON MAN 5 or Godzilla is ripped and screened. And if you're foolish enough to pretend that anyone involved in those Hollywood films is "losing" anything by it then you are clearly misinformed.
152. From what I see in the theaters, "Hollywood" is sacrificing the theater owners to get themselves more profit, and they're sucking the considerable capital left in the system from twenty years ago. While it makes them richer in the short term, in the long term it's not sustainable and in fact hastens the death of cinema in the U.S. even more. Hollywood has a "lock" on the theaters to prevent indies from ever breaking in - it's the ratings system! A bit finer ratings resolution would help (only two notches between G and R?) But the main thing is to somehow move them to some independent (or governmental?) body so they can't be gamed (or outright controlled:-) by the studios.
153. Many independent films have very short, or only fan supported runs in the cinema. They don't have the money to mass market the film and work hard to get it available in physical and online stores. Profit is rare on indies and recouping costs can take years. Every sale counts and often actors go unpaid. Indie films need the support of film buffs. I'm shocked to hear how many film buffs think piracy is ok. And piracy also

- affects big Hollywood production budgets and everyone else as a result. Take the Lone Ranger as an example. Over \$50 million was stripped from that budget because they factor in losses from piracy. When you cut \$50 million from a budget that is money that could have gone to people working in the industry. The end result of this cut is also a movie that could have been better with additional scenes or better special effects etc. Everyone who works in film or loves watching film is affected by piracy. Sadly some don't care or are too ignorant to realise this.
154. Again... You didn't read my comments which were relegated to the post theatre release so I'll repeat them. A theatrical release of any film should be respected. Once a film hits bluray you are doing very little IF ANY damage by copying those discs. Not to mention if you want to talk morals... Copying a disc (or downloading a bluray rip) is absolutely no different than "borrowing" your friends, coworker or neighbours physical copy. Something EVERYONE has done many times. So let's not pretend, the definition and result of watching something WITHOUT paying changes because it's "your brothers" copy you rewatched.
155. you pose an ignorant argument.
156. As do you if you think your above the notion and definition of stealing property YOU didn't pay for. You continue to choose what you define as stealing to level your conscience
157. Everything I watch is paid for and is an authentic product. I don't know what you are talking about.
158. You've never read a book that was borrowed from a friend or watched a buddy's dvd that he lent you? Then enjoy that throne then . We're building the church as fast as we can.
159. What you are talking about, now, is not piracy, stealing or theft by any definition. Please be reasonable with your argument. If you pirate a film that is because it is wanted or is in demand and that should be money to the artists who made it or those who paid money to the artists to sell, rent or share that authentic copy of the film.
160. By what definition? The laws? The government or the law didn't invent the word STEALING nor does it define it's meaning. All it does is ENFORCE its own legal implementation of it. Stealing by definition of the last 5000 years is taking something without the express consent or permission of its rightful owner. Although NOT enforced by law, an author who writes a book didn't set out to make one copy to then be passed around to 1000 people to "borrow" . They want everyone to BUY A COPY. That's they're hard work and sellable art they have worked on for perhaps years. Their intent isn't to share it for free with the world. So I am right on point with the discussion of stealing and the implications it results in. If everyone BOUGHT a book from an author maybe most of them wouldn't be living on welfare working 3 jobs while they write in their spare time. But... THAT isn't really stealing of course. It's just borrowing a book from a friend after all.
161. Borrowing a book or video from a friend is a good thing. Copying that content so that it can be shared by more is piracy and a breach of copyright. It's pretty simple. If you still want to discuss this, start another thread or join a book club.
162. Yep that makes sense. Somehow "borrowing" is still putting money in the pocket of the owner when you watch or read that intellectual property they made for purchasing for FREE. You look good with the sun against your back like that. Thank God he has sent you to redefine definitions and judge the rest of us.
163. Maybe they should stop closing all the video shops so we can have somewhere to get them from. I visited my video shop once a week, and I got ten movies every week. They were always busy but they decided to close because they saw the signs and that

- their industry didn't have long left. Since then it's been a desert for me and I've had to rely on Netflix. 😞
164. True that!
165. iTunes, Amazon and the like rent films for streaming at 3 or 4 dollars (U.S.) per, and Redbox rents DVDs and Blu-ray for even less, comparable to video store rental fees.
166. Hmm. Maybe I could try iTunes. I don't like Amazon.
167. I used to get 10 movies a week because they had a deal of 10 weekly movies for 10 dollars. And they had such a big selection it would have taken me forever to watch them all! Haha. I bet iTunes doesn't do deals like that!
168. They are closing because of piracy. Like so many are sadly supporting in this group.
169. Red Box?
170. Also if you live in a major city there should still be some video rental stores around.
171. There used to be until last year. I think there's still one left but they don't have much good stuff.
172. Video kiosks also took business from the stores. Many people just go for convenience and what is the cheapest option.
173. Can't you see Roth's children wants you to go to the cinema to keep you in little boxes
174. Banking corpse
175. It's still a multi-million dollar industry that has seen worse times, piracy included. VHS weren't piracy-free either. I'm betting it's making even more through channels like Netflix, Hulu and all.
176. You are right that the industry is still strong and piracy has been around since VHS. The problem is that piracy robs artists of their rightful income. More jobs could be created and better films made for the consumer if people stopped illegally downloading movies.
177. You are all brainwashed by the corporations
178. Please explain
179. You feel you have to buy into a product, you don't even like Superman but you will pay a lot of money to see him
180. Is that what you do?
181. But you have to take the bad with the good..do you go to a restaurant and take a chance on something new or do you get to taste it first before you buy?
182. <https://www.theguardian.com/.../digital-piracy-film...> **THEGUARDIAN.COM**  
Movie piracy: threat to the future of films intensifies
183. <https://www.theguardian.com/.../hollywood-director-piracy...>  
**THEGUARDIAN.COM** Hollywood director: piracy is necessary, and doesn't hurt revenues
184. From your article, "Alexander concludes that she isn't endorsing piracy, because she sees people like Kim Dotcom lining his own pockets rather than being Robin Hoods."
185. \$500m from nearly \$12B isn't really much, the studios are just greedy.
186. People can do whatever their conscience allows, but please don't say you're "forced" to download. Jean Valjean was forced to steal bread to feed his starving family. You won't die if you have to wait to see a movie, though it may seem like it when you're a cinephile. Legal downloads are usually available for a few dollars once a film is out of theaters. In many cases they're available at the same time as the theatrical run for a bit more. Used discs are usually cheap, and even new ones are mostly reasonable. If you can't afford everything you want, well, that's life. Welcome to adulthood.
187. This "adulthood" you speak of sounds crap.

