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Subject: Renguard obtains serial?

Posted by [Blazer](#) on Sat, 24 Apr 2004 00:09:13 GMT

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CrimsonAnother example... you could have a 5.6 MB mp3 of some song you like. It may hash to something like "9b773ef3". How can you POSSIBLY reverse this short string of letters to a 5.6 MB file? It's used for comparison. In a perfect world, if your favorite band had two versions of a song and you had one, you could use this hash to compare whether the version you're going to download is the same or a different mix because the hash won't match.

Heh slightly OT but that is exactly the method that Kazaa, WinMX, etc use to tell if a file is the exact same as the one you selected to download. That's how it keeps from downloading pieces of a song that might have the same filename & filesize but is actually different contents. I think the main point here is that a hash is just a "fingerprint" of a file or piece of data, it's not an encrypted form of the data and thus cannot be reversed back to the original.

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