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Australia Censors Wikileaks Page

By Ryan Singel  March 17, 2009 | 1:05:45 PM Categories: [Censorship](#)

Australia blacklisted a webpage on Monday from the whistle-blowing site Wikileaks that contains an index of URLs censored by Dutch authorities, a move adding to the country's debate about whether the government should mandate internet filters.

The Australian Communications and Media Authority added two Wikileaks pages to its [censorship list](#): one for the [Dutch](#) Danish government's secret index of banned child porn sites as well as [Wikileaks' press release](#) about how the index was used and why the site was publishing it.

ACMA's list is estimated to hold more than a thousand URLs currently and is distributed to Australian ISPs, which are required by law to make filters available to users.

Wikileaks, the net's foremost site for leaked documents, [responded](#) by announcing the ban, writing "The first rule of censorship is that you cannot talk about censorship."

The Wikileaks page was [submitted to the authorities](#) for consideration in mid-February by a self-proclaimed anti-censorship advocate Tardis42, a member of [whirlpoolnet.au](#), a popular Australian online tech discussion site.

The federal government in Australia has been wanting to force all ISPs to use the list to censor the internet for everyone, but that plan has sputtered under severe criticism from online liberty groups and technical experts.

But just last week, ACMA forced Whirlpool to [remove a user forum link](#) that pointed to graphic pictures on an anti-abortion website. ACMA threatened the site's hosting provider with fines of \$11,000 a day if the link was not removed.

That, free speech advocates say, shows the censorship regime isn't limited to fighting child pornography and will be used to block legitimate political speech.

This is not a first for Wikileaks. A Cayman Islands bank angry about the leak of customer information briefly convinced a U.S. judge in February 2008 to censor the site for Americans, but the judge soon reversed course. The incident galvanized support for the then-nascent site run by hackers and open government coders.

See Also:

- [Immune to Critics, Secret-Spilling Wikileaks Plans to Save Journalism](#)
- [Cayman Islands Bank Gets Wikileaks Taken Offline in U.S.](#)
- [Judge Allows WikiLeaks to Resume U.S. Operations](#)
- [Sensitive Guantanamo Bay Manual Leaked Through Wiki Site](#)
- [Wikileaks Forced to Leak Its Own Secret Info — Update](#)
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I think there is a fear that Wikileaks will be able to run "un-checked" as a kind of watchdog and cross the line a few to many times. We have gone from "free love" to "free information" but it's still the same failed view that EVERYONES life would be better if they lived like ME.

Posted by: **Steven** | Mar 17, 2009 1:01:11 PM

wouldn't it be funny if an american with access to wikileaks just copied all 1000 forbidden url's and started posting them on australian blogs? what could australia do about that?

Posted by: **bruce** | Mar 17, 2009 3:57:18 PM

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ACMA>

Posted by: **more links on wikipedia in ACMA's page !** | Mar 17, 2009 6:24:07 PM

Can't stop the signal.

Those who wish to control us will continue to try though.

Posted by: **Censorship sucks** | Mar 17, 2009 7:26:45 PM

Denmark is not The Netherlands, so Dutch authorities/government are not involved, Danish authorities/government are!

Posted by: **::Sigh::** | Mar 17, 2009 8:33:19 PM

This is crazy. The site they linked to wasn't even illegal under Australian law - and yet somehow the Australian government can ban Australians from linking to it. How does that make sense to anyone?

Posted by: **ndt** | Mar 17, 2009 9:23:39 PM

From what I've been told, Australia doesn't have any laws that protects free speech. I hope to be corrected on that, but if it's true I'm worried.

Posted by: **xen** | Mar 17, 2009 11:24:56 PM

Check out <http://www.siteblocker.org> a satirical simulation of the proposed censorship regime.

Enter a URL and censor any site you like.

wired.com has been blocked too: <http://nanourl.net/19a50>

Posted by: **Josh** | Mar 18, 2009 4:46:03 AM

Australia's regime is becoming more Orwellian like many others. This process will continue in many different ways, some undetected. It will predictably result in new kinds of corruption, wasted resources and frustration for the public.

Posted by: **sleepy** | Mar 18, 2009 4:52:14 AM

Well speaking of politically sensitive....

The Jews never existed, they were like a club of boy scouts, who ripped off the laws of Babylon, stuck their own deities name on it, and then proceeded to champion their own war mongering causes.

Then along comes a FAKE called Jesus, invented by some sleazes, 2 generations after the fictitious event, and then they invented christianity.

The Jews don't recognise the Christians, the Christians say the Jews are stuck in the "old ways" , yet the Christians don't practice Jewish religious law - like Jesus said they ought too, and yet when you look at it all, it's ALL FAKE.

Compare the "Code of Hammurabi" with the old testament and you'll see - plagiarism.

Perhaps the ACMA should block these fanatical cult sites too..

