



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **FTC WARNS OF P2P FILE-SHARING RISK**

*Washington, D.C.* – The Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) today welcomed an announcement by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) about the security risks of using peer-to-peer (P2P) File-Sharing Networks. In a news release, the FTC said it has notified almost 100 organizations that personal information, including sensitive data about customers and/or employees, has been shared from the organizations’ computer networks and is available on P2P networks to any users of those networks, who could use it to commit identity theft or fraud. In addition, the FTC noted that companies that distribute P2P programs have a shared responsibility and should ensure that their software design does not contribute to inadvertent file sharing.

“For the millions of men and women working in film, television, music, software and other creative industries, P2P networks have become a serious threat to their livelihoods by serving as a major platform for illegal trafficking in stolen copyrighted material,” said Daniel Mandil, General Counsel & Chief Content Protection Officer for the MPAA. “Today the FTC is also sending out a strong warning that using P2P networks increases the risk that sensitive personal information will fall into the hands of identity thieves. The dangers are real both for business and home users of P2P networks, and we welcome the FTC’s efforts to spread the word about the risks.”

In the FTC release, Jon Liebowitz, the agency’s chairman, pointed out: “Unfortunately, companies and institutions of all sizes are vulnerable to serious P2P-related breaches, placing consumers’ sensitive information at risk. For example, we found health-related information, financial records, and drivers’ license and social security numbers – the kind of information that could lead to identity theft.”

The FTC’s announcement can be found at: <http://ftc.gov/opa/2010/02/p2palert.shtm>

**About the MPAA**

*The Motion Picture Association of America, Inc. (MPAA) serves as the voice and advocate of the American motion picture, home video and television industries from its offices in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C.*

*Its members include: The Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures; Paramount Pictures Corporation; Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc.; Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation; Universal City Studios LLLP; and Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.*

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