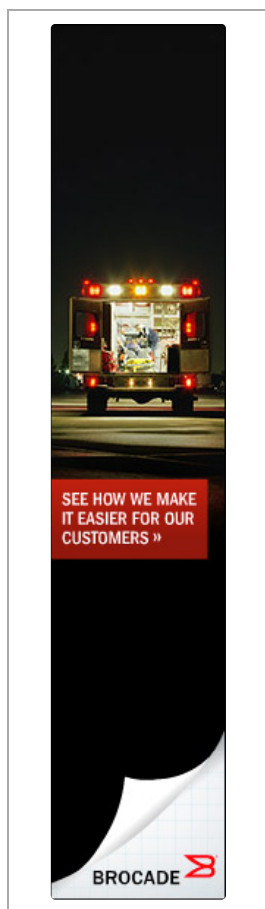


Home | Security | Mobile | Server | Networking | Cloud | Strategy | Public Sector | Storage | More | Get the ITPro Newsletter

News | Analysis & Insight | Reviews | Tutorials | Whitepapers | BPM | Cloud computing 2.0 | Server 2012

Home » Networking » News » IWF does u-turn on Wikipedia 'porn' blacklist



IWF does u-turn on Wikipedia 'porn' blacklist

NEWS | 10 Dec, 2008 | Maggie Holland | Like 0



The Internet Watch Foundation has removed the offending Wikipedia page from its web blacklist.

Web watchdog the Internet Watch Foundation(IWF) has overturned its decision to blacklist – and as a result block access to – a Wikipedia article that was deemed to be hosting an indecent image of a child.

The page, focused on 70s Germanic rock band the Scorpions' Virgin Killer album, featured an album cover with a naked young girl whose genitals were obscured by a crack in the lens taking the shot.

It caused controversy when it launched in 1976 and was replaced in many countries by a less shocking picture of the long-haired all-male band. But the most recent outcry related to calls that the image in question was tantamount to child pornography, causing that area of Wikipedia to be blacklisted by the IWF and resulting in ISPs preventing users from accessing said page.

That ruling has since been reversed.

"The procedure is now complete and has confirmed that the image in question is potentially in breach of the Protection of Children Act 1978. However, the IWF Board has today (9 December 2008) considered these findings and the contextual issues involved in this specific case and, in light of the length of time the image has existed and its wide availability, the decision has been taken to remove this webpage from our list," the IWF said in a statement issued yesterday.

The watchdog added that it would not add further reports of the image in question being hosted abroad to its list, although it did say it will assess additional instances of it being hosted in the UK in line with its usual procedures.

SEARCH THE SITE



Latest in Networking

CloudFlare network suffers weekend collapse
NEWS

4G spending spree takes place in UK
ANALYSIS & INSIGHT

BT to extend fibre footprint to an extra 1.2m premises
NEWS

EU budget cuts could hit broadband delivery target
NEWS

Virgin Media to be sold to Liberty Global for \$23bn
NEWS

SEE ALL

Popular

1 Microsoft to fix Office, Windows and IE flaws with March Patch Tuesday updates
SECURITY

2 Hotmail problems prompt Microsoft service status update
EMAIL CLIENTS

3 Leaving the door unlocked in information security
SECURITY

WHITE PAPERS

Build a successful business case for Single Customer View:
It's clear that UK businesses are aware that they need to create a Single Customer View(SCV) if t...



Success in the cloud: Why workload matters:
Like other performance-driven companies, IBM is continuously challenged by stakeholders to drive ...



Note to CIOs: Get Your Head in the Cloud:



CIOs today are feeling the pressure to provide IT services that keep up with the business, and ar...

[View More research](#)

The statement continued: "IWF's overriding objective is to minimise the availability of indecent images of children on the internet, however, on this occasion our efforts have had the opposite effect. We regret the unintended consequences for Wikipedia and its users."

Naturally, Wikipedia was pleased with the decision to reverse the ruling, which it claimed had blocked more 95 per cent of UK net users from accessing the article in question and hampering widespread editing rights.

The online encyclopaedia has subsequently pointed out that more than a quarter of all editing activity on its English online knowledge base is carried out by UK-based editors.

"We are grateful to the IWF for making this swift decision, and to thousands of internet users from around the world for their outpouring of support," said Sue Gardner, executive director of the Wikimedia Foundation, in a statement.

"Millions of Britons now have access to all of Wikipedia, and volunteers can resume their important editing work. The Wikimedia Foundation greatly admires the work of our volunteers - they care deeply about Wikipedia and are the first responders in dealing with potentially illegal content on Wikipedia."

Despite the ruling u-turn, Wikipedia's protagonists still claimed that the issue raised important questions about how the web and associated censorship of it are governed.

