

18 September 2005

By: Sci/Tech News Staff, -

[Don't Modify the Xbox, Because You Will Go to Jail!](#)

For five months, at least



The story! Enacted in 1998, the DMCA prohibits the manufacture and distribution of products or services that circumvent technological protection measures designed to prevent unauthorized access to and copying of copyrighted materials. The Pandora's Cube employees modified Microsoft Xbox video game consoles, in violation of the DMCA, and turned them into what Pandora's Cube called "Super Xboxes." These "Super Xboxes" were designed solely to defeat the Xbox's copyright protection system and permit the user to avoid purchasing and paying for legitimate Xbox video games. The Pandora's Cube employees also loaded illegal copies of video games onto the hard drives of the Super Xboxes, in violation of federal copyright law. The conclusion? Biren Amin, owner of Pandora's Cube, a major retailer of pirated games and illegally modified Microsoft Xboxes in the Washington, DC area, has been sentenced to five months in prison with three years of supervised release, including five months of home confinement, the Entertainment Software Association (ESA) announced. Mr. Amin was also fined \$247,237.05 and ordered to complete 80 hours of community service as part of his sentence. Last week's conviction is the fourth in a series of guilty convictions of Pandora's Cube employees, all of whom were sentenced for conspiring to commit felony copyright infringement and conspiring to violate the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA). Amin's sentence comes after three of his co-conspirators were convicted and sentenced for piracy activities at Pandora's Cube. Defendant Mguresh Amin, a store manager, received a sentence of six months home confinement, twenty-four months probation and 150 hours community service. Herbie Walker, a senior retail manager, was sentenced to six months home confinement, paying for the costs associated with electronic monitoring, twenty-four months probation and 100 hours of community service. Hitesh Patel, a store manager and technician, received a sentence of four months in prison, with two years of supervised release including four months of home detention. The cases against Pandora's Cube employees were the result of a joint effort of the United States Department of Justice's Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section ("CCIPS"), the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Maryland, and the United States Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE"). The ESA is the U.S. association dedicated to serving the business and public affairs needs of the companies publishing interactive games for video game consoles, handheld devices, personal computers, and the Internet. ESA members collectively account for more than 90 percent of the \$7.3 billion in entertainment software sales in the U.S. in 2004, and billions more in export sales of entertainment software. This week, Softpedia would like to know your opinion on gaming consoles. What is your favorite console you either own or you are planning to buy? Are you an Xbox fan or a Playstation fan? Has Xbox360 convinced you it's time to buy one? Or you'll wait for the PS3? [Express your opinion here.](#)