

The background of the slide is a light gray circuit board pattern with black lines and circular nodes. A dark horizontal band runs across the middle of the slide, containing the text.

# Internet Blocking

TJ McIntyre, Digital Rights Ireland and  
UCD Sutherland School of Law

Digital Rights Europe, 15 April 2015, Dublin

What is blocking/filtering?



**greatfirewallofchina.org**

Test any website and see real-time if it's censored in China!

## Former Formula One boss Max Mosley wins latest round of legal privacy fight against Google over images of him at a sex party

- Mosley, 74, is seeking damages and an injunction over the photographs
- He alleges Google UK and Google Inc breached the Data Protection Act
- Today High Court refused to block former Formula One boss's claim
- Action follows Mosley's 2008 privacy victory against News Of The World
- He won £60,000 in compensation over report that he took part in sex party

By STEPHANIE LINNING FOR MAILONLINE

PUBLISHED: 18:15 GMT, 15 January 2015 | UPDATED: 19:50 GMT, 15 January 2015



Former Formula One boss Max Mosley has won his latest round of his ongoing legal battle against Google after the High Court refused to block his claim for damages over 'sex orgy' pictures.

Mosley, 74, is seeking damages from Google UK and parent company Google Inc, and an injunction banning the publication of the photographs on the search engine.

He has brought a claim against US-based Google Inc and Google UK under the Data Protection Act and against Google Inc for misuse of private information.

Google's lawyers said that his case is unsustainable in fact and law and should be struck out.

They also argued that permission to serve the claim on Google Inc outside the jurisdiction of the court should be set aside.



1

Download your free broadband help tool

2

Choose if you want parental controls

3

Log in to set up your extras



## I want Parental Controls

We'll help keep your family safe from inappropriate online content.

- Protect all the devices in your home
- Activate with one easy setup, no downloads required
- Select the appropriate filter level for your family

You need to be the account-holder to set this up

[Continue to set up Parental Controls](#)



## No thanks

Allow unrestricted access to online content

[I don't want Parental Controls](#)



**Safety**   
@safety

@safety is blocked

Are you sure you want to view these Tweets? Viewing Tweets won't unblock @safety.

[View Tweets](#)

# Block Together (beta)

A web app intended to help cope with harassment and abuse on Twitter.

- Block young accounts (< 7 days old) that mention you.**
- Block accounts with < 15 followers that mention you.**
- Share your block list with friends** [\(Example block list\)](#).
- Follow @blocktogether for news and updates.**

Sign up using Twitter

Block Together will not tweet on your behalf, but it needs read/write access so it can block people when you ask it to. Twitter describes that permission as 'Post tweets for you.'

**Already using Block Together?**

Log on using Twitter

ats  
All Mail

Spam (1,028)

 Trash

Receipts

Work

# How does it relate to geolocation?

## How Do You Know If Content Has Been Withheld?

Withheld Tweets:

### **Tweet withheld**

This Tweet from @Username has been withheld in: Country. [Learn more](#)

If you see a grayed-out Tweet in your timeline (above) or on another user's account (below), it means that access to that Tweet has been withheld in your country.

### **Tweet withheld**

This Tweet from @Username has been withheld in: Country. [Learn more](#)

Withheld accounts:

### **@Username withheld**

This account has been withheld in: Country. [Learn more](#)

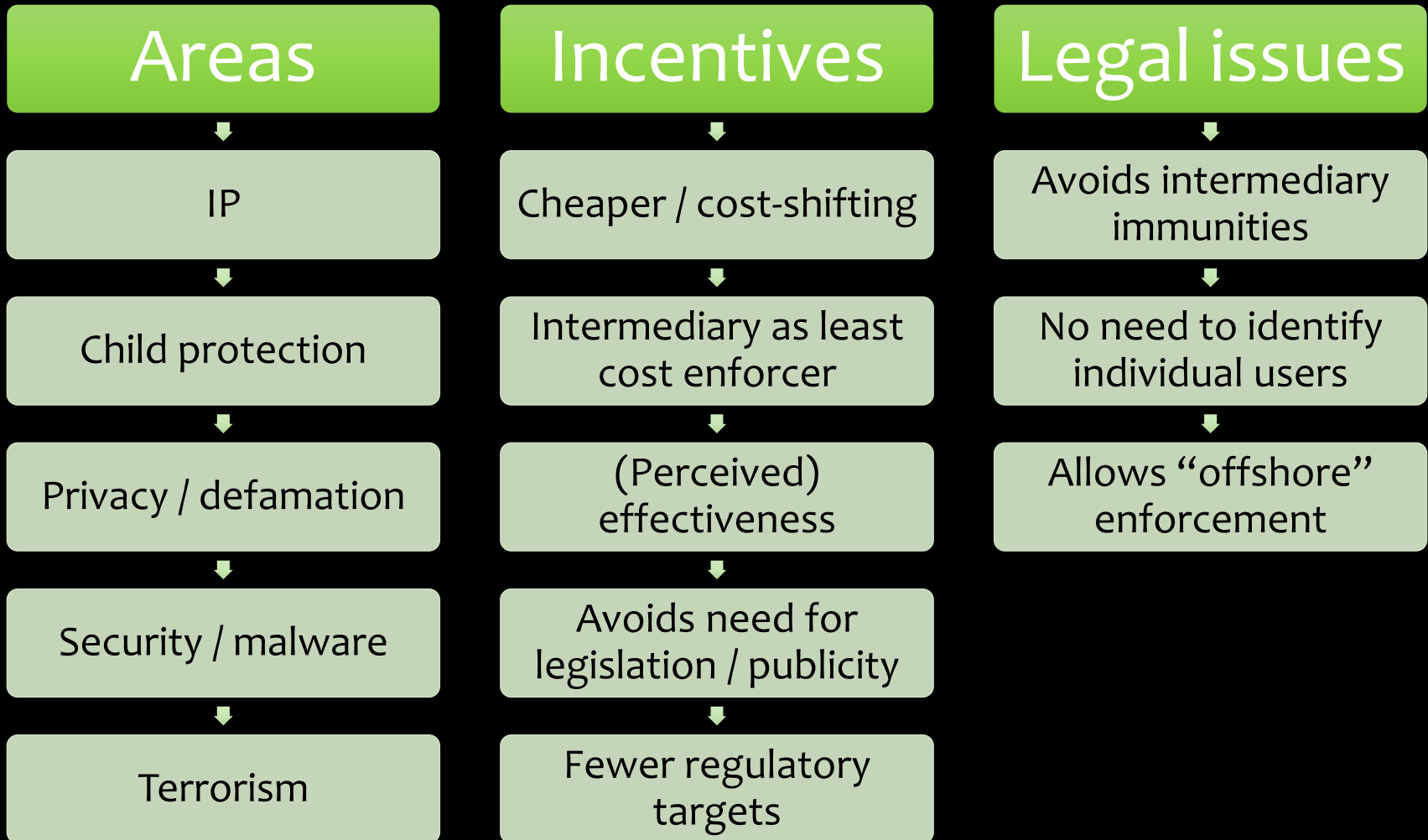
Similarly, if you see a grayed-out user in your timeline (above) or elsewhere on Twitter (below), access to that particular account has been withheld in your country.

