

Thursday, June 1. 2006

### **Interview with The Pirate Bay (english)**

Still the situation in Sweden concerning yesterday's raid on ThePirateBay is more than unclear, not very much information is getting out onto the net.

I had the privilege to conduct a small interview with "darknite" from Piratbyrån/The Pirate Bay hopefully lifting the fog a little bit:

What exactly happened yesterday?

We still don't know too much, it is all very chaotic. We still haven't had the chance to see the warrant, so we don't exactly know what they were looking for. We know from AntiPiratByrån (the swedish anti-piracy organization) that the warrant was issued towards the whole provider PRQ. Also not only about 160 servers but also networking equipment was taken.

That means that also other websites were affected?

Yes. The Magazine Säkerhet&Sekretess has issued a first list and asks everybody who is affected to notify them, as they are planning a big article on it. Dagens Industri, a rather large magazine in sweden says there were about 200 customers who have become "innocent victims". The fact that so many innocent websites, also the political organisation "Piratbyrån" have been taken down is much more serious for us than the temporary downtime of The Pirate Bay

Some people were also arrested. What are they being charged with?

Three crew members were arrested and questioned, though they were released again yesterday. They are being charged with copyright infringement. This could change, though. We suspect that AntiPiratByrån mislead the police, accusing ThePirateBay actually offering Warez on the servers.

Is there any estimation from the lawyers?

No, not yet. We are negotiating with a very famous swedish lawyer and trying to convince him to defend us in the upcoming case.

Does The Pirate Bay have a backup-plan?

We are currently working hard on a solution and I would be very disappointed in us if we couldn't get TPB up and running again within a week. It is very possible that we move into other countries, possibly Holland, with Russia as a Backup. There are some problems with decentralization, but a solution which would keep TPB up even if one location is taken down would be good.

What were the political reactions so far?

So far only the pirate's party as well as Piratbyrån has issued a statement. This year is election year in sweden, so we expect a lot more discussion to come. The behaviour of the police and AntiPiratByrån will surely also be debated in public

Thank you very much for this interview.

Posted by julian in politics at 13:39

TPB ruu

Anonymous on Jun 1 2006, 14:07

I suspect the Pirate Bay will be up and running again very soon - I also suspect ALL the torrents will be moved to other trackers. I also suspect that MOST of the copyright material "stolen" via BitTorrent trackers would not have been bought by the so called "offenders" anyway, I suggest very few so they do not represent a loss of sales to the over greedy industries anyway. Secondly: what is the legal standing of people downloading music from torrent sites for which they already hold either an old fashioned vinyl or broken CD copy? (I believe this entitles the owner to make as many copies for his/her own use in perpetuity) and do the punishments for this include life in prison or dinner with Robert Mugabe? Also what evidence do the authorities have that people haven't just downloaded a file to try - then bought a pukka copy afterwards? Next: what is the position of people who pay to download music - then accidentally wipe it or lose their MP3 players, crash their hard disc, etc. Does the music industry expect them to buy the material again and if so is this not blatant racketeering on their behalf? Finally - what is the legal position on people recording off a DAB or DVB transmission for later viewing/listening via their PC's, since recording a television programme onto VHS tape is not an infringement of copyright or nearly everybody in the entire world would have to be taken to court, including the gloating peeps from MPAA - how ironinc would that be!!!

Cheers

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Anonymous on Jun 2 2006, 13:16