

Friday, May 4. 2007

Der Spiegel, a right wing extremist and The Pirate Bay

"Pirate-Site in the twilight: right wing populist finances internet-files-sharing-site", is the lurid title on the front page of Spiegel Online, this morning. The truth is quite different, though, as Magnus Eriksson of Piratbyran, who are closely connected to "The Pirate Bay", tells me.

Magnus, the author of the article tried to connect Carl Lundström to the Pirate Party...

...which doesn't make sense. There are two large organisations who work on file sharing in Sweden. Piratbyran, which is us, who also run The Pirate Bay, and the Pirate Party. Although we do know each other, we are totally different organisations.

How far is Carl Lundström connected to "The Pirate Bay"?

Carl Lundström was the CEO and is still the largest shareholder of Rix Telecom, a large provider in Sweden. Frederik from The Pirate Bay also worked there. At that time Rix supplied bandwidth and server space for The Pirate Bay. In the mean time TPB has left Rix and also Frederik left the company. The Pirate Bay received neither servers nor money from Rix. Only bandwidth and server space.

So the whole thing was an initiative of an employee?

Yes, an employer gave his employee the possibility to pursue a private project, in this case The Pirate Bay.

All that sounds very altruistic. Doesn't Lundström pursue his own interests?

It may be that Lundström is a friend of free culture. But fact is, that he has neither influence on Piratbyran nor on The Pirate Bay. And most certainly not on the Pirate Party which has, as I said, nothing to do with the rest.

On TV Tobias Andersson said "Without the support of Carl Lundström, The Pirate Bay couldn't have started"

Well, probably The Pirate Bay couldn't have existed without the starting aid with bandwidth and server space. In the beginning our advertising contracts were rubbish. But if Frederik had worked at some other provider or somebody else but Lundström had been the CEO, we would have had to find a different solution. I could only speculate how this solution would have looked like, but constructing a personal sponsoring by Lundström out of that is nonsense.

Update: Magnus just added that Der Spiegel never directly contacted The Pirate Bay. "The only contact that existed was to Mikael Wiborg, but he has nothing to do with running pirate bay, just helped them provide legal advice. And he was not around at the time this happened."

Posted by julian in politics at 13:06