### **@Username withheld**

This account has been withheld in: Country. [Learn more](#)



# What is driving blocking?



How is blocking implemented  
in Ireland?

# The #SOPAireland saga

- *EMI v. Eircom*
  - High Court assumes it has power to order blocking; Pirate Bay blocked
- *EMI v. UPC*
  - High Court holds it does not have power to block under CRRA 2000
- *EMI v. Ireland*
  - Music industry sues Irish state unless blocking power introduced; claims this is required under Infosoc Directive

# SI 59/2012 #SOPAireland

- “(5A)(a) The owner of the copyright in a work may, in respect of that work, apply to the High Court for an injunction against an intermediary to whom paragraph 3 of Article 8 of Directive 2001/29/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2001 on the harmonisation of certain aspects of copyright and related rights in the information society applies.
- (b) In considering an application for an injunction under this subsection, the court shall have due regard to the rights of any person likely to be affected by virtue of the grant of any such injunction and the court shall give such directions (including, where appropriate, a direction requiring a person be notified of the application) as the court considers appropriate in all of the circumstances.”
- Over 80,000 citizens objected!



english - français - deutsch

Database on legal information relevant to the audiovisual sector in Europe **IRIS Merlin**

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*IRIS 2013-10:1/29*

## **Ireland**

# **Pirate Bay Blocked and Three-Strikes Protocol Continues**



**Damien McCallig**


*School of Law, National University of Ireland, Galway*

On 12 June 2013 the Irish High Court granted an injunction requiring six Internet service providers (UPC, Vodafone, Imagine, Digiweb, Hutchinson 3G and Telefonica) to block the website known as The Pirate Bay. This is the first time an injunction has been granted under the controversial copyright injunction law that was introduced in February 2012 (see **IRIS 2012-4/31**).

The Pirate Bay is already blocked by another Internet service provider (ISP), Eircom, without a court order. Four music companies (EMI, Sony, Warner and Universal), sought the order from the court. The ISPs did not oppose the application and indicated their willingness to submit to any appropriate order. The blocking order and related protocol is drafted in terms that do not require a new application to the court if The Pirate Bay changes domain names, IP addresses or URLs.

The court also ordered that the cost of implementing the blocking is to be borne by the ISPs. With respect to the costs of the proceedings themselves the court ordered that the ISPs should bear their own costs. However, one of the ISPs (Vodafone), who had a significant input into the preparation of the protocol related to the order, was awarded its costs up to the point when that protocol was agreed with the music companies.

At an earlier stage in the proceedings Digital Rights Ireland Limited (DRI) an organisation

← → ↻  www.upc.ie/System/Block/999/38111162/tpb/

## **The Pirate Bay has been blocked**

The website you are trying to reach is not available due to an Order of the High Court made at the request of IRMA on June 12, 2013 to block access to The Pirate Bay.

(3) If the District Court is satisfied, upon an application under this section, that a bookmaker, remote bookmaker or remote betting intermediary concerned has contravened a provision referred to in subsection (1) it may make any one or more of the following orders:

- (d) in the case of a remote bookmaker or remote bookmaking intermediary, an order that telecommunications service providers and internet service providers in the State shall not permit access to—
  - (i) the internet address of any internet domain that the remote bookmaker or remote betting intermediary concerned uses for the purposes of conducting his business,

# Mobile blocking – child abuse images

- “All mobile phone operators in Ireland, under a voluntary agreement brokered by the European Commission with GSM Alliance Europe, an association which represents European mobile phone operators, implement a form of filtering on their mobile Internet services which prevents access to websites identified as containing illegal child pornography.” (Alan Shatter TD, 13/4/2011)
- Voluntary on the part of the operators; no user choice
- Uses UK IWF list
- Technical aspects of implementation and collateral damage still unclear



# Garda and UPC agreement will restrict access to sites with child porn images

Safeguards will block access without storing users' IP addresses



Pamela Duncan

Topics: [News](#) [Frances Fitzgerald](#) [Magnus Ternesjo](#) [Noirin O Sullivan](#)

[Garda Síochána](#) [Interpol](#) [UPC](#)

Tue, Nov 11, 2014, 12:35 ▾

The [Garda Síochána](#) and internet service provider [UPC](#) yesterday announced the introduction of new safeguards to block access to sites containing child pornography.