188. [Name] To follow upon your earlier point (much earlier). Most single film titles (not so much the boxed sets) in my collection (see pics) were bought second hand (though no ex-rentals) or cheaply long after they were released (under UK£3 or nowadays NZ\$5). Even the boxed sets were bought when much reduced. The collection is much bigger now (approx another bookcase full) as I've steadily built it up over the years. In fact, just today I purchased 13 TV series boxed sets from someone having a clear out of their own collection for only \$10 (New Zealand) (approx £5 or £6 UK). I'm afraid I can't and won't download partly because it's been ingrained in me not to break the law but also because, being a bit hard of hearing, I prefer hard copies as usually (but not always) they have subtitle options which aren't even available on things like Netflix as I discovered when I had a free trial run. Saying that, I know people who watch illegally and some of them also go to the cinema en mass with family (gets expensive) and have DVD collections so I'm not sure what to think on the whole is piracy good / bad. All I know, it's not for me. <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/...>
189. There's a way you can watch movies legally for free with DVD's. By going to your local library and renting DVD's. [#supportyourlocallibrary](#)
190. COMMUNIST 👉 admins
191. I'm sorry to hear that [Name]
192. I think it's impossible to speak so broadly about piracy. If you barely make enough to make ends meet and you can only afford to watch 1 movie at the cinema every month, or buy one blu-ray, then I'm fine with people prioritizing which films to support and which films will survive their piracy. Small movies with limited money behind them ought to be supported if at all possible. But if you pirate Transformers 5, do you really think anybody's career is going to be destroyed? Additionally there's the question of whether or not access to culture should be determined by your social class (and income).
193. "But if you pirate Transformers 5, do you really think anybody's career is going to be destroyed?" - YES! The up-and-coming filmmakers just breaking into the indie market are looking for big studios to give them a chance, but the studio is so busy trying to recoup the money it's lost to piracy of Transformers 5, that it decides to cut its budget for indies and start-ups, thereby quashing the dreams of those new directors, writers etc., and thereby refusing us the joy of seeing what great films they could have made.
194. That presumes piracy hurts T5 to the point of it not being profitable. Which is unlikely. Transformers 4 made over a billion worldwide (more than 5 times its budget), and I'm sure T5 will do the same. What money exactly needs to be recouped here? Studios aren't charities, they're not funding indie movies because the love art, they're doing it because it's a proving grounds for the next step (I.e. Safety Not Guaranteed ---> Jurassic World). That's not contingent on whether or not Transformers makes 1.3 Billion worldwide or 1.5.
195. Piracy doesn't have to hurt T5 to the point of it not being profitable; any loss to piracy out of a film's turnover is enough to affect the industry long-term, simply because studios are losing money, and that's the cash that needs to be recouped. Just because a film is profitable doesn't mean it and the studio are not being hurt by piracy. 😊
196. So long as there are people who don't have enough money, and piracy is a viable alternative - sometimes the only alternative - to watch movies, people will pirate movies. In a perfect world where everyone had enough money to enjoy culture equally, piracy would be unequivocally bad. But that's not the world we're living in. So you're essentially asking people who have no other recourse than to pirate to stop so that everyone who do have the resources to enjoy movies won't be deprived of future directors in the studio system. I can understand why less privileged people might tell you to go fly a kite... 😊

197.       Sidebar: ive never understood how the director went from Safety Not Guaranteed to Jurassic World. If there was ever a year to make that indie movie...
198.       So long as there are people who don't have enough money, and breaking into rich people's houses and stealing from them is a viable alternative – sometimes the only alternative – to make money to buy drugs or food, because they cannot resist their addictive urges for either, people will rob houses. In a perfect world where everyone had enough money to enjoy life equally, robbing houses would be unequivocally bad. But that's not the world we're living in. So you're essentially asking people who have no other recourse than to steal to stop so that everyone who does have the resources to live a decent life won't be deprived of those resources... When you respond to this, my response to your response will be, THEFT IS THEFT. 😊
199.       I agree wholeheartedly. If you live in a society where people don't have enough food to eat, or aren't able to get treatment for addiction or pay for necessary healthcare, stealing is absolutely a viable alternative. What would you ask them to do? Die? Because that's the law? The only way you can argue that THEFT IS THEFT (i.e. stealing from rich people is the same as stealing from people who have nothing) is if you decide to ignore the structural inequalities built into our system - which tells me you probably had a pretty comfortable childhood, never wanting for anything.
200.       Ha, ha. As poor an upbringing as you can get without being on the street. Neither of my parents worked throughout the entirety of my childhood and in fact didn't start working until long after I left home at age 16 (they both had great jobs before I was born, but for some reason I've never been able to fathom, stopped working when my brother and I came along). My brother and I had nothing as children. New clothes? That would have been a luxury. Shoes without holes in? Wow, that would have been really cool. Long trousers for school in winter? Okay then, I'll just wear these trouser shorts again. My father was an alcoholic, a gambler, a chain smoker and generally the most egotistical, selfish person I've ever known. The only time we had fruit to eat was when he won a bet on the race horses, which was very rare. I realise in retrospect that I could have had it much worse, both my parents could have been drug addicts, but thankfully they weren't. But still, not being able to have the same quality of life as many of my school friends enjoyed was severely upsetting for me as a child. But what that upbringing taught me was that kind of life was not for me as an adult, so I've worked hard to ensure my own family and I never have to live like that. So you judged me all wrong, but I'm not hurt... 😊
201.       Has your upbringing left you with the impression that when people don't have anything, it's their own fault?
202.       Mostly, yes. I understand the power that drug addiction has over people to commit crime in order to fix their urges - I've worked with plenty who've come through rehab and I witnessed it first hand with my own father's alcohol addiction (although finally kicking the bottle did not make him a better person). That's a social problem that I believe is exceptional. Yet there are still many non-addict people out there living a life of want who choose, through their own inaction to better their outcomes, to continue that life and gain whatever they can at other people's expense, mostly through crime. Those people are brought up in poverty, many having worse childhoods than I did, and they are conditioned by that upbringing to absolutely believe that this is their lot in life and that there is nothing they can do to change it, so they don't try. Rightly or wrongly, I have a lot of contempt for those people because they are either too lazy or too uneducated (I don't like to say dumb as I don't believe dumb people exist) to get up and move their lives in a different direction.
203.       I too grew up with not much, though my mom is the hardest working person I know, and while most of my clothes and toys were second hand, I never grew up with

