Technology (/news/technology) | Culture (/news/culture) | Science (/news/science) | Business (/news/business) | Gaming (/news/gaming)
Ideas Bank (/news/ideas-bank) | Geek Dad (/news/geek-dad) | Nate Lanxon (/news/nate-lanxons-blog) | David Rowan (/news/david-rowans-blog)
Home (/ News (/news) Technology (/news/technology) Wikimedia funding Wikipedia SOPA ()
The Great Transition (/news/the-great-transition)

Wikimedia reaches funding targets, fights SOPA

By Olivia Solon (/search/author/Olivia+Solon) | 03 January 12 (Tue, 03 Jan 2012 16:02:00 +00:00)

Related features

A decade of Wikipedia, the poster child for collaboration (/news /archive/2011-01 /10/wikipedia- sue-gardner)

The battle to make Wikipedia more welcoming (/news/archive /2011-01/10/making- wikipedia- more-welcoming)

Wikipedia might be running out of administrators, figures show (/news/archive /2012-07/19/wikipedia- needs-editors)

It's Wikipedia Week on Wired.co.uk! (/news

Wikipedia users may have a respite from Jimmy Wales' face appearing on articles after the Wikimedia Foundation hit its annual fundraising targets (http://blog.wikimedia.org/2012/01/02/wikimedia- fundraiser-concludes-with-record-breaking-donations/) of $20m (£12.8m).

The funds will be used to buy and install servers and other hardware, develop new site functionality, expand mobile services, provide legal defence for the projects and support the community of Wikimedia volunteers.

This year's banner campaign highlighted staff and volunteers who helped to create Wikipedia, including Jimbo as well as Senior Designer Brandon Harris and user GorillaWarfare.

Sue Gardner, Executive Director of the Wikimedia Foundation, says: "Our model is working fantastically well. Ordinary people use Wikipedia (http://www.wired.co.uk/news/archive/2011-01 /10/wikipedia-sue-gardner?page=all) and they like it, so they chip in

Samsung Galaxy Note 8 announced: mid-sized Android tablet market heats up (/news/archive /2013-02/24/samsung- galaxy-note-8-uk)

(/news/archive/2013-02/24/samsung-galaxy- note-8-uk)
Samsung has announced the Galaxy Note 8 -- an eight-inch Android tablet with a stylus » (/news/archive/2013-02/24/samsung-galaxy- note-8-uk)

How to find true friends (and love) in 45 minutes (/news/archive/2011-11/08/how-to-find-love-in-

/archive/2011-01
/10/wikipedia-week)

some cash so it will continue to thrive. That maintains our independence and lets us focus solely on providing a useful public service. I am so grateful to our donors for making that possible. I promise them we will use their money carefully and well."

The websites of the Wikimedia Foundation -- including Wikipedia, Wikimedia Commons, Wikinews and Wiktionary -- serve more than 470 million people every month, purely supported by donations instead of advertising.

While it's good news in the short term, Wikipedia remains under threat from the USA's proposed Stop Online Piracy Act (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stop_Online_Piracy_Act) (SOPA), which effectively facilitates internet censorship in the name of fighting copyright infringement. SOPA would allow for the blocking of entire foreign websites in the United States as a response to remove infringing material from sight. The act has been widely opposed by the likes of Creative Commons, Reddit, Tumblr and Mozilla.

Wikipedia arguably falls under the definition of an internet search engine (http://blog.wikimedia.org/2011/12/13/how-sopa-will-hurt-the-free-web-and-wikipedia/) and could therefore be forced to remove links to "foreign infringing sites" -- a definition that can include legitimate sites that host mostly legal content but have other supposed infringing content on their site. This would mean that under court order, Wikimedia might have to review millions of links, find the links to so called "foreign infringing sites" and block them from articles. This would be costly and tedious and would have to be repeated every time a prosecutor delivered a court order on any new "foreign infringing site".

Wikipedia argues that blocking links runs against their culture of open knowledge, especially when surgical solutions to fighting infringing material are available.

Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales has revealed that he feels so strongly about SOPA that Wikipedia would be moving its domains away from GoDaddy (http://photos-d.ak.fbcdn.net/hphotos-ak-ash4 /374920_327150140646567_196601040368145_1276226_489333370_n.jpg) because of its support of SOPA (that is, until it did a u-turn after losing so many customers (http://news.cnet.com /8301-31921_3-57349913-281/godaddy-bows-to-boycott-now-opposes-sopa-copyright-bill/)). Wales would even consider a Wikipedia blackout (provided there was support from the community) as a means of protest.

| Tweet | 21 |

| Like | 7 |

7

245 points

Story
Written by Olivia Solon (/search/author /Olivia+Solon)
Edited by Nate Lanxon

Photo
Flickr.com/Niccolò Caranti

Tags
Wikimedia Foundation (/tags /Wikimedia+Foundation), Wikipedia (/tags /Wikipedia), SOPA (/tags/SOPA), Funding (/tags/Funding), Jimmy Wales (/tags /Jimmy+Wales), Sue Gardner (/tags /Sue+Gardner)

Comments

As a regular user of Wikipedia so the Wikimedia funding announcement is excellent news. On SOPA, I can't help thinking that this is a case of this a case of technology being punished for making things available more easily. Like so many online-focused debates at the moment, net

---

45-mins)

Grand Theft Auto 5 UK release date confirmed (/news/archive/2013-01/31/grand-theft-auto-v-release-date-announced)

HTC One: Hands-on preview of the Samsung Galaxy S3's new worst enemy (/news/archive /2013-02/19/htc-launch)

Here's why porn could be banned in the EU, but probably won't be (/news/archive/2013-03/07/eu-porn-vote-ban)

First direct picture of DNA double helix captured (/news/archive/2012-11/30/dna-double-helix-first-direct-image)
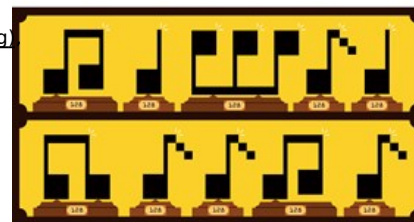
Police crack down on Silk Road following first drug dealer conviction (/news/archive/2013-02/01/silk-road-crackdown)

SimCity's always-on DRM renders game 'unplayable', infuriates players (/news/archive /2013-03/08/simcity-5-players-petition-offline-mode)

More News » (http://www.wired.co.uk /news)

How to upgrade the quality of your MP3s on iTunes (/magazine /archive/2013/03/how-to /how-to-upgrade-the-quality-of-your-mp3s-on-itunes)

08 March 2013

(/magazine/archive/2013/03/how-to/how-to-upgrade-the-quality-of-your-mp3s-on-itunes)
Remember downloading those 128kbps MP3s from Napster back in the day? You can now upgrade them » (/magazine/archive /2013/03/how-to/how-to-upgrade-the-quality-of-your-mp3s-on-itunes)

Evolution with digital support: photographer takes on nature (/magazine/archive/2013/03 /play/evolution-with-digital-support)

Recycling the way we make our bicycles (/magazine/archive/2013/03/start/recycling-the-way-we-make-our-bicycles)

Nilofer Merchant: 'We need a new language for the collaborative age' (/magazine/archive/2013/03

neutrality is an issue here. A few more thoughts at http://devcentral.f5.com/weblogs/npearce /archive/2012/01/04/wikipedia-and-sopa-beauty-and-the-beast.aspx.

F5 Networks   Jan 6th 2012

/ideas-bank/we-need-a-new-language-for-the-collaborative-age)

This reactor withstands temperatures up to 20 times hotter than the Sun (/magazine/archive /2013/03/start/fusion-hots-up)

Magazine » (/magazine)

Name

Email

Comment

good Cazomion

T   y   p   e   t   h   e   t   w   o   w   o   r   d   s   :

Submit » (javascript:WebForm_DoPostBackWithOptions(new WebForm_PostBackOptions("ctl00$ctl00$ctl00$MainContent$MainContent$ctl01$CommentPost", "", true, "CommentValidation", "", false, true)))

Wired Twitter ()

Tiny quantum fridge can cool huge objects: http://t.co/P7P4qPthPQ (http://t.co /P7P4qPthPQ) by @duncangeere (http://twitter.com/duncangeere)
about 6 hours ago (http://twitter.com/WiredUK /statuses/310730403398950900)

Offline SimCity? EA is "looking into" it: http://t.co/DsiFaP7B9z (http://t.co /DsiFaP7B9z) by @duncangeere (http://twitter.com/duncangeere)
about 7 hours ago (http://twitter.com/WiredUK /statuses/310723355055648800)

MakerBot unveils 'Digitizer' 3D scanner: http://t.co/HgPPgBGYMI (http://t.co /HgPPgBGYMI) by @duncangeere (http://twitter.com/duncangeere)
about a day ago (http://twitter.com/WiredUK/statuses /310358928254980100)

Become a fan on Facebook (http://facebook.com /wireduk)   **Follow Wired on Twitter (http://twitter.com /wireduk)**

More from Wired.co.uk

SCIENCE (/NEWS /SCIENCE)

['Trillions of carats' of diamonds found under Russian asteroid crater (/news/archive /2012-09 /18/russian-diamond-smorgasbord)](...)