UPC, which provides broadband services to 360,000 customers, will restrict access to websites containing child sexual abuse material based on a list of domains or URLs provided by the Garda and [Interpol](#), which will be regularly updated to capture new sites as they arise.

## Latest Ireland »

- 00:35 Student tells US court she fought with 'every ounce of strength'
- 00:33 Police continue to search in Glasgow park where Karen Buckley's handbag was found
- 23:00 Religious group distributes referendum pamphlets to churches across Ireland
- 22:00 Self-evaluation will strengthen schools, professor says
- 21:44 Alleged rape victim described by witness as 'shaken and scared'

## Most Read in News

- 1 Woman 'humiliated' by bus driver awarded €10,500
- 2 Police continue to search in Glasgow park where Karen Buckley's handbag was found
- 3 Social welfare fraud squad lies in wait for 'white van man'
- 4 Student tells US court she fought with 'every ounce of strength'
- 5 Q&A: The same-sex marriage referendum



### Banking inquiry

Oireachtas committee asks where did the money go?



### Opinion Poll

Read the full Irish Times/Ipsos MRBI poll results here



Your Internet browser is attempting to contact an Internet site that has been documented by An Garda Síochána as having been used in the distribution of material depicting the sexual abuse of children, defined as child pornography by Section 2 of the Child Trafficking and Pornography Act, 1998. Production, Distribution and/or Possession, of this material is a criminal offence in accordance with that Act.

If you have any objections to being protected from accessing this page, or you believe that this protection is incorrect or unjustified, please contact An Garda Síochána by sending an email to: [cyber@garda.ie](mailto:cyber@garda.ie)



No information about your IP address or any other information that can be used to identify you will be stored when this page is displayed. The purpose of preventing access to such pages is to protect consumers including children from viewing documented child sexual abuse and to prevent the further exploitation of children who have already been abused and photographed.

If you are a domain owner whose site has been blocked and you believe this is in error please follow the instructions at this link to make a complaint:

<http://www.europol.europa.eu/index.asp?page=FunnelIntro>

The Internet Child Protection System (ICPS) is part of the COSPOL Internet Related Child Abusive Material Project (CIRCAMP). The project was initiated by the European Chief's of Police and is aimed at combating organized criminal groups behind the commercial sexual exploitation of children.



**CIRCAMP**

Global Internet Related Child Abusive Material Project





Login

Register

Personal

Business

Shop

My3

Help

Sponsorship

Search



### Top-up

> Buy now

Chat now >

### Check Usage

> Learn more

### Call now 1913

> Contact Us

## Removing mobile filters on the internet

Three have Internet filtering schemes to block certain content from users. These filters are designed to protect minors from accessing adult material. The filters are turned on by default when anybody purchase a mobile.

### To verify your age you can either;

- send an email to [customer.services.ie@3mail.com](mailto:customer.services.ie@3mail.com) with documents to prove you are above 18 years.
- walk in to a store with a valid ID proof to prove that you are above 18 years

### If you are a Prepay customer

You will also need to have registered your personal details with us – you can do this in the My Details section on My3, on the web at [www.three.ie/my3](http://www.three.ie/my3) or on your mobile in the bookmarks section of Planet 3.

Once you have done this, send us an email requesting that internet mobile filters are removed. We normally action this within 24 hours and will send you a text message to confirm when we have done this.

## Contact Us.

Email us.

Call us on 1913.


Ask us a question on [Boards.ie](http://boards.ie).

[Tweet us.](#)



Give us feedback.

Wednesday 15 April 2015


 **Business Newsletter**
 **Business Technology**


**FOLLOWCONTACT**

# UPC to bring in new child safety internet filters


**Adrian Weckler**  
 EMAIL

**PUBLISHED**  
 27/12/2014 | 02:30

 **OPEN GALLERY 1**

*New child safety features are to be introduced by UPC.*

UPC is to introduce new child safety filters on its home broadband connections as part of an industry initiative to "take responsibility" for protecting kids from adult and inappropriate content.

The initiative, which will be an 'opt in' service, will apply to 350,000 UPC broadband customers.

The technology will block pornography, self-harm and suicide content from UPC customers' internet access. It will apply to laptops, tablets and smartphones accessing the web through UPC broadband.

"Because we can do this at source, any device accessing content via UPC's broadband will be covered," said Mark Coan, UPC's sales director.

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Broadband firm to bring superfast 1,000Mbps service to 300 more towns **News**



€38m in cash and 100 jobs in major funding round for Dublin-based tech firm **Technology**