"We recognise the good intentions of internet watch groups, including their focus on blocking and discouraging illegal content. Nevertheless, this incident underscores the need for transparency and accountability in the processes of the Internet Watch Foundation and similar bodies around the world," added Mike Godwin, the foundation's General Counsel, in the statement.

"In the long run, monitoring groups need to develop a public set of 'best practices.' These best practices should, at a minimum, decrease the impact on content found to be lawful, acknowledge the context in which the content at issue occurs, and be maximally transparent both to service providers and to individual users. There should be no false or misleading error messages when online censorship does occur."

[Read more about:](#) [Networking](#) | [ISPs](#) | [Wikipedia](#) | [censorship](#) | [web](#) | [The Scorpions](#) | [Virgin Killer](#) | [IWF](#) | [Internet Watch Foundation](#)

Like 0 Tweet 0

Also On ITPro



US tech reviewers give Microsoft Surface Pro thumbs down (IT Pro)



Google staff hiding secret OS? (IT Pro)



Microsoft apologises for Hotmail fail (IT Pro)

Recommended by

From Around The Web



4 Microsoft releases Office 365 bundles for enterprise, SMB and mid-market SAAS



5 Microsoft losing \$2.5bn a year by holding back iPhone/iPad apps MOBILE



WHITE PAPERS

Business service management 101: Manage IT with a business focus:



This white paper explains why you should be managing your IT and network infrastructure from a bu...

Build a successful business case for Single Customer View:



It's clear that UK businesses are aware that they need to create a Single Customer View(SCV) if t...

Note to CIOs: Get Your Head in the Cloud:



CIOs today are feeling the pressure to provide IT services that keep up with the business, and ar...

Save Up To 80% On Your Business Phone Bill With VoIP Phone System:






Receive FREE customized, no obligation, business VoIP phone service quotes and learn how your com...

ESG Research Final Sponsor Report - Security Management and Opera...



This report details the current state of the security management market and what to expect moving...

[View More research](#)

CIO   ended by  0

Boundary Helps CIOs Sleep Better with Cloud Analytics Features (CIO) [Discussion](#)

Laptop or tablet? See what happens when you get the power to choose. (Intel) [Share](#) #

The Digital Magic Behind Ted's Appearance at the Oscars (Tech Page One) [Share](#) #

No one has commented yet.

ALSO ON IT PRO

What's this? X

Sony Xperia Tablet Z review: First look

8 comments • 6 days ago



Impressive_Soul_Gamer — There will. :) Right now many people are switching from

Hotmail to outlook

2 comments • 3 days ago



B — I absolutely HATE this Outlook garbage! I will not be logging in with my computer

HP thinks beyond the PC era

1 comment • 3 days ago



GW74 — whatever HP thinks, run 100mph in the opposite direction

Ex-Microsoft exec spills beans on Ballmer

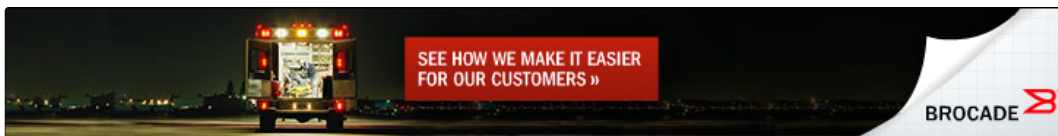
1 comment • 25 days ago



GW74 — it's not showfriends, it's showbusiness.

 Comment feed

 Subscribe via email



Featured Content

ICO publishes BYOD data protection guide

NEWS



BT to create 1,000 new jobs at Openreach

NEWS



Cloud computing 2.0: Where next for business?

NEWS



BlackBerry Z10 sales off to good start

NEWS





Contact us

Group editor: Maggie Holland
 maggie_holland@dennis.co.uk

Group advertising manager: Paul
 Franklin paul_franklin@dennis.co.uk

Useful links

- Home
- Security
- Mobile
- Server
- Networking
- Cloud
- Strategy
- Public Sector
- Storage
- More
- Get the IPro Newsletter
- Contact us
- About us
- Company Website
- Feeds
- Privacy Notice
- Authors
- Sitemap

Our Websites

- Auto Express
- MacUser
- PC Pro
- Expert Reviews
- Know Your Mobile India
- The Week
- Mobile Phone Deals
- CarBuyer
- Cyclist
- Evo
- Men's Fitness
- Know Your Mobile
- Channel Pro
- Digital SLR Photography
- Computer Shopper
- Magazines
- Cloud Pro
- IT Pro India
- Micro Mart
- Octane
- Know Your Cell
- Den of Geek
- Mobile Test
- Health & Fitness
- MagBooks

© Copyright Dennis Publishing Limited licensed by Felden

JOBBS | MEDIA INFORMATION | SUBSCRIPTION ENQUIRES | BOOKS | APPS