

# Major film distributor

## Description:

Some of the biggest film studios in the world are 20th Century Fox, Universal Studios, Paramount Pictures, Warner Bros., Disney and Sony. Studios like these can release huge blockbusters like 'Thor', made by Paramount Pictures and Marvel Entertainment.

All of the major film studios have head offices in the UK, that employ hundreds of people. These companies, traditionally thought of as overseas, have a positive effect on the UK economy, creating jobs. As these film distribution companies are larger, they employ more people on a more permanent basis, providing a steady stream of films to keep audiences happy. They are also able to invest more into publicising their films, making sure that audiences know the films are coming soon, via adverts, posters, and trailers shown on TV. These major film distributors pioneer innovative marketing initiatives that can make or break a film upon its release. They also provide longer term investment to some of the UK's film production facilities by the volume of films that are made or commissioned, and their strong links to the UK means they're more likely to use UK facilities, like Pinewood and Ealing, and cutting-edge post-production facilities in the UK.

## Personal testimony:

Film studios are a business like any other, and copyright infringement has an obvious effect on our revenues because it deprives them of income through lost sales. It has a damaging impact not only on revenue, but also on the reinvestment they can plough into other films.

We often produce blockbusters for people to enjoy, with big budgets and big screen actors. However we also invest in indie films, as well as trying to cover the costs of other films which perhaps weren't so successful at the box office. This means there's a diverse range of films for everyone to choose from.

What's more, the UK film industry as a whole provides livelihoods for more than a hundred thousand people. It takes hundreds of people to make a film and only a very small minority are paid high salaries. Alongside them, there is a host of equally indispensable talented, passionate people who spend hours labouring away to achieve the perfect sound quality, lighting, and music, as well as those employed to look after security on set, and feed the crew. Every one of them deserves to be paid, just like they would in any other business, so it is only fair for their wages to be protected by choosing to enjoy official content.

Trevor Albery, Vice-President, EMEA  
Anti-Piracy Operations, Warner Bros.

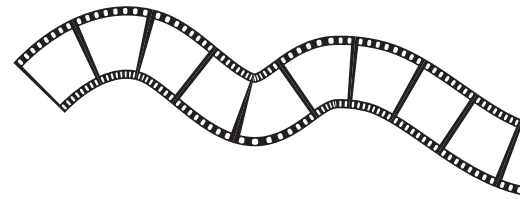
# Questions

- Many of the films made by major film studios have big budgets. What do you think they spend their budgets on in order to produce blockbuster films? What do you think the profits from these films are spent on?
- How do you think major film studios are affected by copyright infringement?

## So why is copyright important?

- Aside from making sure people get paid for the work they do, copyright also enables money to be raised for future film-making, protecting the industry as a whole. This is because every time someone chooses to buy a cinema ticket, DVD, Blu-ray disc, or stream and download authorised content, money is invested back into the industry so more of everyone's favourite films and TV shows can be made.

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