Superphones Apple's iPhone 6 v Samsung's S6 - which is best? **Reviews**



Non-city dwellers win big in fibre arms race **News**



Apple expected to quickly ramp up smartwatch production **Technology**



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 Independent.ie



**Woman (79) arrested after flight she was on forced to divert to...**  
 Independent.ie

 Recommended by 

## Editors Choice

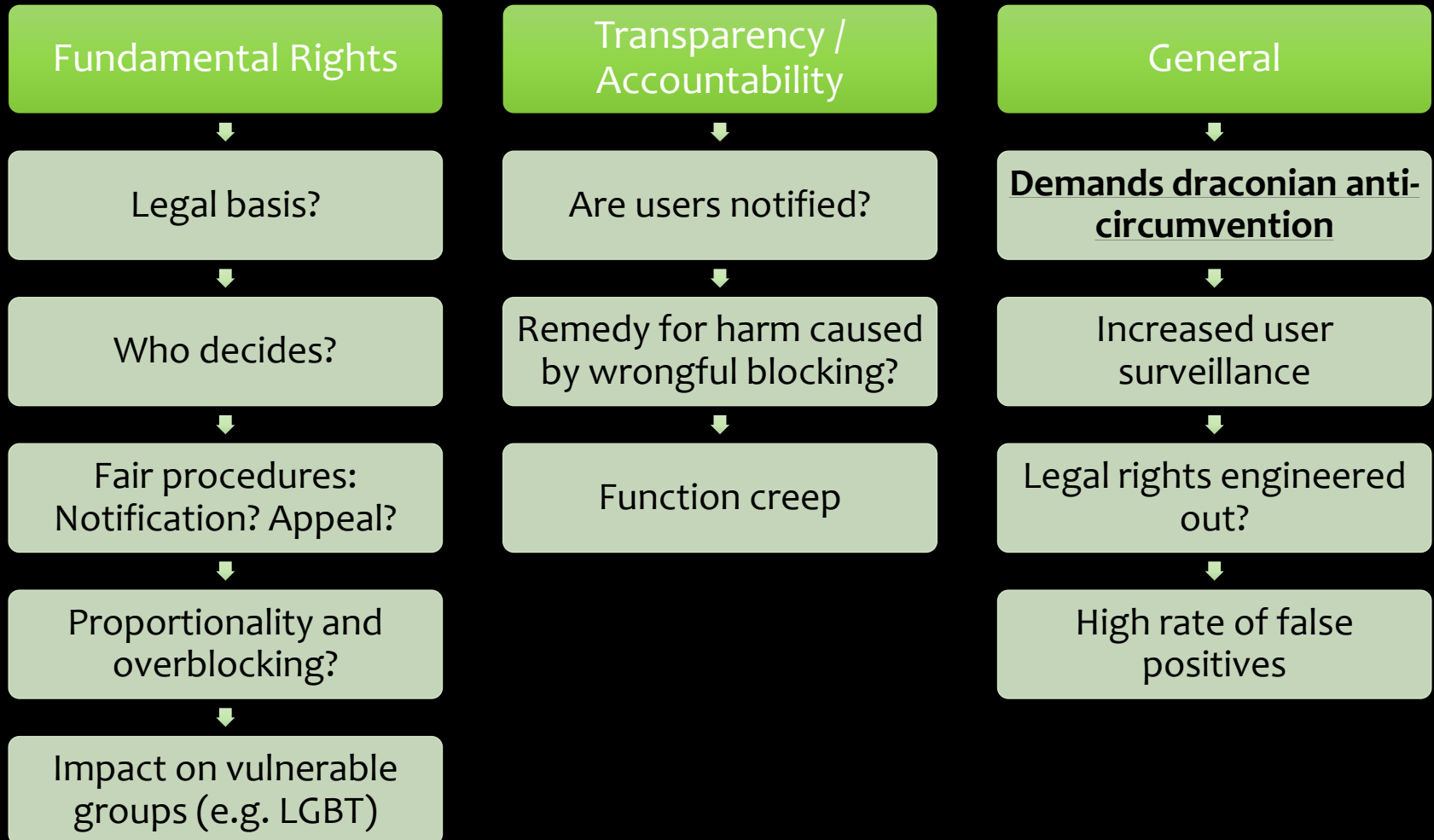


Amazon gets permission to test new delivery drones



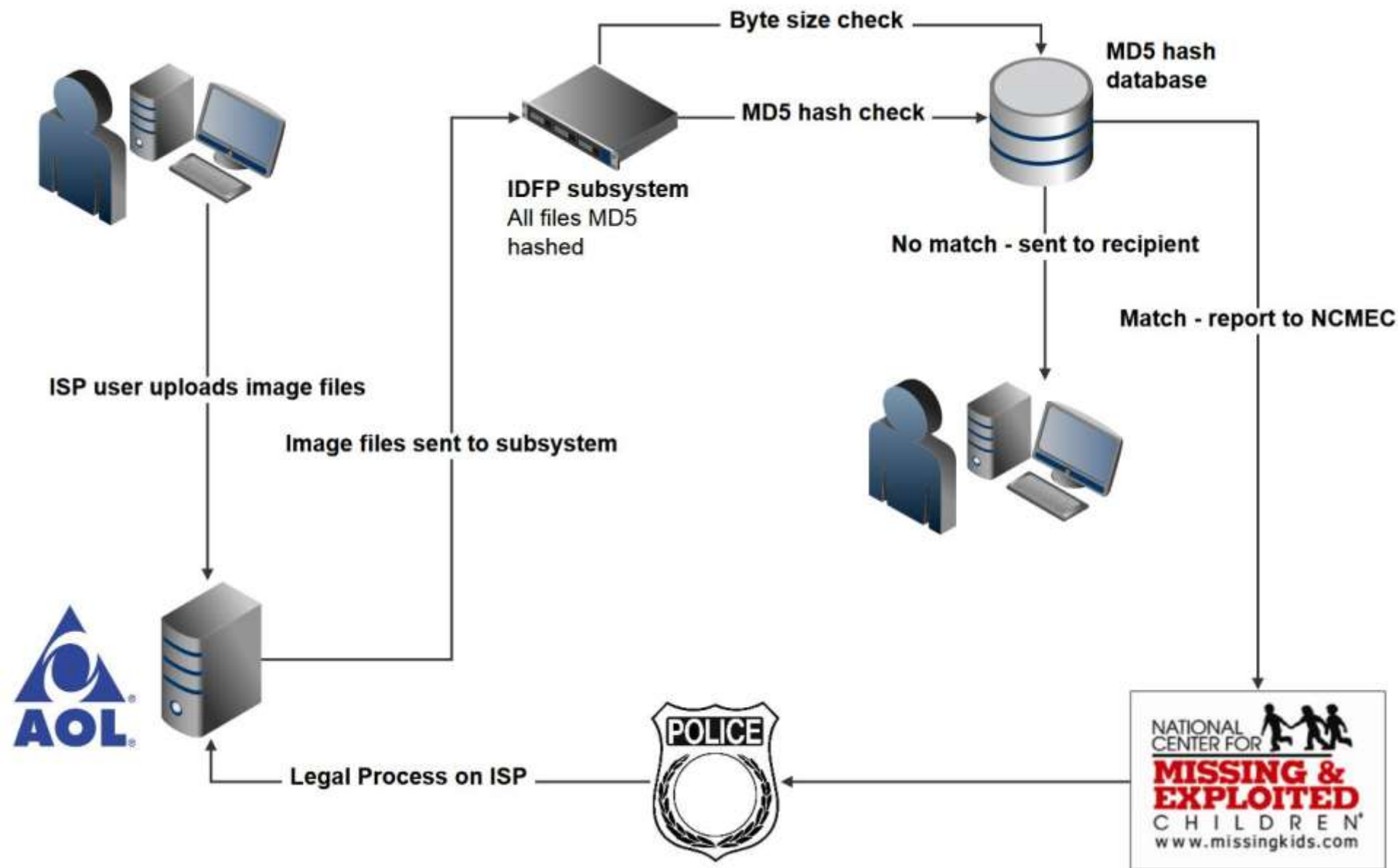
Google to take over Twitter? Social media firm's value jumps by \$1.5bn on back of rumours