any contempt for people who don't have anything. Because I had seen first hand how not having much and being a hard worker had very little to do with each other. It's a fallacy in my opinion that because you were able to do something, everybody else ought to be able to do it as well. Beyond addiction, we know mental health issues affect underprivileged people much more severely than people with money, and becomes a negative feedback loop. If you're from the US, in particular, then even having access to proper education, which in turn gives you access to a steady income, is favored those who already have financial stability. To summarize: there are many, many families who have nothing or very little despite working their asses off. I'm sorry if you're upbringing didn't give you that impression. Moving things back to our discussion, I suppose I reject the premise of your argument. I don't believe people should be cut off from culture simply because they don't have means. I'm not worried the movie studios will go belly up, and it's up to these companies to adapt to the new reality we live in, just like the music business has. They'll find a way.

204. Thanks for acknowledging the indies some people don't even bother acknowledging them in these debates. Part of the problem though is that some indies still get pirated and because some are distributed by the Indie film departments of major studios they are mistakenly assumed to have also been produced by the major studios as well.
205. Personally, I don't mind paying either to go watch a film at the cinema, buy the DVD or download via legit platforms - Sky Movies, Netflix, etc. But I do think the film industry could help reduce piracy by reducing the gaps between theatrical release and DVD/Blu-Ray release and then airing on TV/Netflix, etc. Possibly releasing on all formats simultaneously might work. It's the same with the music industry: the more you overprice your product and restrict the access to it, the more likely people are to turn to piracy as a means of acquiring it. That's my thoughts anyway.
206. Everyone these days have surround sound and large TV's .. eliminating the need to go to the theater and you can eat and drink if you want at your house and not pay 6 bucks for a soda.
207. Some people prefer the cinema experience as they like to see films on a big screen. Personally, I'm not fussed either way - cinema or watching it at home. I just want to see something as soon as possible. It is nice to watch films at home though as you can pause it when you need the toilet ha ha 😊
208. I'm sorry but John Wick 2 hasn't got a release date here yet in Australia and it will be on 123 movies well before the censorship board rates the film so sadly I'm forced to take those actions at times... not because I don't want to support the films but because they won't release on time...I still buy physical media all the way and always visit the cinema weekly either way...
209. I think the film industry has to adapt to the way things are, piracy isn't going anywhere so perhaps studios could look at ways of getting high quality content at reasonable prices to consumers, as a comparison if you look at the games industry suffers terribly from piracy but Valve (game developer) found a way to unify your games and make it easy to purchase them and that has been a huge success. sadly its evolve or die, and the film industry is very archaic in many ways to its detriment.
210. "High quality content at reasonable prices" -- you mean like cheap rentals via iTunes, Amazon, On Demand, etc., or streaming services like Netflix or Filmstruck, or kiosks like Redbox, or discounted discs at various retail and online outlets, or free lending of discs at public libraries? Yes, if only the industry could come up with options like these. 😊

211. I'm talking about a unified platform something that doesn't exist for the most part, streaming services are random films from various points in time, all are separate and require subscriptions and all original content is exclusive to one platform, as far as i'm aware Redbox doesn't exist in the UK and there isn't even anything similar and physical media is hardly a solution as it takes a lot longer to buy a disc or rent one then it does to download/stream something and that's the issue nothing you have suggested would be easier than some unified platform for films covering different studios.
212. Thanks for the clarification. Unfortunately, any kind of unified platform would involve all individual rights holders to agree on it, and it's hard to see that happening.
213. Yeah that's the problem really its all so archaic and studios really don't like to share! and all of them would have to take the plunge for it to work. I guess if there was a simple solution it would be done already!
214. Don't know about you guys, but I always like to have the actual original disc copies of movies, but if I buy off of ebay/amazon and the print turns out to be a copy - I'll still watch/keep it because I've paid money for it. Argument is split yes, 1. Peeps can't get films they want because of limited print run, or because never released etc etc etc so piracy is the only way to get some movies. 2. Piracy is wrong and is hurting the industry.
215. The real issue is that the industry failed to keep pace with how people want to use products. Their insistence of overpricing films and selling physical media for donkeys years meant they were behind the game and allowed pirates to get ahead. They still vastly overprice films, but the argument about "victimless crime" is spurious - the distribution networks failed to reach their markets.
216. I believe the long game of the entertainment industry is to get all of their material back and create a "jukebox" type system where you pay 1x for 1x play. That's why Blockbuster was paid to destroy all of their stock rather than sell it. In the very near future there will be no hard copies of anything - it will all just be cloud based digital media. More and more auto leasing places are opening and dealers are closing. Even the furniture and home appliance rental market is exploding. My Wife works for a large corporation who buys foreclosed homes - fixes them up and rents them. They have locations all over the world. They own over 200 million properties worldwide. Over 50% of people in the US live in rentals now. Soon the peasants will own nothing at all. Very soon the internet will be tightly constrained. Nothing will be free anymore.
217. I don't usually illegally download movies but when i do, it's those movies that are basically unheard of. I don't condone piracy but some people don't have a choice. I'm grateful for the fact that my local cinemas only costs \$5.50 here but you get what you get. However, I mostly wait until the movies are released onto dvds but I look forward to the boxing day sales when they are at their cheapest.
218. Everyone in the industry is over paid, I know runners that could take a 50% pay cut and still live comfortably. Less money isn't necessarily a bad thing, sometimes and industry needs to be brought to its knees to bring back some freshness and creativity.
219. Everyone? Absolutely untrue.
220. Anyone I've ever met who isn't a student... I got payed 400 Euro a day once to press play and stop on a directors iPod between takes, was more than happy to take the money but wtf? Don't complain that downloading is taking money away from the industry
221. Great job if it's steady, which few film industry jobs are. People can go months or even years between decent-paying gigs.
222. Have you ever worked with an indie crew?
223. Can't we all just accept each to their own? i mean we all love cinema can't we just be proud we have a great group and people love watching and talking about films? i feel how we watch them is irrelevant and this post isn't going to change peoples minds,

