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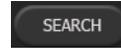
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MegaUpload takedown Proves SOPA / PIPA are unnecessary

It has been a huge week when it comes to protecting intellectual property, and defending the freedom of the Internet. Following a massive blackout on Wednesday to oppose pending SOPA legislation, the United States government took down MegaUpload.com – demonstrating why we don't need SOPA in the first place.

TONY BRADLEY | MONDAY, JANUARY 23 2012 | [8 COMMENTS](#)

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It has been a huge week when it comes to protecting intellectual property, and defending the freedom of the Internet. Following a massive blackout on Wednesday to oppose pending SOPA legislation, the United States government took down MegaUpload.com – demonstrating why we don't need SOPA in the first place.

Debate has been raging in the US over two pending bills -- SOPA (Stop Online Piracy Act) in the US House of Representatives, and PIPA (Protect Intellectual Property Act) in the US Senate. Supporters insist that copyright violations, and intellectual property theft are a rampant online epidemic, and that sweeping, draconian legislation is the only viable solution.

The Internet disagrees. Starting with an effort to boycott domain seller GoDaddy.com for its support of SOPA, awareness has steadily increased, and opposition has grown. Individuals responsible for inventing the technologies on which the Internet is built issued a plea to US Congress to abandon the bills, and the SOPA blackout this week created enough backlash and political pressure that both bills have been postponed.

The question remains, though, why do we need any new legislation at all?

The core premise of the argument for SOPA and PIPA is that supporters claim the legislation is necessary to enable them to take action to fight online content piracy from rogue foreign sites that operate outside of existing U.S. laws. The poster child for SOPA / PIPA support has been MegaUpload.com.

Setting aside the irony that [MegaUpload.com would be immune](#) from SOPA / PIPA persecution even if the legislation passed, the actions of the DOJ and ICE clearly illustrate that the existing framework of legal authority is sufficient. If the government is already capable of taking down a website without due legal process, and enlisting the cooperation of international law enforcement to arrest its key members on foreign soil, what exactly do we need additional legislation for? The DOJ case against MegaUpload relies on ProIP legislation passed in 2008. That legislation faced controversy as well – including the appointment of a “Copyright Czar” who operates outside of the Judicial branch as a function of the Executive Office of the President. Just as with SOPA and PIPA, there were claims that ProIP was overreaching and unnecessary, and assurances from the government that the tenets of the new law would not be abused.

The debate is just getting started over whether the DOJ action against MegaUpload.com is justified, or an example of abusing ProIP. Regardless, though, the legal action against MegaUpload.com should be all the evidence needed to demonstrate that SOPA and PIPA are not needed.

Mike Masnick sums it up in a [post on TechDirt](#). “So why do we need SOPA/PIPA again?”



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8 COMMENTS

SOPA really does suck

I don't see why they're wasting their time on SOPA, obviously people are not happy with it with half of the internet going black for the day, even my forum had a little WE HATE SOPA bar on the top of it. Hopefully this doesn't pass, but by the sounds of things, pointless, just send ~70 police officers to the offenders house take them to court and take their site control off them.

POSTED BY LUKE AT 17:43:32 ON JANUARY 29, 2012

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When I count to ten (or a disaster strikes) you'll be asleep

The new copyright law was passed under the guise of the earthquake emergency act - what the hell does a national disaster have to do with this? Maybe because joe-public is distracted with the disaster that politicians quickly push through their questionable agendas (remind you of Bush and the anti-terrorism act that enables the US government to watch everyone's move post nine eleven?).

<http://www.nbr.co.nz/opinion/wikileaks-cables-us-govt-pressured-nz-over-internet-file-sharing-law>

POSTED BY STEVE AT 11:08:36 ON JANUARY 24, 2012

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When I count to ten (or a disaster strikes) you'll be asleep

sry can i know now did sopa n pipa pass ? n did it started to blackout all the website ? sry 4 my silly question cause im not very well informed about current news regarding sopa n pipa

POSTED BY IAN AT 19:30:27 ON JANUARY 25, 2012

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A larger threat from Bush era

There is an even larger threat unfolding. See this article: <http://infojustice.org/archives/7461> .

Derechos Digitales. "TPP: spoons of the same "SOPA." - "while a lot of people demonstrate against the American bill, the governments of Australia, Brunei, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and the U.S. are agreeing in a new international agreement that includes some of the worse threats of S.O.P.A.: the censoring of website because of possible copyright infringement, by giving policy power to online service providers."

The New Zealand government has already been sold into political prostitution by the USA political powers and film studios - its all about promising more trade and dollars.

POSTED BY STEVE AT 10:40:43 ON JANUARY 24, 2012

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Political wolves herding the sheep

Politicians see the effect that social media sites can have in overthrowing governments (Egypt, Libya etc.) . Mass communication is very powerful and empowers the man on the street. Politicians fear this and need a way to control the masses by controlling the internet. Its not about copyright infringement - it is something larger than that and we all need to wake up before it is too late.

POSTED BY ANONYMOUS AT 8:39:08 ON JANUARY 24, 2012

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alot of rioting and rebellions

i say alot of riots are gonaa happen if sopa/pipa passes

POSTED BY ANONYMOUS AT 17:25:50 ON JANUARY 23, 2012

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Wrong (see above)

Neither PIPA or SOPA provide due process.

POSTED BY ANONYMOUS AT 13:30:21 ON JANUARY 23, 2012

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It proves reform is necessary.

What this proves is actually the opposite of what proponents have stated. Reform is necessary in the other direction to restore due process of law. A major international business with substantial legions of non-infringing users was just shuttered and all assets seized without a single hearing in which they could face their accusers and dispute the charges against them.

This treatment is unprecedented everywhere save drug laws. Websites are not like cocaine, they are capable of constructive use.

POSTED BY ANONYMOUS AT 12:18:24 ON JANUARY 23, 2012

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Your name

Listed as anonymous if blank

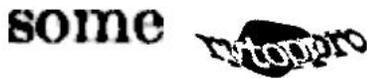
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