# What issues does blocking present?



# How is it implemented?

- IP blocking (129.22.8.51)
  - Blocks all sites hosted on a particular server – not merely [Pirates'r'us.com](http://Pirates'r'us.com) but also [InnocentBystanders.com](http://InnocentBystanders.com)
- DNS blacklisting – e.g. Finland and Pennsylvania
  - Blocks all of [example.com](http://example.com)
    - Including [example.com/pirates](http://example.com/pirates) and [example.com/legitimate](http://example.com/legitimate)
- Hybrid / URL blocking
  - Pioneered in UK
  - Blocks at full URL level
  - May still cause collateral damage



# PhotoDNA

- Child abuse images
- “Robust hashing”
  - Matches modified images
- Widely used
  - Microsoft
  - Facebook, etc.
- Scans uploads, files via email
- Numerous convictions

## Photo DNA™ : Step-by-step





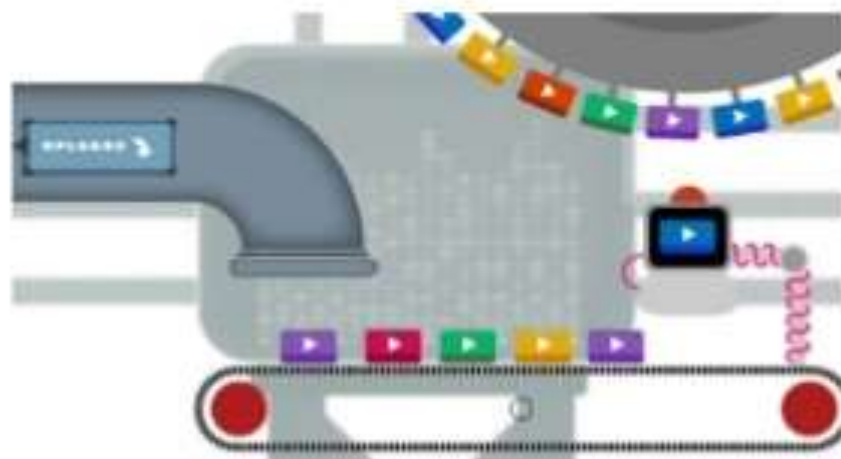
# 1.1 What is Content ID?

---

Content ID is an *automated, scalable system* that enables content owners to *identify user uploaded videos* which contain content they own.

YouTube takes partner-provided *reference material* and uses it to identify user uploads which match partner's content.

When a match is found, YouTube applies the partner's preferred policy: to monetize, track, or block the video in question.



This document will serve as *a guide to Content ID as well as YouTube's Content Management System (CMS)*, which acts as the interface partners use to deliver reference material to Content ID, manage policies, view claimed user videos, and administer their content.

As indicated in the Table of Contents, we will cover a range of topics related to the different functional areas of CMS and Content ID.

Each section will cover the basic conceptual framework for that topic, associated vocabulary, a general walkthrough of the relevant features and example(s), as well as the best practices for partners.

If partners have additional questions not covered in this document or specific to their usage of CMS/Content ID, they can reach out to their Account Manager or relevant YouTube contact. There are also additional resources located at the end of this document (please see Section 9).

# Is it effective? Can it be evaded?




Freephone  
**1800 543 543**  
Lines Open 9am-9pm Mon to Fri

**helpmypc.ie**

Home Services + Rates + Support Security FAQ Testimonials Contact Us

## How to get USA Netflix from Ireland & UK



Everything's bigger in America, including the amount of films and TV shows on Netflix

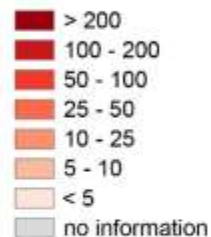
# Internet Watch Foundation

- “Blocking is designed to protect people from inadvertent access to potentially criminal images of child sexual abuse. No known technology is capable of effectively denying determined criminals who are actively seeking such material; only removal of the content at source can achieve that goal.”