- its just going to cause arguments. There are far worse things going on in the world right now than piracy of films. We should respect that we are all from different areas and backgrounds and values and appreciate each others diversity and opinions.
224. Some people can't accept that and want to impose their "moral code" on others though.
225. yeah exactly what i mean, imposing their opinions on things isn't going to change that persons views. they view stuff a certain way because they believe its the "right way" and vis versa so its never going to work or fix anything. its just going to be people arguing. And the people who can't accept that we are all different and see things in a different way will therefore will lose out some how.
226. I'd prefer to put it this way: can we all just pretend we are doing it legit, and I will accept that illusion? Or at least, if you aren't, you are at least trying to do it right, and only resorting to illegitimate means when the official channels aren't working. If you don't, if you insist on flaunting that you are breaking the rules, you force people to take a moral stand on it.
227. It's the difference between farting in the room and then looking sheepish and farting in someone's face and then telling them you don't care if it smells bad.
228. in some countrys it was/is legit.to download and stream. i mean i dont mind if people download or not, i did it and i probably have spend as one of the most on buying dvds,blu rays games etc etc. morally is maybe a diffrent thing but there are many gray areas for example there are also many movies to watch on YouTube like old westerns
229. I can overlook stealing, but I'm not going to condone it. Anyway, it's just a discussion about a legit issue in the film industry.
230. It may be legal in some places, but that doesn't change the fact that someone made something, intending to earn money from it, and you (plural, not singling you out [Name]) are taking it without their permission. You don't get to choose who deserves the protection of property ownership and authorship, or you are on a very slippery slope.
231. And it's not a matter of opinion whether something is illegal; it's a matter of law. Whether it's a just law is a separate issue, but you can't really fault people for refusing to break the law.
232. But if its legal you dont break the law,is clear enough i think.
233. i mean i know what you try to say but there is more to it then just its wrong or right
234. You don't break the law, but you still take someone's creation without their permission, knowing that they would not grant it if they were given the choice.
235. well it was in holland always in the price of the empty dvds and the storage like hds so yes you actually paid for it
236. I'd say it's just a matter of right and wrong. Those who don't do it think it's wrong. Those who do it think it's okay or don't care. But the moral issue is always underlying.
237. No you don't. If you steal a car and then pay for petrol, you haven't paid for the car.
238. Remember your own words the next time you watch a PPV event that YOU haven't paid for. Or borrow a book or dvd from a friend. Everyone has stolen and / or continues to steal either ignorantly or simply obliviously. Remember, when you read that book you haven't paid for the principals you have laid out are still 100% applicable. YOU are reading someone's work WITHOUT paying for it. (or watching an PPV event at a bar which is condoning the stealing of it) . We don't get to pick and choose that definition is. Stealing is stealing.
239. We can't because some people will never dismount their high horse



240. And yes... That applies to getting undercharged on your phone bill...  
And you cable company accidentally giving you channels for free. I'm not finger waving at anyone. But make sure those who are looking in the mirror.
241. But borrowing a book or movie from a friend isn't illegal. And neither is watching a PPV event with someone who paid for it. It's true that we don't choose the definition of stealing -- the law does.
242. So people who don't want to break a law are on their "high horse"?
243. Let's face it, the movie and music industries were ill-equipped to face the challenges of the internet and have paid the price for their lack of vision. If they can't keep pace with the times, then why should we be penalised for picking low-hanging fruit?
244. Firstly, yes, and I feel guilty whenever I do download something, or any of these other mild sins. But secondly, no, because in all of those cases, the owner of the rights to that content have chosen to provide it in a format that is designed to be shared between the person who bought them and a person or people of their choosing. Not copied to anyone, but passed on in a well-established method agreed to by those original rights-holders. Establishments who show sports games have paid for the licence to show them too, and usually it's a type of licence specifically made for commercial premises to show publicly. It's all done with consent, in limited formats agreed to by the original providers all the way down the line.
245. I'm referring to the moral respect of taking a property that is a payable asset and getting it for free. Tell the author of a book that only one person is actually going to buy their book because that one person is going to share it with the rest of the world. Fair? I don't think so. And the principal of my copying blue rays is no different than borrowing them. Your watching something you didn't pay for. And yes... It is ILLEGAL to broadcast PPV EVENTS at bars. Yet all of us at some point have gone or go to bars that do that.
246. And the law DOESNT define stealing... It only ENFORCES the principles it chooses. Stealing wasn't a word invented by the government or police.
247. And I have addressed that moral issue. Getting something for free is not the problem. Getting it without the consent of the provider, and knowing they would not give that consent if they had the choice, is the problem.
248. it isnt stealing because its put on to be downloaded , thats why it wasnt illegal in our country , but the one who uploaded broke the law
249. so [name] you mean you never crossed a street instead of using the zebra or the traffic light?
250. And by THAT definition... No one wants to give anything away when they are sellable items. Which is why NO author wants their book passed around to 200 people. They want those 200 people to BUY IT. Yet that's not "enforced" so I guess it's "ok
251. It is not illegal to broadcast pay-per-view events at bars, or broadcasters would not create pay-per-view contracts specifically for bars. Which they do, and that's how they can show them.
252. Yes it. That's why they get fined and shut down. I've seen it.
253. When a UFC event is being broadcast at "Rick's Bar" believe me... He hadn't paid for anything. He's trying to draw in customers to drink and spend money
254. in most countrys you cant even watch with over 4 people in your own house
255. That's why theres a copyright at the beginning of EVERY PPV EVENT. You don't know what deals have been made by who. I have some insight having worked in the field and have plenty of friends who do.
256. that means officially btw i like this kind of discussions and am the devils advocate in that:)

