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OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

University of Maryland Expands Legal Digital Music Service

COLLEGE PARK, MD (March 6, 2006) – The University of Maryland will expand its offering of legal music downloading services to its students and staff as it extends its existing relationship with Cdigix, the leading provider of legal digital media to the college marketplace, and joins with the University System of Maryland in a multi-institution agreement.

After successfully piloting the program with undergraduates since spring 2005, the new agreement will enable Maryland to offer the legal file sharing service to graduate students, faculty, and staff in the College Park campus community at discounted rates starting later this spring.

“We are proud to have been among the front runners in offering our students a legal alternative to illegal music downloading,” said Dr. Jeffrey Huskamp, vice president and chief information officer. “We are pleased to be able to extend this opportunity to more individuals of the university community in an effort to offer a valuable service and to promote responsible use of computing resources on campus.”

Cdigix's digital music service, called Ctrax, continues to be a free monthly subscription service to all undergraduate students through the end of the spring 2006 semester, allowing students to access unlimited songs via a ‘tethered download’ for no cost. Once downloaded, students have the ability to play the tracks as often as they want on up to three unique computers.

When the free trial ends for undergraduates, the monthly subscription rate will be \$2, which includes access to Cdigix’s musical library of more than two million songs. Subscribers can purchase individual songs for 89 cents, or buy an entire digital album for \$9.99. Graduate students, faculty, and staff at the College Park campus will be able to subscribe to these services at discounted rates ranging from \$2 to \$5.99 per month.

Ctrax users now have the ability to take their music with them via the new Ctrax2Go portable subscription offering. This feature, which is available for an additional monthly fee, is compatible with all Windows Media 10 “PlaysForSure” subscription portable music devices including Creative Labs’ ZEN Micro and the iRiver H10.

The university initially began working with Cdigix in 2005 as a result of a student-led Peer-to-Peer Task Force effort, begun last spring to seek an affordable way for students to legally access music. As a result of the 2005 collaboration, the flagship campus was the first institution in the University System of Maryland to offer a legal file sharing service to students. By joining the system-wide search for a service last fall, University of Maryland and system officials believed all could benefit from the learning experience with the Cdigix pilot program in College Park and could leverage the system’s size for an enhanced service and great price for participating system institutions.

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“During the Cdigix trial, we discovered the need to address support of the Macintosh community on campus and a vocal segment of students who didn’t want restrictions on their Web browser preferences,” said Ellen Borkowski, director of academic support in Maryland’s Office of Information Technology and project leader for College Park.

Cdigix continues to work on additional enhancements including a Ctrax experience for Macintosh users, which has already begun to take shape with this semester’s launch of 20 Mac-compatible radio stations. In addition, the company is currently developing a new client which will be browser independent.

“The University of Maryland, College Park was a first-mover in the movement to bring legitimate digital media services to university campuses, and we are honored to continue our relationship with them,” said Brett Goldberg, Executive Vice President and Founder of Cdigix. “The support we have received from the University of Maryland’s students, faculty, and administrators has been invaluable.”

About the University of Maryland

From its pre-Civil War roots as the state’s first agricultural college and one of America’s original land grant institutions, today the University of Maryland is a public research university of national stature. Ranked No. 18 by *U.S. News & World Report*, it also has 32 academic programs in the Top 10 and 79 in the Top 25. The faculty includes a Nobel Laureate in physics, six Pulitzer Prize winners, and scores of Fulbright scholars. This past fiscal year, sponsored research and outreach totaled nearly \$330 million. The university is also recognized for its diversity, with one-third of the student population being students of color. For more information about the University of Maryland, visit www.umd.edu.

About Cdigix

Seattle-based Cdigix is the leading provider of secure, legal digital entertainment and educational media to directly serve the college market. The high-quality content offered by Cdigix is available through partnerships with premier entertainment and media companies, and is distributed via the universities' internal IP infrastructures. Cdigix currently has relationships with dozens of college campuses, reaching approximately half a million students. More information can be found at www.cdigix.com.

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