DNS: 8.8.8.8 kuşun ötsün  
Alternatif: 8.8.4.4

# The anonymous Internet

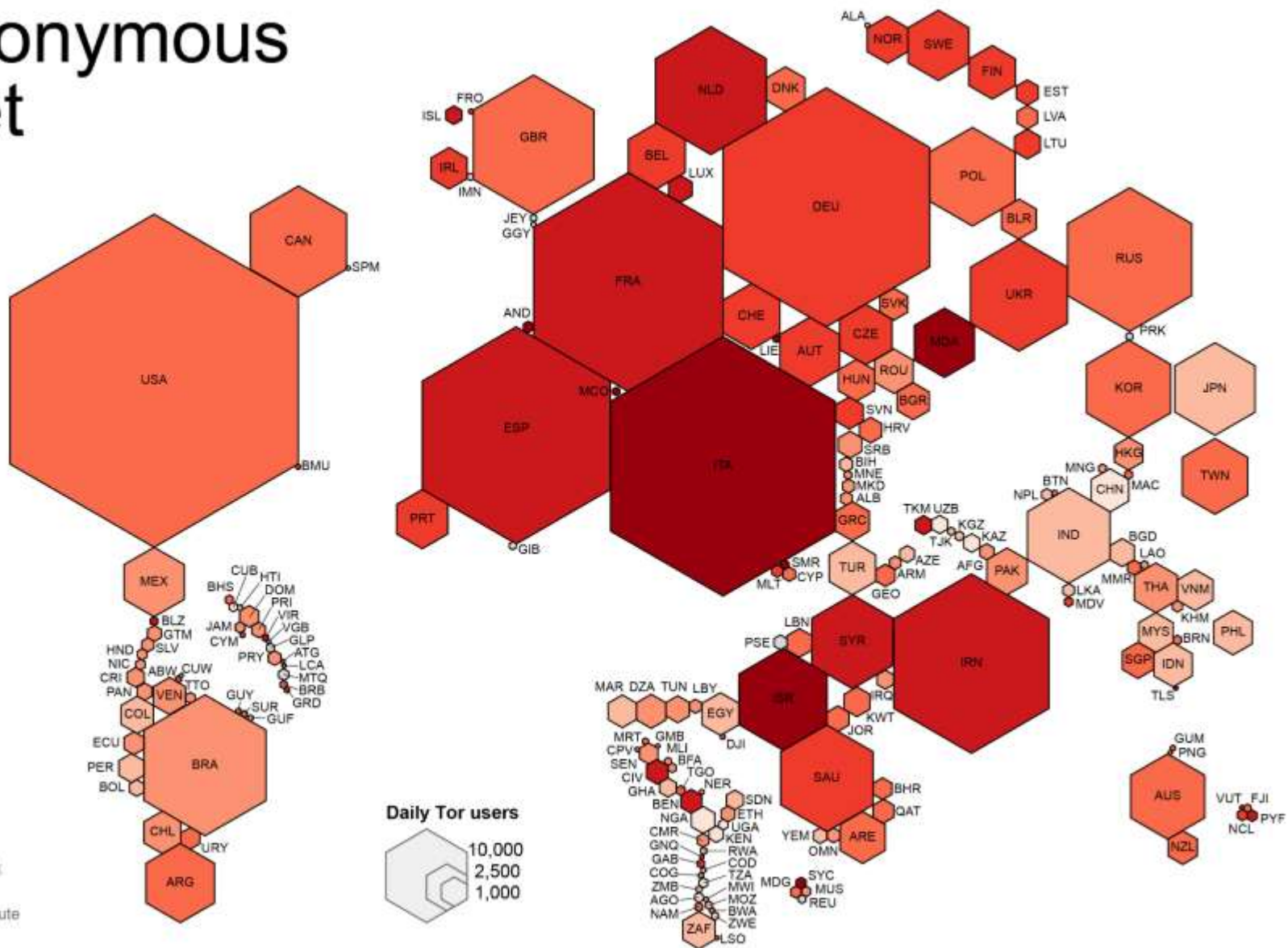
Daily Tor users  
per 100,000  
Internet users



Average number of  
Tor users per day  
calculated between  
August 2012 and  
July 2013

data sources:  
Tor Metrics Portal  
[metrics.torproject.org](http://metrics.torproject.org)  
World Bank  
[data.worldbank.org](http://data.worldbank.org)

by Mark Graham  
(@geoplace) and  
Stefano De Sabbata  
(@maps4thought)  
Internet Geographies at  
the Oxford Internet Institute  
2014 • [geography.oii.ox.ac.uk](http://geography.oii.ox.ac.uk)



# Irish State Blocks Access to Own Websites

28 FEB 2015   DRI   INTERNET BLOCKING AND FILTERING   0

Incident #	Status	Open Date	Summary	Blocked Category	
35863	Closed	22/08/2013 15:06	website www.stpatricks.ie is blocked	Pornography	Requested Mo
45933	Closed	19/06/2014 14:30	spunout.ie -> no accessible on tier1	Sexual content/descriptive language	Requested Mo
46539	Closed	08/07/2014 14:29	URL: http://www.per.gov.ie/haddington-road-agreement/ softblocked by SecureWeb	Blogs/Wiki	Requested Mo
48579	Closed	15/09/2014 16:56	www.islamahmadiyya.ie incorrectly categorised and being blocked	Pornography	Requested Mo
52091	Closed	11/12/2014 14:57	www.per.gov.ie (soft blocked/incorrect categorization)	Blogs/Wiki	Requested Mo
25399	Closed	02/02/2015 11:15	http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/rectdoinrep/1/2015/EN/1-2015-25-EN-F1-1.PDF	Forbidden Message	issue is with th
25210	Closed	25/11/2014 11:58	www.redwoodcastleireland.com	Games	Requested Mo
22822	Closed	15/09/2014 16:14	www.islamahmadiyya.ie	Pornography	Requested Mo

Ken Foxe of RTE has the news that internet blocking software in the Oireachtas (Irish Parliament) is **blocking a range of legitimate websites**, including sites from the Irish central government, EU and organisations funded by the Irish taxpayer.

