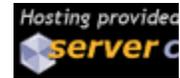




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# XM Radio takes its ball and goes home

Posted August 31, 2004 @ 3:01 PM  
by [Eric Bangeman](#)

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Last week, we [reported](#) on a cool app (Time Trax) that had drawn the unwelcome scrutiny of both XM Radio and the RIAA. Time Trax enables owners of the XM PCR to record XM Radio

programming on a PC, a very popular feature that has apparently led to XM's [discontinuing](#) the XM PCR. While XM will not confirm that the PCR has been pulled off the market, some XM Radio resellers are reporting that they have been informed that it has.

XM is still looking for a way to stop the distribution of Time Trax, displeased as they are that people would want to time shift a broadcast or save it to listen again later. A company spokesperson confirmed this, saying that "we continue to pursue appropriate options related to TimeTrax, including any legal or other options." In the meantime, XM's move is proving to be a windfall for current PCR owners, as the law of supply and demand has kicked in. The normally US\$49.95 unit is now fetching upwards of US\$350 on ebay.

For its part, the RIAA denies having any influence over XM's decision to pull the PCR off the market, although it shares the concerns XM has over the product.

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"We are very concerned about a variety of technologies that essentially transform performances into music libraries," RIAA spokesman Steve Marks said. "We have communicated our concerns to XM and other broadcasters and Webcasters, (and told them) that we'd like to work together with them to address technologies that hijack these performances."

Transforming a performance into a music library? I was doing that back in the late 70s with the help of my FM radio and a cassette player. If it wasn't so frustrating, it would be funny how many times the recording and broadcasting industries have been up in arms about some new technology that threatened their business model. It's high time they embraced the combination of changing technologies and consumer attitudes that lead to products like Time Trax. Who knows — if they gave consumers a product they wanted they might actually see revenues increase and make their shareholders happy.

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