257. Of course authors would rather everyone buy their book, but there's no stigma about borrowing nor a law against it. And you realize that libraries lend books for free, right? But I haven't heard about any big movement on the part of authors to ban that practice.
258. Authors don't want that, of course. They want to sell their books for a billion quid each. But they know that the books are being sold in a format - solid paper - which can be passed to another person to read, as many times as it takes before the binding wears out. That's part of the arrangement authors and book-providers make, and they consent to that arrangement when they put the book up for sale. That is the difference.
259. this kind of discussions are in many ways, in holland for example if you pay for a parking and you have time left on the ticket, and want to give that ticket to someone else to help them you get a fine.
260. If these bars are indeed breaking the law with regard to PPV events, then that's wrong too. Is your point that it's okay since they're getting away with it?
261. Not at all. My point was does anyone really care? . Most responses would be that they don't think about it OR that they simply don't care. Yet those people will be the same ones who wave a finger
262. I'm not because I KNOW I am guilty myself. No matter what moral ground I THINK I'm on.
263. That's interesting, and of course I'm not presuming to know the laws of every country in regard to piracy or any other crime.
264. Well I've said all along if you don't care, that's your prerogative. Just don't be disingenuous about it or expect your justifications to sway anyone who is morally opposed to stealing.
265. "Rick's Bar" can expect a letter from some solicitors, then. From the bar's parent company too, since the corporations that own bar chains look very dimly on employees who embarrass them by allowing criminal activity on their premises. As far as I have seen, bars that show sports usually have an establishment licence, usually made between their national parent company and the broadcaster. I gather that Wetherspoons Ltd and Sky have ongoing contractual arrangements.
266. And I think I have only seen one bar in my life that had UFC, and it wasn't a live event.
267. Personally I'd like to say that this has been a great discussion with ALL of you in this specific thread. It's great to be able to have intelligent and non aggressive conversation that isn't demeaning to anyone. Cudos to all of you. Unfortunately most of the conversations don't go or end up like this
268. calling it stealing is so over the top,
269. well i wish you all a good night and i am going to watch another episode of shooter on my netflix account:)
270. Thank you. Likewise. 😊
271. To me, calling it stealing is just being factual. But whether it should be called that is a matter of opinion of course. Good night!
272. I agree no post is going to change anyone's views. At the same time, it may ALSO be true that the overall distribution system is in financial trouble and every little bit of revenue lost makes it even worse. We should be able to have an informed discussion on the financial health of the distribution system withOUT straying into personal views; they're not the same thing. For example I've seen some pretty strong statements on both sides here without a lick of evidence behind them. It would be nice to actually identify some reliable information sources rather than just see who can type the loudest.

273. I made a post saying can we not argue. Results in arguments. I'm sorry but people need to grow up and accept that your views are different and are never going to change the other persons.
274. [Name], didn't you see the part where [Name] called this an intelligent, non-aggressive conversation? Not all disagreements are arguments, if you're doing it right.
275. [Name], I think as long as you're lending the DVDs and not charging for them you're fine.
276. Ahhh... But then there's the can of worms being opened. What's the moral (not legal) difference in stealing (ie watching something without paying for it) if she loans her friend a DVD without charging or if you copy that DVD and let me download it? . Watching without paying is the same thing whether you are holding the physical copy or a digital one. The owner is NOT getting money for that viewing.
277. The difference is when I lend you a disc, it doesn't give you ownership. It's still mine, unless you never give it back, in which case you've stolen it from me. If I make a digital copy and give it to you, then you own something you didn't pay for. Also, "watching" isn't owning.
278. No argument to that. But the very principles and the results of that "borrowing" means the owner (or creator) has now lost out on money they would have otherwise received. So the end result of borrowing vs ownership is the same. Money is NOT changing hands and the owner has now lost money
279. Legally isn't an argument I'm challenging. I'm challenging the point that legal is a societal aspect. The principles of this extend to what the result actually is. And in both, it's the same
280. I don't know what to tell you other than this is legally acceptable, so it must have been morally acceptable somewhere along the way. Society decided it wasn't cool to fine or jail people for lending stuff. Extend your argument and I can't borrow my brother's car if mine's in the shop, or lend you a tie for a funeral. If you want to keep the examples to storytelling, I could theoretically be breaking the law by telling you the plot of a movie without spoilers. Would it be okay if you came over to my house and I had the TV on? The law is not devoid of common sense.
281. The cars example though isn't the same thing. We are talking (at least the argument in the whole thread here in general), is that those who pirate are hurting the industry and its creator's. OK. That's fine. And they are right to a degree. However... How you are hurting them is really no different lending or borrowing films. It's NOT paying for something that would otherwise be paid for. So the end result on the industry is the same. You (or whoever) has borrowed the film, and watched it WITHOUT giving the creator any money. If you download it. You've done the same thing. Whether one is legal or not is irrelevant to the point of hurting the creators and the industry. They are NOT receiving money in the end from BOTH.
282. I thought you were referring to the legality and morality of lending in general. But to your point, I imagine it has something to do with the practicalities of enforcement. Also, there's a big difference between me letting you watch my DVD and me disseminating a digital copy of it to the world for free downloads, especially if I'm monetizing it with ad clicks on a site or something. Would the film industry prefer my mom buy her own copy of a movie instead of borrowing mine? Of course. Would they rather you buy a DVD than borrow it from your local library? Sure. But these have been deemed acceptable contingencies (both legally and morally). If the borrowed items have been purchased legally, and the lender isn't making a profit, it's acceptable. I'm no legal expert at all, so I'm sure there are other factors of which I'm ignorant. But my guesses seem reasonable to me. Businesses protect their profits in the ways they can; consumers

