

By Paul Belleflamme, 28 October 2010

Just released: "Digital Piracy: Theory"



In "**Digital Piracy: Theory**" (click [here](#) to download), Paul Belleflamme and Martin Peitz review recent theoretical contributions on digital piracy. The article starts by elaborating on the reasons for intellectual property protection, by reporting a few facts about copyright protection, and by examining reasons to become a digital pirate. Next, it provides an exploration of the consequences of digital piracy, using a base model and several extensions (with consumer sampling, network effects, and indirect appropriation). A closer look at market-structure implications of end-user piracy is then taken. After a brief review of commercial piracy, additional legal and private responses to end-user piracy are considered. Finally, a quick look at emerging new business models is taken.

Note that this article is due to be published in *The Oxford Handbook of the Digital Economy*, edited by Martin Peitz and Joel Waldfogel for Oxford University Press. The book (expected for 2011) will contain a chapter by Joel Waldfogel on the empirics of digital piracy.