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STUDIOS MOVE TO THWART ILLEGAL FILE SWAPPING ON MAJOR PIRATE NETWORKS

MPAA Companies Take Action Against Torrent, eDonkey and Newsgroup Sites Used by Millions

Los Angeles-- The Motion Picture Association of America, Inc. (MPAA) on behalf of the major motion picture studios today filed seven lawsuits in federal courts across the country against highly trafficked Torrent, eDonkey and Newsgroup websites that are responsible for facilitating illegal swapping of copyrighted files between millions of users around the world. They provide a massive directory of illegal content to users and encourage people to traffic in copyrighted motion pictures, television shows, music, software and games. **Torrentspy.com** and **Isohunt.com** are two of the most popular sites used for finding pirated content. By taking action against these sites today, MPAA aims to build on its effort to shut down major pirate networks by thwarting their supply of illegal materials and their means of distribution.

“Website operators who abuse technology to facilitate infringements of copyrighted works by millions of people are not anonymous – they can and will be stopped,” said John G. Malcolm, Executive Vice President and Director of Worldwide Anti-Piracy Operations for the MPAA. **“Disabling these powerful networks of illegal file distribution is a significant step in stemming the tide of piracy on the Internet.”**

These sites are sophisticated enterprises designed to make vast quantities of illegal content available with a single click of a mouse. **Torrentspy.com** boasts over 48,300 files of movie and television shows available to users, and divides its available movie content by genres, and even includes movies illegally camcordered in a theater (“cam”) as a subcategory. **Torrentbox.com**, working in conjunction with **Isohunt**, boasts of enabling over one million illegal downloads of *Fantastic Four* and over 4.4 million downloads of *Alien 2*.

Today’s lawsuits mark the first time the MPAA is taking action against sites that enable users of Newsgroups to easily find and download illegal content. Newsgroups are electronic bulletin boards which in recent years have become a major source of pirated content as users are able to attach movie, music and games files to their messages. The following is a list of the sites being sued by the MPAA and its member companies.

Torrent Sites

Isohunt.com, BTHub.com and TorrentBox.com: These related Torrent sites facilitate downloads of over 140,000 content items, including popular movies and television shows such as *Wedding Crashers*, *Lost* and *Desperate Housewives*.

TorrentSpy.com is the world's most-visited site for obtaining infringing content using Torrent software. The site offers over 160,000 content items including 27,182 movies, 21,130 TV shows and over 45,000 music items.

NiteShadow.com has over 24,000 registered members and offers over 1,000 science-fiction TV and movie content including *Battlestar Galactica*, *Quantum Leap*, *Sliders*, *Stargate*, *Babylon 5* and multiple *Star Trek* series.

eDonkey

Ed2k-It.com is a leading eDonkey site, with over 46,000 registered site members. eDonkey sites provide easy one-click access to specific content items on their peer-to-peer network.

Newsgroups

NZB-Zone.com, BinNews.com and DVDRs.net are membership-based websites that enable users of Newsgroups to initiate easy downloads of infringing content. NZB-Zone offers over 3.3 million files, including *Star Wars Episode III*, *Wedding Crashers*, *Chronicles of Narnia*, *40 Year-Old Virgin* and *King Kong*; **BinNews.com** offers files for over 3,000 movies; and **DVDRs.net** has over 37,000 members.

Today's lawsuits are part of MPAA's international campaign against online piracy which has experienced some significant victories as of late. Last week the server facilitating one of the largest Torrent sites in the Netherlands, Dikkedonder, was shut down and on Monday, Belgian and Swiss authorities shut down Razorback2 -- the number one eDonkey server in the world which facilitated the illegal file swapping by approximately 1.3 million simultaneous users. The MPAA's strategy focuses on all levels of Internet piracy to cut off the major suppliers of illegal files and at the same time curtail facilitation of illegal file swapping by peer-to-peer networks. Approximately 75 Torrent and eDonkey sites have been shut down in the last year as a result of these efforts.

The MPAA and its member companies have a multi-pronged approach to fighting piracy, which includes educating people about the consequences of piracy, taking action against Internet thieves, working with law enforcement authorities around the world to root out pirate operations and working to ensure movies are available legally using advanced technology. The MPAA estimates that the film industry lost approximately \$3.5 billion to movie piracy in 2004, a total that does not include losses due to Internet piracy. According to a study by Smith Barney, predicted losses were \$5.4 billion in 2005 when including Internet piracy.

About the MPAA

The Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) serves as the voice and advocate of the American motion picture, home video and television industries from its offices in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. Its members include: Buena Vista Pictures Distribution; Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios Inc.; Paramount Pictures; Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc.; Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation; Universal City Studios, LLP; and Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.

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