MOBILE PHONES (/REVIEWS/MOBILE-PHONES)

[Samsung Galaxy S3 Mini review (/reviews/mobile-phones/2013-01 /samsung-galaxy-s3-mini)](...)

CULTURE (/NEWS /CULTURE)

[Amazing timelapse video of Muse's Manchester Arena stage being built (/news/archive /2013-03/04/muse-timelapse)](...)

Asus VivoTab Smart review (/reviews/tablets /2013-03/asus-vivotab-smart)

08 March 2013

(/reviews/tablets/2013-03/asus-vivotab-smart)

Wired.co.uk reviews the latest entry from Asus into the Windows tablet world, the VivoTab Smart **»** (/reviews/tablets/2013-03/asus-vivotab-smart)

Samsung Galaxy Camera review (/reviews/cameras-and-camcorders/2013-03/samsung-galaxy-camera)

Toshiba Satellite U920T hybrid review (/reviews/laptops/2013-02/toshiba-satellite-u920t-hybrid)

Disgo 9000 Android tablet review (/reviews/tablets/2013-01/disgo-9000)

Sony Xperia Z review (/reviews/mobile-phones/2013-02/sony-xperia-z-review)

Lenovo IdeaTab A2107A review (/reviews/tablets/2013-02/lenovo-ideatab-a2107a-review)

More Reviews » (/reviews)

CATEGORIES

Technology (/news/technology) | Culture (/news/culture) | Science (/news/science) | Business (/news/business) | Gaming (/news/gaming) | Politics (/news/politics) | Geek Dad (/news/geek-dad) | The Great Transition (/news/the-great-transition) | Mobile Phone Reviews (/reviews/mobile-phones) | Laptop Reviews (/reviews/laptops) | Gadget Reviews (/reviews/gadgets) | Game Reviews (/reviews/games) | The Wired.co.uk Podcast (/podcast) | Events (/events)

POPULAR TOPICS

CES 2013 (/topics/ces-2013) | Bug Week (/topics/bug-week) | Wired 2012 (/topics/wired-2012) | Hottest European Startups 2012 (/topics/wired-european-startups-2012) | Transhuman Week (/topics/transhuman-week) | Windows 8 (/topics/windows-8) | Windows Phone (/topics/windows-phone) | Environment (/topics/environment) | Turing Week (/topics/turing-week) | iOS 6 (/topics/ios-6) | E3 2012 (/topics/e3-2012) | How To Build A Winning Startup (/topics/wired-how-to-special-2012) | Wired Aperture (/topics/wired-aperture) | Ideas Bank (/topics/ideas-bank) | Creative Commons (/topics/creative-commons) | Minecraft (/topics/minecraft) | Wired 2011 (/topics/wired-2011) | Wired European Startups (/topics/wired-european-startups) | Magazine Features (/topics/magazine-features) | Mac OS X Lion (/topics/os-x-lion) | How To guides (/topics/how-to) | Google+ (/topics/google-plus) | Architecture (/topics/architecture) | Design (/topics/design) | Media (/topics/media) | Animals (/topics/animals) | The Steve Jobs MBA (/topics/the-steve-jobs-mba) | Pottermore (/topics/pottermore) | iPad (/topics/ipad) | Design For Growth 2011 (/topics/design-for-growth) | E3 2011 (/topics/e3-2011) | Lego (/topics/lego) | DIY Music (/topics/diy-music) | Wikipedia Week 2011 (/topics/wikipedia-week) | Japan (/topics/japan) | Silicon Roundabout (/topics/silicon-roundabout) | Science Fiction (/topics/science-fiction) | 3D (/topics/3d) |

Japan (/topics/japan) | Mac (/topics/mac) | iOS (/topics/ios) |
Windows (/topics/windows) | OS X (/topics/os-x)
Firefox (/topics/firefox) | Chrome OS (/topics/chrome-os) |
Robots (/topics/robots) | Facebook (/topics/facebook) |
Twitter (/topics/twitter) | Art (/topics/art)
Space (/topics/space) | Nintendo DS (/topics/nintendo-ds) |
Music (/topics/music) | Nintendo (/topics/nintendo) |
Halo (/topics/halo) | Cats (/topics/cats)
Google (/topics/google) | Netbooks (/topics/netbooks) |
Apple (/topics/apple) | Microsoft (/topics/microsoft) |
Samsung (/topics/samsung) | iPhone (/topics/iphone)
PlayStation (/topics/playstation-3) | Xbox (/topics/xbox) |
Android (/topics/android) | TED (/topics/ted)