Posted by: **Jammit** | Mar 18, 2009 7:40:34 AM

Look I used too professionally Troll leftist and Communist websites for mostly entertainment, but also to learn what made these people tick. What you do with these people who act lack this in other countries, you just tell them that Australians and also Canadians and most of West European's that its simply to big of a responsibility for most people outside of the U.S. to handle things like Free Speech and Gun rights and that's why they don't have them. Free Speech should only be allowed and offered to those who can handle the responsibility, and that's pretty much just Americans, it works equally well with the gun control argument too. Its just too much of a responsibility, and only Americans were trained from birth to handle it. You tell those idiots that, and man, the entire conversation from that point on turns hostile, because you have caught them in a trap they can't figure out how to get out of. They believe they are smarter than us by doing stupid crap like this, but in the end, they are actually dumbing themselves down, so thus setting us up as Americans to always outperform them, because we simply have more information. Try it! I wrote a email when I found out that one of the main backers of the anti-childporn internet banning law was some Christian organization in Australia. I wrote an email to them saying that just like guns, porn, should not be allowed in Australia, because the Australians can not handle it, and they would run amok in an orgy of violence and their entire civilization could be destroyed in the process. If Communism and or Socialism has ever taught us one thing, its that the people who always back this legislation, want control over you. Could be for greed, could be that power is the ultimate aphrodisiac, dunno, but they want control. They are not concerned the least whether it actually works or not, which it doesn't. They want to own your ass plain and simple, and when nothing happens they pat themselves on the back saying look what good idiots you are, and when it doesn't they say well, we just need more control, and if you buy that, well I have an older IBM 386 I'd like to sell ya, and its in great working condition, just \$50 bucks.

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Posted by: **Some Stupid Tech** | **Mar 18, 2009 3:43:05 PM**
Cybermageddon! (30)

Cyberbullying (1)

Some Stupid Tech: to paraphrase the song - you're talking loud, but you aint saying nothing. What is the point of your post? I read it 3 times and still can't decide. "What you do with these people who act lack this in other countries" - act like what?

Cybersquatting (1)

Posted by: **Get to the Point** | **Mar 18, 2009 7:00:20 PM**

DefCon (23)

Digital Millennium Copyright Act (5)
 It's not just a page that has been blocked - the whole wikileaks website has been blocked for Australians. Can't access it in any way I've tried.

Disasters (3)

Posted by: **jess** | **Mar 18, 2009 10:56:09 PM**

E-Voting (100)**Early Termination Fees** (1)

http://www.encyclopediadrastica.com/User:Tok%60ra/ACMA/Full_List

Election '08 (56)
 The list is here for those that wish to view it. Ironically, it's hosted in a blocked site, encyclopediadrastica.

Fed Blotter (10)

Also available on wikileaks soon to be blocked page, but it's currently down as of posting.

Forensics (6)

http://wikileaks.org/wiki/Australian_government_secret_ACMA_internet_censorship_blacklist_6_Aug_2008#may_22_-_2008_-_Adjustment

Glitches and Bugs (49)

Posted by: **Richard C Mongler** | **Mar 19, 2009 12:19:11 AM**

Hacks and Cracks (198)**Hamburger Helper** (1)

Ok, has wikileaks gone down everywhere? No access from Australia, the UAE, or USA... or any of the Hans Reiser, TIA & Black helicopters making their way to my secure bunker?

Hot Planet (25)

Posted by: **matware** | **Mar 19, 2009 12:40:10 AM**

Identification (52)**Identity Theft** (1)

matware use some common sense, its the digg effect.

Information Sharing (5)

A LOT of people are visiting the site, this simulating a DDOS.

Intellectual Property (58)

That or the aussie govt is launching an actual DDOS, which is also possible as disreputable as the are.

ISP Privacy Survey (10)

Anyway, the list is posted at the site above.

Kickbacks (8)

Posted by: **Richard C. Mongler** | **Mar 19, 2009 1:03:01 AM**

Lori Drew Trial (23)**Mobile Phone Unlocking** (2)

MPAA Litigation (3)
 If you're on the list, want to donate, anybody who can cause this much of a political shit storm deserves my hard earned cash :-)

Network Neutrality (33)

Posted by: **matware** | **Mar 19, 2009 1:27:46 AM**

NSA (17)**Online Pharmacies** (1)

Online Political Campaigns (19)
 It seems that you think you've now acquired some sense of heightened style and "professionally" troll more mainstream sites like Wired.com, don't you?

Patents (2)

I'm Australian by the way, and I have slight doubts about the blacklist released. A news article just today **Phreaky Friday** (3) #38 most viewed page in Australia (redtube.com as found by Alexa) was on the leaked list. I noted that out of the three other porn sites in the top 100 viewed in Aus, only one of them was on the list, **Politics** (86) even then, the one that was on the list only had a single video blacklisted.

Porn (19) makes me wonder, is the ACMA being inconsistent and not thorough in their blacklisting, or is it a fake?

Privacy (14) anyway this internet censorship is ridiculous. They've proved they can't get the basic preliminary tech working correctly, so why bother pursuing an even more intrusive regime?

Propaganda (2)

And @ xen: No, Australia has no specific laws protecting free speech. The closest we have is only an implied **Revolving Door** (3) (b)ical communication (i.e. preventing government from interfering with the individual), but that implied right is totally up to the interpretation of the High Court of Australia in regard to only the specific

RFID (5) laws which come into question. Rotten eh?