Among the blocked sites:

- [StPatricks.ie](#) (a mental health service, wrongfully classed as pornography);
- [SpunOut.ie](#) (a teen support service funded by the Irish Health Service, blocked as sexual content);
- [Per.gov.ie](#) (the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, blocked as a blog or wiki);
- [An EU Commission page on trade with Egypt](#) ("forbidden message", whatever that might mean);
- [IslamAhmadiyya.ie](#) (Irish Muslim Association, blocked as pornography);

This won't surprise anyone familiar with internet blocking as a deeply flawed technology, incapable of achieving its stated aims while at the same time resulting in **massive collateral damage to other sites**. But it does provide a vivid illustration as to why calls for national internet blocking systems should be resisted.

Enter search term

## Recent Posts



DRI's Submission to the Law Reform Commission on Cyberbullying and Harassment

01 Apr 2015



Two Weeks until Digital Rights Europe, the DRI Conference

31 Mar 2015



A Very Big Case: Schrems, Facebook, Safe Harbor and the CJEU

30 Mar 2015

## Categories:

- > Data Retention
- > Defamation
- > DRI

# EU legal framework

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24 November 2011 Last updated at 12:48 GMT



### European Court of Justice rejects web piracy filter

**The European Court of Justice has ruled that content owners cannot ask ISPs to filter out illegal content.**

The ruling could have implications for the creative industries as they attempt to crack down on piracy.

The court said that while content providers can ask ISPs to block specific sites, wider filtering was in



# EU legal framework

- Mostly contained in E-Commerce Directive; InfoSoc Directive; IPRED
- Also relevant: Data Protection Directive; e-Privacy Directive
- ECD, **Article 15:**
  - Member States shall not impose a general obligation on providers, when providing the services covered by Articles 12, 13 and 14, to monitor the information which they transmit or store, nor a general obligation actively to seek facts or circumstances indicating illegal activity.



- ECD: Article 12(3) (mere conduit)
  - 3. This Article shall not affect the possibility for a court or administrative authority, in accordance with Member States' legal systems, of requiring the service provider to terminate or prevent an infringement.
- ECD: Recital 45
  - (45) The limitations of the liability of intermediary service providers established in this Directive do not affect the possibility of injunctions of different kinds; such injunctions can in particular consist of orders by courts or administrative authorities requiring the termination or prevention of any infringement, including the removal of illegal information or the disabling of access to it.

# Telecoms Package (2009): Article 1(3a)

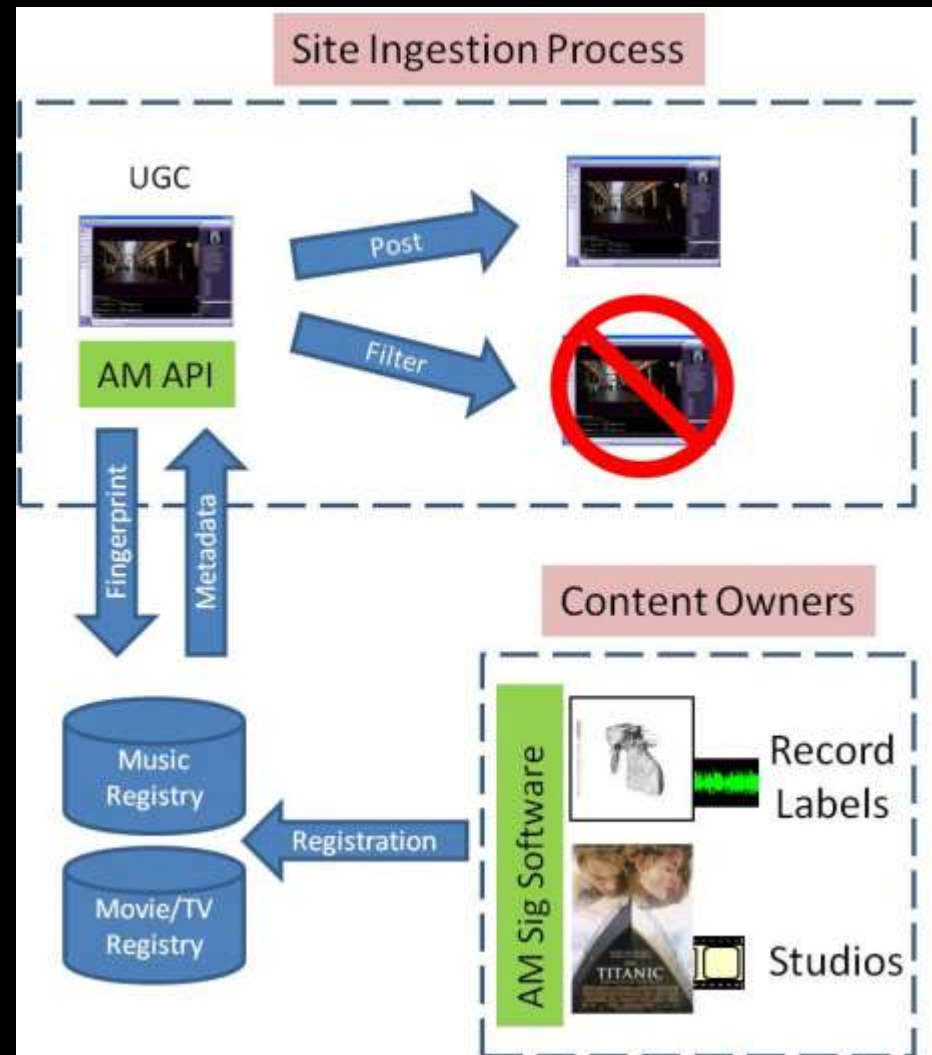
- "3a. Measures taken by Member States regarding end-users access' to, or use of, services and applications through electronic communications networks **shall respect the fundamental rights and freedoms of natural persons**, as guaranteed by the ECHR and general principles of Community law..."

