



NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION AGAINST COPYRIGHT THEFT



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PIRATE INTERNET DOWNLOADER SENTENCED TO NZ\$21,000 IN FINES AND COSTS.

Auckland – On March 26th, the Auckland District Court sentenced a 23-year-old Chinese national for offences under the Copyright and Crimes Acts arising from his copying of DVDs and offering them for sale on an Internet website, www.nzcd.com.

Judge MORRIS sentenced the defendant to \$21,000 in fines and costs as well as ordering him to complete 300 hours community service.

He has also agreed to pay the New Zealand Federation Against Copyright Theft \$20,000 reparation for the cost of the eight month investigation. He was also fined \$1000 and ordered to complete 300 hours community service work by Judge MORRIS in the Auckland Court.

NZFACT informed police that the offender was selling pirated DVDs on his website and that many of his customers were placing orders from New Zealand.

A police search of his Mt Albert home on January 16, uncovered burnt DVDs as well as the computer hardware, software, labelling equipment and 4,500 blank DVD-Rs he used to make pirated DVDs from movies that he had illegally downloaded over the Internet. There were also lists detailing orders from customers and catalogues of pirated DVDs for sale.

“This is the first time we have taken down a website that was being hosted in China and operated in New Zealand,” said Tony Eaton, the Executive Director of NZFACT.

“The operation shows there are no borders when it comes to Internet piracy. The offender was selling numerous movie titles, including hardcore pornography” says Tony EATON.

Piracy in New Zealand

A study undertaken by independent research firm LEK Consulting on behalf of the Motion Picture Association (MPA) showed that piracy cost the film industry in New Zealand an estimated 25 percent of the potential market in 2005 – \$70 million. Internet piracy via P2P file-sharing networks is a significant concern and accounts for the majority of New Zealand movie industry losses – an estimated \$33 million in lost consumer spending in 2005. NZFACT represents the MPA in New Zealand.

Piracy in Asia-Pacific

In 2006, the MPA's operations in the Asia-Pacific region investigated more than 30,000 cases of piracy and assisted law enforcement officials in conducting nearly 12,400 raids. These activities resulted in the seizure of more than 35 million illegal optical discs, 50 factory optical disc production lines and 4,482 optical disc burners, as well as the initiation of more than 11,000 legal actions.

About NZFACT: The New Zealand Federation Against Copyright Theft was established in 2005 by the Motion Picture Association to protect the film industry in New Zealand from the adverse impact of copyright theft. NZFACT works closely with its members, government and enforcement authorities to protect the New Zealand film and television industry, retailers and movie fans. NZFACT members include: Village Roadshow Limited; Buena Vista International, Inc.; Paramount Pictures Corporation; Sony Pictures Releasing International Corporation; Twentieth Century Fox International Corporation; Universal International Films, Inc.; and Warner Bros. Pictures International, a division of Warner Bros. Pictures Inc. NZFACT works

in association with the Motion Picture Association, which represents the interests of the film industry across the world. NZFACT also has an alliance with the Recording Industry Association of New Zealand to share information regarding copyright infringement, and is a member of the recently-formed Anti Counterfeiting Group, which represents the interests of New Zealand's major intellectual property stakeholders, such as the music industry, computer software and publishing. NZFACT has a nationwide hotline that enables the reporting of film copyright theft 24 hours a day, 7 days a week: 0800 267 9744. NZFACT also has its own website www.nzfact.co.nz and has a reporting website called www.stopmoviepiracy.co.nz.

About the MPA: *The Motion Picture Association (MPA) represents the interests of major motion picture companies in the global marketplace. On behalf of its Member Companies, the MPA conducts investigations around the world, assists with the criminal and civil litigation generated by such cases, and conducts education outreach programs to teach movie fans around the world about the harmful effects of piracy. The MPA directs its worldwide anti-piracy operations from its headquarters based in Encino, California and has regional offices located in Brussels (Europe, Middle East and Africa), São Paulo (Latin America), Montreal (Canada) and Singapore (Asia-Pacific). The MPA's anti-piracy activities have helped to transform entire markets from pirate to legitimate, benefiting video distributors, retailers, and foreign and local filmmakers alike. The MPA Member Companies include: Buena Vista International, Inc.; Paramount Pictures Corporation; Sony Pictures Releasing International Corporation; Twentieth Century Fox International Corporation; Universal International Films, Inc.; and Warner Bros. Pictures International, a division of Warner Bros. Pictures Inc.*

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