RIAA Litigation (89)

Posted by: **stuck behind Great Wall of Aus** | **Mar 19, 2009 2:41:59 AM**

RNC08 (3)**RSA Conference** (8)

Well like I said before, I don't think you, or any other Australians deserve free speech. Ha! See my point? **Spam and Phishing** (8) being told that? If you people are going to act so ridiculous as to ban guns and free speech, who ever said you deserved it in the first place? What moron gives up his rights? My point, Stuck got, and **Spooks Gone Wild** (66) or letting dumbasses like this stupid Christian organization run the show. And no, I don't

Troll Wired, because I have to much respect for what they do. I am merely pointing out, that if you are **State Secrets** (10) debate with someone who is proposing that you put them in charge of what you are and aren't

allowed to do, or proposing you give up rights, they better be able to demonstrate that they are much much **Sunshine and Secrecy** (106) out whatever it is they want to do. Look this whole child porn issue is just a political

football. The authorities know that most people think its wrong to exploit children and they use that excuse to promote censorship, which they in the end will be running, not you, they use this same lame excuse here

in the US to speak great powers, but there not really concerned about child porn, actually they hope it never **Tech Companies in China** (10) goes away, because its great fodder to give them all kinds of power over you, just like the drug war we have

here in the States. Blocking WikiLeaks is proof. If anyone ever says "Well it helps just one Child" the first thing I do is tell them is what kind of an idiot do you think I am? Hey if we lowered the speed limit

The Ridiculous (26) OMPH, er, KPH for Aussies, I bet that would help one child wouldn't it? So lets do that.

Threats (59) Freedom of info which the Internet provides in massive cheap quantities is the most significant threat in

to those in power, you are just seeing the tip of the iceberg when it comes to censorship. Ok, I will get off my horse now.

ToorCon (8)

Posted by: **Some Stupid Tech** | **Mar 19, 2009 8:35:37 AM**

Virginia Tech Shootings (32)**Watchlists** (34)

Wikiwatch (8) it helps just one Child then it was worth it"

Yo Ho Ho (16)

on, sorry.

Posted by: **Some Stupid Tech** | **Mar 19, 2009 8:43:49 AM**

Except it wont do ANY good SSTech.

Besides all the smart pedos would just use things like freenet and tor which they'd be VERY hard to catch on.

Two sites on the list really made me laugh.

1- www.torrentspy.com/directory/1503/adult/videos+%2d+hardcore

They listed a directory for adult videos on a torrent site. A torrent site that's not even up anymore.

2- <http://torrentfive.com/>

they just banned the entire site.

Yet they're NOT blocked any larger torrent sites.

It makes me wonder how they compile the list, as it's obvious they had no knowledge of the internet.

http://www.encyclopediadramatica.com/User:Tok%60ra/ACMA/Full_List

Posted by: | Mar 19, 2009 1:16:38 PM

Well, SSTech, thanks for clearing up your point about censorship, but I don't see your point about the fact that you think Australians don't deserve free speech. I don't like being told that, I don't believe that gun ownership is an inherent right of mankind, and I don't believe that the greater Australian public is in favour of banning free speech or anything of the sort. You'll find a large number of individuals who are currently campaigning for a protection of free speech within Australia - reports due out August this year.

We're a politically apathetic bunch I'll give you that (I had to introduce I don't know how many people to this issue today). But I agree, you would want to put people in charge that are smarter than you, and I agree, child porn is a political football. It gets the public so very riled up that you'd have an angry mob of morally right parents on the door of an "accused" pedo within hours of a news report saying he's been placed in a neighbourhood. No better way to enthuse an angry mob than by promising to wipe the issue from the face of the earth.

I'd certainly hope that a radical Christian organisation is NOT running things behind the show. The thing here is though, unfortunately, I'm afraid religion is almost becoming a factor in politics.

Hell, the balance of power in the Federal Senate rests within two men, one of whom was elected because of his party's moral Christian beliefs and a strong conviction in protecting the family. Keep in mind that this is only one man. The majority of members were elected because we had a situation where people were tired of old, needed new (which had fresh rhetoric), and didn't get exactly what they expected. Political apathy as opposed to complete lack of understanding though.

As for your point of leaving the political football kicking around the floor... I'd hope it wasn't the case here in Australia. The filter is only "meant" to be filtering illegal content only - the issue for me is whether the technology will block other things as well.

And on the subject of the blacklist: if the ACMA - the people developing it - are to be believed, the leaked list ISN'T actually theirs as they haven't made nearly that much progress, shall we say. They only have around 1300 URLs.

Along with the torrentfive.com website, I noticed this on the list: www.youporn.com/watch/86523. A single video maybe? Proof in my eyes that either the ACMA doesn't know squat or the list is bogus.

Apologies for a long post, I'll be off the horse too.

Posted by: stuck behind Great Wall of Aus | Mar 20, 2009 2:04:51 AM

<http://www.whirlpool.net.au/> if you're interested.

Posted by: stuck behind Great Wall of Aus | Mar 20, 2009 2:10:57 AM

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