# SABAM v. Scarlet (2011)

- “Read together and construed in the light of the requirements stemming from the protection of the applicable fundamental rights, must be interpreted as precluding an injunction made against an internet service provider which requires it to install a system for filtering
- – all electronic communications passing via its services, in particular those involving the use of peer-to-peer software;
- – which applies indiscriminately to all its customers;
- – as a preventive measure;
- – exclusively at its expense; and
- – for an unlimited period,
- which is capable of identifying on that provider’s network the movement of electronic files containing a musical, cinematographic or audio-visual work in respect of which the applicant claims to hold intellectual-property rights, with a view to blocking the transfer of files the sharing of which infringes copyright.”

# SABAM v. Netlog (2011)

- Companion case re hosting
- Demand that social network deploy filtering system to screen user uploads
- ECJ applies essentially identical reasoning to reject filtering



# Precludes invasive filtering; but what about other types?

- *20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox v. BT (Newzbin2)* (2011)
  - Required Cleanfeed to be extended to this site
  - Accepted BT had “actual knowledge”
  - Rejected argument that injunction incompatible with mere conduit immunity
  - Rejected argument that injunction amounted to general monitoring
  - Held prescribed by law as required by Art. 10 ECHR
  - Rejected discretionary arguments
    - Extent of infringement
    - Future claims
    - Efficacy
    - Proportionality (full site blocking)

# UPC Telekabel Wien GmbH C-314/12

- ECJ confirms that blocking can be available re consumers' ISPs
- Blocking orders must comply with fundamental rights
- Must not unnecessarily deprive internet users of right to lawfully access information
- Must have some minimum effect of preventing unauthorised access
- Places duties on ISPs to safeguard rights

# ECHR legal framework?



The screenshot shows the Council of Europe website header with the logo and the text 'Council of Europe'. Below the header is a navigation menu with 'Human Rights', 'Democracy', and 'Rule of Law'. A secondary menu contains 'LOGIN', 'PRINT', 'WORD', 'SEND', 'BOOKMARK', 'RELATED DOCUMENTS', 'FRANÇAIS', and 'HELP'. The main content area displays the title of a recommendation: 'Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)6 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on measures to promote the respect for freedom of expression and information with regard to Internet filters'. Below the title is the adoption date and meeting information: '(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 26 March 2008 at the 1022nd meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)'. The word 'Intranet' is visible in the top right corner of the page.

IL OF EUROPE  
L DE L'EUROPE

**Council of Europe**

Intranet

The Council in brief   Human Rights ▾   Democracy ▾   Rule of Law ▾

LOGIN   PRINT   WORD   SEND   BOOKMARK   RELATED DOCUMENTS   FRANÇAIS   HELP

**Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)6  
of the Committee of Ministers to member states  
on measures to promote the respect for freedom of expression and information  
with regard to Internet filters**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 26 March 2008  
at the 1022nd meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

# Fundamental rights standards?

- What rights?
  - Art.6/Art.13 ECHR: Notice, reasoned decision, appeal, redress against wrongful blocking?
  - Art.8 ECHR: Privacy in communications, esp. re email?
  - Art.10 ECHR: Freedom of expression/access to information
- Whose rights?
  - Art. 10 as a tripartite right (speaker, intermediary, recipient of speech)
  - Rights of those seeking blocking
    - Copyright (Art.1 Protocol 1)
    - Art.8 (*KU v. Finland*)
  - Do ISPs have an expressive/proprietary right to voluntarily block?



# Recommendation on Internet Filtering

Blocking of content should only take place if:

“the filtering concerns specific and clearly identifiable content, a competent national authority has taken a decision on its illegality and the decision can be reviewed by an independent and impartial tribunal or regulatory body, in accordance with the requirements of Article 6 ECHR”

## Yildirim v. Turkey (2012)

“In matters affecting fundamental rights it would be contrary to the rule of law, one of the basic principles of a democratic society enshrined in the Convention, for a legal discretion granted to the executive to be expressed in terms of an unfettered power.

Consequently, the law must indicate with sufficient clarity the scope of any such discretion and the manner of its exercise.”

## Yildirim v. Turkey (2012)

“the measure in question produced arbitrary effects and could not be said to have been aimed solely at blocking access to the offending website, since it consisted in the wholesale blocking of all the sites hosted by Google Sites.”

# What should we be doing?

- Legitimacy, transparency and accountability
  - Demand legislation to control state blocking
  - Ensure that state blocking is brought within ECHR norms
  - Work on (civil society) transparency tools
  - Tackle problematic private blocking
  - Facilitate decentralised and voluntary blocking
  - Resist anti-circumvention measures (bans on VPNs, open wifi, etc.)
- Look for alternatives to blocking, e.g.
  - Removal at source of child abuse images
  - Addressing payment systems
  - Better parental controls on mobile devices



## Are you being blocked?

The government is promoting filters to prevent children and young people from seeing content that is supposed to be for over 18s. This includes pornography and sites that talk about alcohol, smoking, anorexia and hate speech.

Filters block many sites that are not harmful to children. Sometimes they are blocked by mistake. Sometimes they are blocked deliberately. For example, many blogs and forums are blocked by default.

The Blocked! website lets you check whether a site has been blocked by these filters. The tool is free but you can support the project by [joining ORG](#), [making a donation](#) or [volunteering](#).

You can read more about Blocked and ISP filters in: [Techdirt](#), [Big Issue](#), [STV](#), [The Guardian](#), [The Independent](#) and [Forbes](#).



Test data: [Alexa top 100,000 sites](#)  
[Click here for results per ISP](#)

## Check if a site is being blocked

Enter the URL of a site to find out if it is blocked by filters. Our tool will check if it can be accessed via all of the main Internet service providers (when their filters are enabled).

Site or page to check:

[Submit site for checking](#)





# Thank you

Questions or comments?