

POLICY & PIRACY NEWSLETTER



The last few months have seen important anti-piracy initiatives by several Asian governments. They are a clear indication that governments are seriously grappling with the ISD/app piracy ecosystems. We've seen stepped-up enforcement, policy announcements, and legislative movement. (Now, if we could just get *all* of this in *every* country!)

For everyone's convenience, we've brought together some short descriptions in this Special Edition of our Policy and Piracy Newsletter.

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SINGAPORE

New laws to be tabled soon to ban sale of illegal streaming devices in Singapore



Singapore's Ministry of Law on Jan 17 announced a significant policy change against ISD and app sales in the Republic. Stating that "we will not allow manufacturers, importers, distributors and retailers to commercially benefit if they knowingly deal with set-top boxes (note: or apps) that are enabled to allow access to content from unauthorised sources," the Ministry said it would include needed legislative changes in the ongoing review of Singapore's Copyright Act.

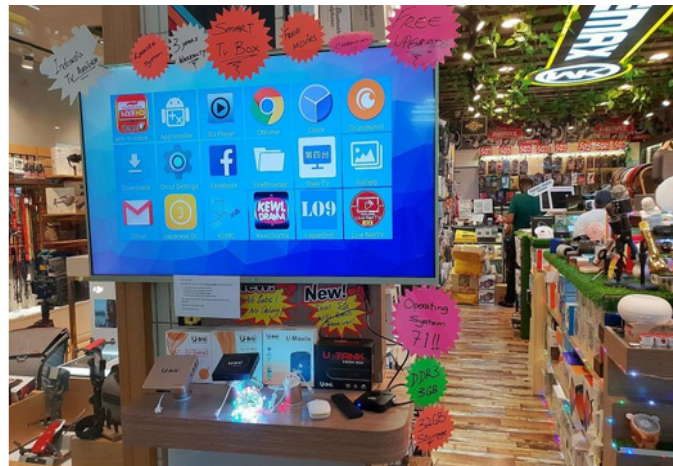
The legality of media streaming boxes has been a grey and contentious area as copyright holders have found it difficult to apply many of the usual legal avenues created in the DVD era. PHOTO: LIANHE ZAOBAO

Press clipping for proposed bill banning the sale of ISDs in Singapore. Source: The Straits Times

AVIA's predecessor CASBAA and other industry players had urged the Ministry in previous consultations to take action against ISDs, and this was a satisfying (if much-delayed) response. The announcement (contained in a report on the Copyright Review) was widely reported and commented.

Meanwhile, at the end of last year Singapore's courts also handed down two landmark decisions on site-blocking. In a case brought by several AVIA members, a court ordered the authentication domains for 8 ISD/app services to be blocked. This had the effect – for some period of time – of making the services largely unusable, in Singapore. (This block on ISDs/apps was only the second one globally, following similar action a few months ago in Australia.)

New laws planned to ban sale of media streaming boxes with add-on services



Android TV boxes for sale at Sim Lim Square. The legality of media streaming boxes has been a contentious area as copyright holders have found it difficult to resort to many of the usual legal avenues created in the DVD era against set-top box retailers that benefit

Press clipping for proposed bill banning the sale of ISDs. Source: The Straits Times

The second notable Singapore injunction came in respect to a block order issued against streaming websites – allowing content owners and ISPs to work together to make the blocks "dynamic" and follow the pirate sites when they change domains.

Together these two injunctions have significantly added to the toolbox available to content owners in Singapore.

MALAYSIA

Led by the Minister of Communications and Multimedia, YB Gobind Singh Deo, Malaysian officials took an unprecedented strong stand against online piracy at an AVIA/MCMC Digital Content Anti-Piracy Summit, in Putrajaya on Feb. 14. The Minister and spokesmen for the Malaysian creative industries deplored the negative effects on content creation from piracy. Minister Gobind said two key issues need to be addressed: faster enforcement to take down pirated content, and a judicial system to punish those engaging in piracy. “We need people to see what legal action can be taken against perpetrators to give a signal, so that others will not do the same,” he said. Upgrades to Malaysia’s existing system of pirate site-blocking are also planned. Officials said they were looking at changes in various laws, including those on copyright and domestic trade, and planned to have drafts by the end of the year.

More proactive action needed to fight digital piracy: Gobind

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Communications and Multimedia Minister Gobind Singh Deo welcomes guests and panel members at the Kuala Lumpur Digital Content Anti-Piracy Summit in Putrajaya on Feb 14, 2019. — Bernama

Press clipping for the Kuala Lumpur Anti-Piracy Summit. Source: [The Sun Daily](#)

PHILIPPINES



Globe Telecom, CAP Back Proposed Philippine Online Infringement Act

Press clipping for Globe and CAP's support of new bill.
Source: [Globe Telecom](#)

Legislation has been introduced in the Philippine Congress to deny consumers the ability to access pirate websites. The proposed new law, introduced by Senate President, Vicente Sotto III, would create a site-blocking mechanism to be administered by the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines and the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC).

“Unlike laws in some other Asian jurisdictions, this one would have **real teeth...the NTC is the licensor of ISPs and any ISP not cooperating could face sanctions up to loss of its license.”**

Unlike laws in some other Asian jurisdictions, this one would have real teeth – the NTC is the licensor of ISPs and any ISP not cooperating could face sanctions up to loss of its license. (Anyone wishing to view the bill, as introduced, can find the text [here](#).)

In another legislative development, the Optical Media Board (OMB) are currently working with the Philippine Congress on an amendment of the OMB’s charter to cover online piracy.

In the past the OMB was effective in reducing DVD hard-media policy. We hope that giving it responsibilities in the digital streaming ecosystem will bring the same energy to online enforcement. Legislation to effect those changes is expected to be introduced later this year.

THAILAND

Thailand's Department of Special Investigations (DSI) conducted an intensive enforcement action against a wide-ranging piracy syndicate on December 13. The Sakkarinsai syndicate was operating ISD apps as well as streaming sites illegally retransmitting sports and other TV channels. 19 locations throughout Thailand including Bangkok and Chiang Mai were raided, with assets seized or frozen and syndicate members detained.

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Immediately after the raid, 42 different sites were disrupted by the Sakkarinsai server outage. Streams of pirated premium channels such as HBO, Turner, BBC and BeIN sports were disrupted. In a subsequent media conference the Thai government stated that the syndicate caused USD122 million in damages to the content industry and over a short period of time had made USD\$9 million in illicit revenue.

Sakkarinsai had been the subject of a joint CAP/ACE investigation since early 2018 and was one of Thailand's largest illicit streaming website networks involving more than 150 law enforcement personnel.

DSI storms major websites streaming illegal content



Press clipping and photos from the DSI raid. Source: Bangkok Post

DSI ทยอยเว็บไซต์ละเมิดลิขสิทธิ์

หมวดข่าว:ในประเทศ วันที่ 13 ธ.ค. 61 เวลา 22:22:33 น. จำนวนผู้ชม : 775



Clip from news broadcast about DSI raid in December. Source: Ch3Thailand