

February 21, 2005

An open offer to the M.A.M.E. community.

Our recent actions to protect our products have met with a lot of controversy. Many people have been quick to judge and make accusations about what we are attempting to do, and what we have already done. It is my understanding that the spirit of the M.A.M.E. community is “M.A.M.E.'s purpose is to preserve these decades of video-game history.” It is further my understanding that “Selling either is not allowed” with regards to M.A.M.E.

Given this understanding, we are willing to help promote these goals and work to provide the original authors with the protection they deserve. Our goal is to prevent the commercial offering of machines with illegally obtained ROMs. I believe our goals can work in parallel.

Furthermore, we have a long standing relationship with many publishers of many games, and we are constantly working to obtain more and more licenses for these games.

Our goal in filing the trademark for the name M.A.M.E. was simply to give us leverage against those companies that promote and sell machines with M.A.M.E. installed on it, and more importantly, provide their customers with the means to illegally obtain the ROMs. This doesn't help our sales of our products. This doesn't help the community in general.

We have no desire to use the M.A.M.E. name or logos; we simply wish to find ways to prevent illegal distribution of classic arcade games. We will be happy to cancel our application and work with the M.A.M.E. team to assign it to its rightful owners; however we do want to prevent it from being awarded to someone that intends to use it commercially.

I am available to work with the community to ensure that this happens, and to help get more games made available to the community at a reasonable price.

David R. Foley
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