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THE SCREEN SAVERS

Dark Tip-Cheap MP3s

written by Roman Loyola on Monday, June 07, 2004

Thank goodness the [Cold War](#) ended 14 years ago. The fall of a communist Soviet Union gave birth to the capitalist spirit in a reborn Russia. What does that mean to us, 14 years later? Dirt-cheap MP3 music!

On today's episode of "The Screen Savers" Kevin takes a tour of [Allofmp3](#), an online music service that could steal customers away from iTunes, Napster, and other services. Allofmp3 offers low, low prices an growing music library, and even free albums from well-known artists.

They're slashing prices!

iTunes: \$.99 per song. Napster: \$.99 per song. Wal-Mart: \$.88 per song. Rhapsody: \$.79. Complete albums from any of these services: \$9.99 to \$20.

Allofmp3's pricing? They charge you per megabyte. OK, sounds all right, you say. But get this: you pay \$.01 per megabyte. A typical 4-minute MP3 song encoded at 128KB costs about \$.04. That's no misprint.

To make the deal even sweeter, you have a choice of encoders: MP3, AAC, Ogg Vorbis, Windows Media, or MusePack.

The catch

Allofmp3 is a Russian-based business. As you might expect, Russia has different laws regarding copyright. Allofmp3 has an agreement to sell music with the [Russian Organization for Multimedia and Digital Systems](#) which manages Russian copyright law. Online reports say that Allofmp3 is legitimate and acting legally under Russian laws.

[MuSeekster](#) has done a bit of research on the Russian company, and has a comprehensive [Allofmp3 review](#).

Not so sure about giving your credit car number to a Russian company? So are we. But we couldn't find one complaint or claim of fraud on the Internet. In fact, what we mostly found were testimonials on Allofmp3's great service.

What do you think?

Have you used Allofmp3? Any problems? Let us know by posting in the [message boards](#).



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