- follow their conscience as to the morality of borrowing or piracy; and the law decides when infringement has occurred.
283. I can agree with most of that. But I still think to leave the definition or result of an action be left to the morals of a governed society are why they are constant legal battles and people who sue based on the very wide grey areas of personal responsibility. I personally don't need the law to tell me what the results of two actions mean on a moral level. To me I see it as the same thing because whether or not the law or business says so, the end account is the same. I'm getting something for nothing. So based on that. I respectfully say that morally it's the same principles. And until every filmmaker and author unified says "go ahead and borrow my stuff and don't buy it..." I would argue the rest of the discussion is simply semantics to justify our conscience
284. This may just be an area where practicality trumps morality. The law can only cover the dissemination of a physical or digital product, not the intellectual property it may contain. With a DVD, you own the object but not the rights to the intellectual property it contains. How can the law restrict your right to lend the property as long as you're not profiting from the exploitation of the intellectual property rights? It can't, even though the film industry may look at every borrowed disc as a lost sale (even though that may or may not be true). The options are to make the lending of the property illegal (which would be practically unenforceable) or allow it to be a morally questionable exception. I guess they chose the latter option. Individuals can decide whether it's an acceptable one. You don't have to let your mom borrow your copy of Salo, but if you do your only punishment will come in the hereafter.
285. Lol. And that would certainly be true with that
286. Has anyone stopped to consider how many films are purchased because viewers were turned onto them by a free download? Most people I know won't just go to the movies on a whim (it's too expensive for casual browsing).
287. The price of the popcorn alone is ridiculous.
288. Yeah, I'd heard that before. I'm really not happy about that. I mean look at VHS now, it's hard to even find a shop that stocks players/recorders. I've replaced my collection with DVD's, and now Blurays. I've invested a fucking fortune into my collection. And in future, they're going to want me to fucking subscribe or rent digital downloads of movies that I've already paid for 3 times over. Fuck that!
289. That's capitalism for you.
290. The same thing has happened to the cinema that happened to football. Now, my friends and I can no longer afford to go to either because the big conglomerates have priced us out. However, I'll just sit here and get lambasted by people who spend 100s of dollars on one film and spend more on popcorn than I earn in a week. Sickening.
291. People who are not going to buy movies do not hurt the movie industry by downloading them.
292. Great point -- if 100% of downloaders fit this description.
293. 100% of people who would buy films do so.
294. So no one who downloads ever buys? You know that's not true. And of course many people who want to buy can't afford to, but choose not to break the law anyway.
295. uh, that's not what i said. simply put, people who buy film buy films.
296. So the 100% who would buy films includes no downloaders? And it also doesn't include cash-strapped people who are morally opposed to downloading?
297. people who can't afford to buy movies ultimately aren't people who would buy movies then, are they? they should just download.
298. Sure they are. They buy if and when they can afford to. "Would" is the key word. I love that the reasoning is "Get over your morals and just download."

299. Nobody is stopping you from buying films. By all means, support your moral superiority.
300. Never said anyone was stopping me. Never said I wanted to stop you. Let your conscience be your guide. But sure, I think not stealing is morally superior to stealing. Most people probably do, which is why they come up with so many self-justifications for doing it.
301. I don't even watch movies.
302. Not even color ones?
303. Nah. The internet > movies.
304. <http://www.indiewire.com/.../guest-post-heres-how-piracy.../>  
**INDIEWIRE.COM** Guest Post: Here's How Piracy Hurts Indie Film
305. <http://www.dailydot.com/upst.../balls-out-indie-film-piracy/> **DAILYDOT.COM**  
 We talked to the producers behind one of the currently top-pirated indie films
306. The sad thing is that movies are still one of the cheapest forms of entertainment.
307. Bah. Have you tried hitting a ping-pong ball against a wall? Hours of fun for free!
308. Technically you need to pay money for the ping pong balls and the paddle.
309. Well, only initially, but point taken.
310. Now I'm thinking of that scene in Forrest Gump when he gets discharged from the Army and steals his ping-pong paddle on the way out.
311. 285 comments?!?! I'm not gonna read all this. Can someone give me the Cliff Notes version? Lol
312. "Torrents good!" "No, torrents bad!" Lol
313. Thanks! Caught up. Hahahahah
314. pirating is bad mmmmmkkkk
315. Pirating bad for future of film. That is all.
316. Films are going out of print because the market is over saturated.

***source S: Facebook group—Letterboxd Community—Quick question: How do you feel...(July 2020)***

post:

Quick question: How do you feel about accessing feature films through illegal sites (for example, clone or copy sites of 123movies or Putlocker)? [context] I am a master's student in library science and would love to be a film librarian and/or work in a public library. I'm developing the proposal for my master's paper and wanted to scope out what people's experiences are with illegal sites. Please do not feel the need to share personal experiences if you are not comfortable--though any comment is welcome.

(Proof I am who I say I am: [Letterboxd profile link])

1. I don't feel guilty with major feature films getting a lot of exposure, but with independent films I do. But at the same time, I watch most new independent releases I can get my hands on and can convince others with the means to rent/purchase those films and then I feel less guilty
2. I definitely understand!
3. I illegally stream or torrent movies pretty much every day... I don't feel too bad about it cuz I already spend ridiculous amounts of money on movies, I have 100s of blurays, I see around 130 movies in theatres every year (before covid), I pay for streaming services like Netflix, Disney+, Amazon Prime, Crunchyroll, and even just going to TIFF every year costs me about \$1000 just for that week... Ya I agree it's unethical, but like I can't justify spending even more money than I already do on movies especially when no one would know if I did just watch everything for free
4. I totally get this! It can get really expensive...
5. I kinda have to. Netflix is garbage here, so are most other legal alternatives, mostly due to rights issues. I AM happy to rent movies legally if the price is good though.
6. it's all about access~ thanks for sharing!
7. If I can't access it by legal means, which often happens with older films, I don't mind stealing it. Otherwise happy to pay for online rental.
8. I do it for stuff i don't already own or isn't on youtube/streaming
9. Sometimes films, especially older ones, are impossible to find, but somehow stay on YouTube. If there was a remastered and "clean" version of Hell's Angels available to purchase easily, sure, but it's tied up in legalities that'll probably never be solved, and yet, it's on YouTube? So, if I can access something easily I will, but sometimes it's just not an option 🧑🏻
10. It's huge burden to pay money for watching in my country. besides, our alternatives are few..
11. I haven't done it in many years! Since I have access to good libraries, I rarely find movies I can't access. Sometimes I do have to pay to rent a movie online. However, I recently discovered that my local library will literally just buy any movie I want if they don't already have it. They've only turned down one request so far so I will have to rent one!
12. libraries are the best ❤️
13. Yes, they recently were able to get Melvin & Howard for me which I understand didn't get a very good DVD release!
14. Criterion channel is a godsend but a lot of the stuff I want to watch just isn't even available to rent anywhere and most streaming services suck so often I have no choice but to pirate
15. I've found that just about everything that I want to watch is available streaming, rentable digitally, buyable on dvd/blue-ray or will be soon. For the rest, I wait while digging through the un-finishable pile of what's available. Memories of Murder is a great one that's been unavailable but it's coming to Criterion. James Baldwin: The Price of the Ticket is another that keeps popping on and off of different streaming services, but it always swings back around. I figure that all the incentives are on the side of availability so they will bring all these things to us eventually and I'm more comfortable on this side of the piracy line. No judgment of the other side. I can see arguments for it. They're just not mine.
16. MEMORIES OF MURDER IS WHAT?!
17. I think it's on the way to the collection. I could only find to watch it on a channel with ads that popped up arbitrarily every few minutes and I loved it. So, I'm really psyched to watch it unhindered. Lemme double check again to be certain...

