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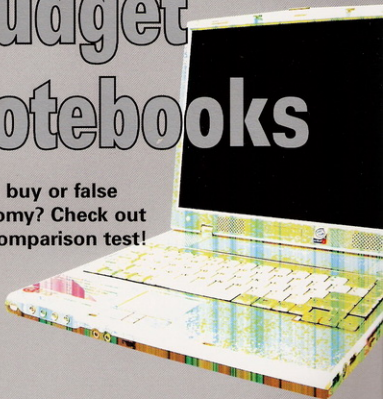


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Our recommendations of the coolest gifts this season



Audit Bureau of Circulations

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MP3s are a new way of life

The masses are adapting to it, and they are even going crazy over it. The artists will just have to deal with it – for good or for worse.

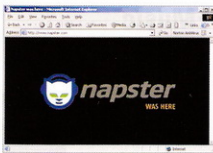
The biggest casualty during the early days of MP3 sharing was, without a doubt, the band Metallica. They went from being the heroes of every pimply teenage boy from Los Angeles to Kuala Lumpur, to a band that teenagers, web activists and parents hated. Why? Simply because Messrs Ulrich and Hetfield did not bother to think things through when fans started to trade their songs through P2P programs, particularly Napster. Their crappy haircuts around the time they released the *Load* and *Reload* albums didn't win them any points for chic either.

Metallica lashed out, taking legal action against music fans who downloaded or exchanged their music illegally. After a few incidents where the police actually picked up a few people for downloading Metallica songs, the fans turned as one and collectively told Metallica to go and take a hike. Sales of their albums have dropped, and Metallica would probably never recover from all the bad press that resulted from this sorry incident.

Dr. Dre was another artiste who made a big fuss over the issue of MP3s being traded by fans. Eminem poked fun at this in "The Real Slim Shady", and look at where Eminem is today in



"I will make you famous"



Napster posts its own eulogy

terms of popularity, versus the likes of Dr. Dre and Metallica.

On the other hand, bands like Limp Bizkit came out in full support of a Napster and were rewarded for it by a vociferous fan base. Limp Bizkit went on to make "Take a look around", the theme song for the wildly successful movie, "Mission Impossible 2", in 2000. They also garnered a big following in professional wrestling when the Undertaker (also known as the American Badass)

used "Rolling" for his entrance music for most of 2001.

On the local front, few of the mainstream artistes have their works online, and when they do, those songs are usually traded via P2P software where the artiste earns absolutely nothing. Instead of adapting to the changes, we see artistes using the local awards night to advertise their protest against music piracy.

Those who do have their works online benefit from a large underground following that in turn translates into better album sales. Simply telling the listener that they have to buy music because "I, the artiste, wants to live a life of luxury" doesn't work anymore. P2P will always be here to stay, as more and more people buy computers and go online. Even in the absence of Napster and KaZaA-type software, the user can still always rely on good old email attachments to send music around.

So we ask the artistes: To bitch or to bridge?

Malaysians and their Online Songs

Janet says that she recorded this song as a feature artist for Doobie, and that "The City Is Mine" has been online since 2000. She adds that the song managed to get into the Top 100 Chart a little while after the album was released. The track can be categorised as Dance music, with a heavy dose of electronic and overlaid sound effects.

Ivan Chan's (Rabbit) music is available through Maxis, which allows users of Maxis to dial up a code and get the free music on their phone. Rabbit is pretty happy about this since he has achieved his objective of having the most listeners compared to other artistes in this program. He has five songs available.

Rabbit does not have any music online in an official capacity. This is because EMI, his recording company, has yet to see the light of giving away free music. However, Rabbit is a regular surfer dude himself, and has found entire albums of his songs available on file-sharing programs.

He says, "Having music available in a public domain such as the Internet most obviously gave me a better chance for my music to be heard inter-

nationally. Nothing major has been achieved yet but I'm planning to set up a site where my music will be available. Watch out for it."

We will, Rabbit. We will.



Janet

Artist: Various Malaysians
http://glocal.mp3.com/gir?genre_id=0009&geo_id=00001119

Artist: Doobie/Janet
http://artists.mp3s.com/artist_song/723/723681.html

Artist: Jason Jonathan Lo
<http://artists.mp3s.com/artists/421/-lo-.html>

Artist: Pete Teo
<http://artists.hubba.com/peteteo/>

Artist: Passion [English]
<http://passion.lemang.com/albums.htm>
http://artists.mp3s.com/artists/138/passion_malaysia.html