More downloaders sued
Correspondents in Los Angeles
The Australian
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THE US recording industry has filed copyright infringement lawsuits against 761 computer users in the latest round of its effort to stamp out unauthorised trading of music online. The latest batch of lawsuits also targeted 25 computer users suspected of swapping songs over university networks, according to the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), a trade group for the largest music companies.

The RIAA claims the defendants used peer-to-peer services, including eDonkey, Kazaa and LimeWire to share music.

Among the college and universities attended by students named in the lawsuits were Amherst College, Boston College, Bridgewater State, Iowa State, Northeastern, and the University of Massachusetts.

The individual colleges and universities were not named as defendants.

As in previous cases, the new lawsuits were filed against "John Doe" defendants - identified only by their numeric internet protocol addresses. Music company lawyers must obtain the identity of defendants by issuing subpoenas to internet access providers.

In all, recording companies have sued 6,952 computer users since September 2003. To date, 1,300 defendants have settled their cases out of court, RIAA said.

Settlements in previous cases have averaged $US3000 each ($3800).

The Associated Press

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