18. I saw half of the movie on cable one day at random and I've wanted to see it for ages. This was years before Parasite. So... Yeah, I'd get a Criterion if it's released there!
19. <https://www.google.com/.../parasite-memories-of.../%3famp> haven't found a release date yet but it should be coming! **COLLIDER.COM** 'Parasite' and 'Memories of Murder' to Get Criterion Treatment After Bong Joon Ho's Major Oscar Wins
20. I'm not opposed to illegally streaming but usually the quality sucks, and renting it is a lot easier than torrenting and you don't have to wait. so I usually just rent them if they're not on any of my streaming services. I will say though I'm definitely not paying more than \$6, so if I really want to watch something that's more expensive than that I will torrent
21. I don't do it. I could give a rat's ass about supporting Hollywood, but it's the smaller or more obscure films that suffer the most from such avenues. With streaming platforms the way they are, there's no shortage of material to watch, and if that ever ceased to be the case I own about 1,000 movies on disc. I don't judge those who torrent, but I like to support preferred arts with my dollars. Also, for anyone else who doesn't take advantage of their public libraries, please do so! They are amazing, and in my experience a good librarian enjoys the challenge of tracking down whatever obscure or hard-to-find movies I've thrown at them.
22. I will add the caveat that I have no qualms about torrenting films in the public domain, or are old enough that everyone involved is dead. I still don't do it because I'm technologically illiterate in most scenarios, but there it is. Even so, Criterion has filled an immense hole for those types of films, and it's great to support an organization that does such excellent work.
23. i only do it for movies that aren't on any streaming service, films i don't get though sky cinema, or films i don't own in physical copies
24. I think people deserved to be paid for their work if I want to enjoy it. I'm not entitled to something just because it exists.
25. I don't do it
26. Literally dont have the budget to rent and give the right paying for the people that made the movie/ or the movie isnt available in brasil or it isnt available anywhere, so end up using Stremio
27. I always check local library and streaming sites before turning to torrenting. But I've always used this similarly to torrenting video games: if it's something that I actually like, I will later on buy it. Actually, some films I was very eager to watch I downloaded instantly, and then watched them in the cinema once they came out. Main instances of this were Hateful Eight (seen end of December 2015, then in the cinema jn February once it came out in Italy), Lighthouse and Jojo Rabbit (both seen in December, then in the cinema between January and February once they came out in the UK).
28. And I go every year to the Venice Film Festival, which, like [name] said, can be very expensive. Definitely gonna buy/rent more films once I have a proper job and the space for it though.
29. film festivals seem like a whole other level!!
30. If you have one close to you, go there: doesn't matter how big it is, they are always a blast!
31. I've used Putlocker and GorillaVid before for decades old films but it doesn't sit right with me so I stopped. Will still use for television shows that have no episodes streaming online where I am like the UK Kitchen Nightmares.
32. I'm 1000% in favor of piracy, i wouldn't be such a cinephile and film student today if i didn't have used the piracy when i was a teen, i live in a very small town in brasil and we don't have any theater here or near by so this was my way to find foreigner and art

- movies. Art should be for all and its not fair that if you don't have the money to pay you can't see. When i can afford now, i always try to pay for the indepent movies.
33. Sometimes it is necessary because some films don't get released in my country
  34. As someone who has done this before, if you can't find the film through any other means, then I say go ahead
  35. I was against it until I moved out of the US
  36. Some stuff is just impossible to find for a reasonable price 🧑 I don't really do it, but I understand why people do
  37. I used to do it when I was a teenager, and still did it well into my 20s because they don't show a lot of movies in Morocco in the cinema. So yeah when the films aren't available I sure illegally stream/download them.
  38. I don't do it myself, too worried about getting a virus or something!, I think there should be more films freely available legally though. It is frustrating to miss out but that doesn't mean illegal downloading should be acceptable imo
  39. Currently illegally downloading 3 films at once.
  40. I will always try to access a film through legal means, whether that means streaming or physical media. However, if there is something I want to see and cannot find access through such channels, I will see if someone I know can get it who does torrent. These are mostly older, more obscure, films that are long out-of-print on DVD, never made it to physical media, or haven't come out in my region.
  41. I live in Colombia, so there are films that are never released in my country's cinemas or streaming services. To give you one example, I was never able to catch The Farewell, Portrait of a Lady on Fire or The Souvenir on cinemas. That is why I rely on illegal websites to watch films like these. However, I am always checking which films will be distributed here, so I can eventually watch them in cinemas.
  42. It's a complicated matter, economically and morally speaking. I live in Mexico, where cinephile culture (or culture, in general) isn't as widely spread for multiple structural reasons, among them inequality in access to education, cultural centralization and overall preference for blockbuster spectacle, making "arthouse" films (I don't like the distinction, but for practicality it should work) mostly unknown, never released, and otherwise inaccessible through legitimate means. Even when they are legitimately accesible, you face more barriers: the technological barrier for streaming (internet access isn't as widespread for economic or even geographic conditions), the price barrier for specialized physical formats like Criterion editions (the peso-dollar parity makes them increasingly expensive), and the language barrier, because all those foreign films usually come with English subtitles only. That being said, the question becomes more complex, morally speaking, when you become aware of the piracy business' links to other, more "serious" criminal organizations. Personally, I always try to access the films I'm interested in through legal channels, even if it means I'll have to save up a bit before cashing in to watch them (it's also a technical preference, because some films can only be easily accessed in their best possible form on Blu-ray). But to be honest, in some regions in my country, and for many sectors of society, piracy is the ONLY way to encourage cinephile culture beyond the mainstream. I try not to promote piracy, because at the end of the day, film is also an industry that provides necessary jobs that are directly hurt by it. But I can understand it when not watching an important film at all is the alternative.
  43. thanks for the thoughtful response!
  44. Have no qualms about it, been doing it most of my life due to how much easier it is. I like renting (both from Redbox and Family Video) for nostalgia's sake and because of how cheap Family Video is, but for both streaming through Putlocker and physical rentals I tend to at least try to buy movies I'm moved by.



