



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JUNE 30, 2010**

**CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
YUSILL SCRIBNER,
JANICE OH
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(212) 637-2600**

**ICE
PAT REILLY
PUBLIC AFFAIRS
(202) 732-4219**

**MANHATTAN FEDERAL COURT ORDERS SEIZURES OF
SEVEN WEBSITES FOR CRIMINAL COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT IN
CONNECTION WITH DISTRIBUTION OF PIRATED MOVIES
OVER THE INTERNET**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and JOHN T. MORTON, the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE"), announced today the unsealing of warrants issued by the United States District Court in Manhattan, authorizing the seizures of the domain names of seven popular websites, TVSHACK.NET, MOVIES-LINKS.TV, FILESPUMP.COM, NOW-MOVIES.COM, PLANETMOVIEZ.COM, THEPIRATECITY.ORG, and ZML.COM, for violations of Federal criminal copyright infringement laws.

According to the seizure warrant application filed today in Manhattan federal district court:

The American motion picture and television industries employ approximately 2.4 million people, to whom the industries pay over \$140 billion in wages yearly. The industries also support over 95,000 small businesses across all 50 states, including caterers, dry cleaners, florists, hardware and lumber suppliers, and other retailers. The industries contribute over \$15 billion in taxes annually. The U.S. economy loses an estimated \$25.6 billion per year, and an estimated 375,000 jobs per year, to criminal copyright infringement.

The United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, acting on an application by the Manhattan U.S. Attorney's Office, has authorized the seizure of seven websites, all of which are involved in the illegal distribution of copyrighted movies and television programs over the Internet.

Six of the websites, TVSHACK.NET, MOVIES-LINKS.TV, FILESPUMP.COM, NOW-MOVIES.COM, PLANETMOVIEZ.COM, and THEPIRATECITY.ORG, are "linking" websites, which provide access, or "links," to other websites where pirated movies and television programs are stored. Linking websites are popular because they allow users to quickly browse content and locate illegal copies of movies and television shows that would otherwise be more difficult to find.

The seventh website, ZML.COM, is a "cyberlocker," which is a website on which illegal copies of movies and television shows are stored for downloading. Linking sites advertising infringing content are usually linked to cyberlockers, where the illegal material is stored.

The Websites

MOVIES-LINKS.TV, is a popular linking site, advertising "Free Full Length Movies" and "bootleg trailers, reviews [and] soundtrack." MOVIES-LINKS.TV's homepage advertises links to illegal downloads of "The Karate Kid," "Prince of Persia," "Sex and The City 2," and "Splice," among other popular copyrighted movies that are currently in theaters and not legally available over the Internet. MOVIES-LINKS.TV is the 258th most popular website in the world, with approximately 3.3 million visitors per month as of May 2010.

TVSHACK.NET, also a linking site, advertises itself as a user-friendly video sharing site. TVSHACK.NET's homepage contains a list of the seven movies and television shows -- all copyrighted and being distributed by TVSHACK.NET without authorization -- that are most popular with the website's users. Among the most popular copyrighted movies and shows distributed by TVSHACK.NET, each of which are viewed thousands, and sometimes tens of thousands, of times per day, are "Sex and the City 2," "The A Team," "Get Him To The Greek," and "Iron Man 2." TVSHACK.NET had approximately 486,000 visitors per month as of May 2010.

NOW-MOVIES.COM, another linking site, offers visitors the ability to "watch full length movies for free." The illegally distributed movies offered by the site include "Knight and Day," "Jonah Hex," "Toy Story 3," and "The A-Team," among other first-run movies still playing in theaters. NOW-MOVIES.COM had over 162,000 visitors per month as of May 2010.

THE PIRATECITY.ORG is also a linking site, whose homepage prominently displays movie posters and links for several copyrighted movies, including "Knight and Day," "Jonah Hex," "The

Karate Kid," "Marmaduke," and several other movies that are still in theaters. As of May 2010, THEPIRATECITY.ORG had over 590,000 visitors per month.

FILESPUMP.COM is also a linking site. FILESPUMP.COM's homepage contains a section called "Hot Movies," which contains links to several pirated movies, including "The Karate Kid," "Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time," "Jonah Hex," which FILESPUMP.COM advertises as the "*first on net*," and "Toy Story 3," among other copyrighted movies. As of May 2010, FILESPUMP.COM had over 800,000 visitors per month.

PLANETMOVIEZ.COM is also a linking site. Its homepage displays movie posters and links to numerous first-run movies, organized into categories including "Action," "Adventure," "Animation," "Comedy," and "Drama." The illegally-pirated movies available on PLANETMOVIEZ.COM include "Knight and Day," "Grown Ups," "Cyrus," "I Am Love," and "Jonah Hex." PLANETMOVIEZ.COM had over 27,000 visitors per month as of May 2010.

ZML.COM is a cyberlocker, which stores illegal content. ZML's homepage features a tab entitled "Hot Movies," which displays advertisements for numerous movies that are still in theaters, including "The A-Team," "Killers," "Sex and The City 2," "Shrek Forever After," and "Date Night," among other movies. Users are promised "the largest collection of movies in the world: 10,000 titles to choose from," as well as "hundreds of your favorite TV shows," and told that "at least 10 new titles" are added daily. As of May 2010, ZML.COM had over 860,000 visitors per month.

The United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York will ask that the domain names for these websites be forfeited. As authorized by the warrants, all visitors to these websites will be redirected to a banner that advises them that the domain name has been seized by Order of the Court, in connection with criminal copyright violations. A copy of the banner is attached. Several search warrants were also executed today on servers associated with the subject websites and other websites illegally offering copyrighted material.

U.S. Attorney PREET BHARARA said, "Criminal copyright infringement occurs on a massive scale over the Internet, and reportedly results in billions of dollars in losses to the U.S. economy. That translates into lost jobs and real hardships for ordinary working people. That's why we took today's action. If your business model is movie piracy, your story will not have a happy ending."

Assistant Secretary of ICE JOHN T. MORTON stated: "ICE and our partners at the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center have been tracking the proliferation of pirate Web sites run by people who have no respect for creativity and innovation. We are dedicated to protecting the jobs, the income and the tax revenue that disappear when organized criminals offer stolen movies for their own profit."

Mr. BHARARA praised the work of ICE and added that the investigation is continuing.

This case is being handled by the Office's Complex Frauds and Asset Forfeiture Units. Assistant United States Attorneys THOMAS G.A. BROWN, REBECCA ROHR, JOSEPH FACCIPONTI, JASON HERNANDEZ, and MICHAEL FERRARA are in charge of the investigation.

10-211

###



**.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement,
Special Agent in Charge New York Office in accordance with a seizure warrant
obtained by the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of
New York and issued pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 981 and 2323 by the
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.**

It is unlawful to reproduce or distribute copyrighted material, such as movies, music, software or games, without authorization. Individuals who willfully reproduce or distribute copyrighted material, without authorization, risk criminal prosecution under 18 U.S.C. § 2319. First-time offenders convicted of criminal felony copyright laws will face up to five years in federal prison, restitution, forfeiture and a fine.