computer, humor, topical

Napster Piracy

Lyrics ©2000 Stephen Savitzky. Some Rights Reserved¹. To the tune of *Barrett's Privateers* by Stan Rogers

Oh the year was Nineteen Ninety Eight How I wish I was on Freenet now When people first heard of MP3 And music out on the Web for free.

God damn them all! I was told You download all your computer can hold We'd take our music and pay no fee Now I owe three years' pay in royalty Because of Napster piracy

Shawn Fanning he wrote a program kewl How I wish I was on Freenet nowA fairly trivial piece of codeFor sharing files from node to node

But the clever part was the Napster site How I wish I was on Freenet now Where people could trade their songs for free And pay not a nickle of royalty.

So I got a big disk and a cable line How I wish I was on Freenet now Then I logged on and began to get The biggest collection on the net There were thousands of songs there up for grabs

How I wish I was on Freenet now I was hooked up in one of the fastest ways But to fill a hundred gig took two whole days

At length they were sued by RIAA How I wish I was on Freenet now They said "You have done us many wrongs To go and make copies of all our songs."

But Napster said "There's no music here." How I wish I was on Freenet now "We're a kind of search engine, don't you know.

(Our users may have some trouble, though)"

So it looks like Napster may get off clean How I wish I was on Freenet now I laughed 'til the summons came down for me And the charge they made was piracy.

Well I learned my lesson and paid my fine How I wish I was on Freenet nowBut they can't take my MP3's away'Cause I got Gnutella yesterday.

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