45. I used to pirate A LOT. And I still torrent quite a bit. But I now have a sort of system: Is it on a streaming service? If yes, watch there. Is it a movie I'm interested in and that I can support? Always buy the movie. Is it a movie that I can't access anywhere, except pirating? Ok. I will pirate. Is it a movie I absolutely don't care about enough to pay for and it's not available on a streaming service I already pay for? Is it a big studio movie that can handle the loss of one person not buying? Is it a throwaway film that I'm watching just to zone out or to complete some sort of story (ie. Marvel movies)? Then yes absolutely I will torrent and pirate.
46. If you consider yourself a cinephile, a film lover, or even just a fan of movies, pirating is fucking atrocious. It kills the film industry, and even if you pirate a movie and it becomes your favorite movie of all time, you're effectively telling the studios/distributors/filmmakers that you don't value that work, and therefore they won't make more of it. Pirating is stealing. It's literally no different than shoplifting, it's just easier to get away with.
47. I remember discovering the first original 123movies website once and at that time it was really helpful but later on there were hundreds of fake websites with the same name and the original one got lost. So websites should try to promote their original domain though it's highly unlikely that it will remain there forever.
48. If you have the means to watch a movie without pirating it than don't pirate it, if you don't then it's okay. If you hate people for pirating, hate the capitalists for making art inaccessible in an attempt to make profit.
49. I live in Brazil, there are a lot of films who are simply not available through legal means. So I say YES to piracy.
50. Also, there are studies showing that piracy actually helps the industry, acting as a way to spread information about the films.
51. True, HBO even bragged about Game of Thrones being the most pirated show lol
52. If I can watch the film without pirating, I'll always do that. There's only been a handful of times where that hasn't been possible.
53. I'm not tempted to pirate movies or music in America but nearly everything is accessible by legal means. I can't say that I would feel the same way if I lived where so much wasn't available. I definitely sympathize with anyone who feels like their only way to connect with large swaths of culture is through piracy.
54. I don't dig it. And I honestly don't feel the need to. I've done it in the past but I have so many free ways to get movies legally that there's no point. So many free streaming services are popping up that have absolutely amazing films. Any film lover could literally just use Kanopy for a year every day and never run out of great, classic films to watch.
55. Kanopy's not available outside the US
56. understood. If you have no other option than I don't have a problem with it.
57. I don't do this at all. I work in film acquisitions, so professionally I have more access to films than a regular person, but even before this job I always found ways to access films legally. That's my way to show respect to the filmmakers. And also, in Germany you can be easily found and fined for using those websites.
58. I may sound like a hypocrite but the first and foremost question I usually consider is accessibility, if it's available on netflix then of course I would love to watch it there but if not it's either the choice of getting it physically in which many of the rare films I seek could be unavailable or piracy, if I got it from the latter method and really loved the film I would try to get a physical copy but like it I said it's highly likely it's very hard to get or very pricy, my physical collection grows every year but I'm only a uni graduate so my resources are not that rich, I wish I could just buy or rent everything I want to watch, I'm particular adventurousness in wanting to watching a interesting picture where it's getting some attention or love, which those films very rarely gets release in Taiwan, even A24

films doesn't get released here, I watched Midsommar in cinema overseas but here at my hometown it wasn't even played in cinema and doesn't have a physical release here, I feel bad and guilty for going for piracy but it also allows me to see films and works of artist that would otherwise be unavailable to me.

59. u have to say if u r a cop
60. yea I'm definitely not, just a wee grad student who loves movies
61. The only thing I really pirate are films I can't easily get in Australia or get shipped in from the UK. Films like True Stories or Persona (just to name two) are very hard for me to come by through legal means, and it definitely doesn't help matters that I don't have a multi-region Blu-Ray player. If the Criterion Collection, or even the Criterion Channel, becomes available in Australia, there goes half my torrents. Aside from that, I just pirate hard-to-find TV shows. Ashes To Ashes, for example.
62. Depends on the movie honestly. I don't feel bad torrenting the latest Fast & Furious movie as opposed to an indie or something.
63. If its not available on any streaming service in my country, ill pirate it. I pay for the ones which are available directly priced to match my currency's purchasing power. For e.g. I cant take hulu because converted to my local currency from US dollars, it is ridiculously expensive. So hulu shows i pirate.
64. I always try my hardest not to pirate a movie, whether through streaming, renting, or buying, but if there's absolutely no way I'll pirate it, I've only done it a few times though.
65. streaming movies is a lot easier than pirating them, so I always search for the movie I want to watch on any streaming service I have. if I don't see it, I then go on soap2day to watch
66. It's easy to say not to pirate from a country where literally everything is accessible with several streaming services available. We don't have access to hulu or disney+ yet, netflix doesn't offer shit here either. If disney will not make the efforts, then neither will i. On the other hand, i do go to cinemas all the time, so i do all i can at this point. I rather not stay ignorant, and torrenting isn't even illegal here. 🙌
67. Um and also, shame on you if you watch films in like 420p online. Pirating at least lets you enjoy high definition.
68. I did it for about two years until the resource disappeared. Found a new resource maybe a year later. That one disappeared and now I'm just too lazy to try to keep up with it.
69. Pirating make me anxious, btw I have nothing against it, so sometimes my gf pirate something for me What I can't find on Netflix, Prime etc.

**source T: Facebook group—Letterboxd Community—two posts with no comments**

1. Where do you guys torrent/download movies other than Pirate Bay? (December 2018)  
[An admin turned off commenting for this post.]
2. What are your guys' opinions on torrenting films? What are the positives and negatives of doing it and do you think it should be punished severely or with just a warning? After using a torrenting system for a while to see films I cannot afford with a VPN I've decided to stop, I think torrenting is really important in countries with minimal access to film and film history (Cuba for example) and for spreading foreign film into the general public, but as someone who loves film and wants to support film the guilt of not doing so is crushing. I think I'd rather save up and maybe even start a blu ray collection. What are your guys' thoughts? (February 2019)