

An Garda Síochána



Cheannfoirt Bleachtaireachta
Choireanna Gnéis,
An tAonad Imscrúdaithe
Foréigin Teaghlaigh agus
Ionsaithe Gnéasacha,
Biúró Náisiúnta um Imscrúdú
Coiriúil,
Cearnóg Fhearchair,
Sráid Fhearchair,
Baile Átha Cliath 2.

Teileafón / Telephone: [REDACTED]

Facs / Fax: [REDACTED]

Please quote the following
reference number: [REDACTED]

Detective Superintendent
Domestic Violence Sexual Assault
Investigation Unit,
National Bureau of Criminal
Investigation,
Harcourt Square,
Harcourt Street,
Dublin 2.

Web Site: www.garda.ie

Date: 30.5.2014

E-Mail: [REDACTED]

The Chief Executive Officer
Blacknight Internet Solutions Ltd
Unit 12A, Barrowside Business Park
Sleaty Road, Graiguecullen, Carlow

RE: THE DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE MATERIAL ON THE INTERNET

Dear Sir/Madam,

As you are aware An Garda Síochána endeavours to work closely with Organisations such as yours and other Internet Service Providers in identifying persons who use the internet to possess and distribute child abuse material, known under Irish legislation as 'child pornography'.

The unit responsible for conducting and co-ordinating such investigations is the **Paedophile Investigation Unit (PIU)**, which is part of the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Investigation Unit at An Garda Síochána's National Bureau of Criminal Investigation.

An Garda Síochána, represented by the Paedophile Investigation Unit, is currently seeking to implement blocking technology operated by Internet Service Providers. With a view to preventing the distribution of child sexual abuse material and protecting your customers and or children from inadvertently accessing such material, An Garda Síochána is keen to implement blocking technology in partnership with your company and other Internet Service Providers.

We propose that members of An Garda Síochána will investigate and identify those domains and sub-domains being used to distribute 'child pornography' as defined by Section 2 of the *Child Trafficking and Pornography Act, 1998*. The Gardaí will forward a list of the relevant domain and sub-domain names to your company requesting that you block your customers' access to those websites and re-direct that customer to a STOP! page (sample attached) explaining to the customer what has happened.

As can be seen in the attached sample STOP! page, An Garda Síochána acknowledges the fact that the customer may have accessed the site unintentionally. It is clear that genuine ISP customers are inadvertently accessing such material.

Ráiteas Misin/Mission Statement:

An leibhéal insroichte is aired a bhaint amach maidir le Cosaint Phearsanta, Tiomantas don Phobal agus Slándáil Stáit.
To achieve the highest level of Personal Protection, Community Commitment, & State Security.

Bearing the above in mind, this process **will never** involve An Garda Síochána requesting data (eg IP Address data, etc.) that may identify the customer who has attempted to access blocked websites. However, we would hope to obtain details of the website visited by the user, along with other technical details, in order that we can identify any new websites that require blocking. We will also be engaging with our European colleagues in attempting to track the creators of such sites and take whatever lawful action is necessary. Again this process will never require the release of identification information for any customer.

The above proposal will be used as a harm reduction measure to prevent the distribution of child sexual abuse material, identify those responsible for creating the websites and will facilitate other investigatory actions to disrupt the distribution of such imagery.

In line with the above, I extend an invitation for a representative(s) from your Organisation to partake in discussions with An Garda Síochána with a view to progressing the use of blocking technology within the industry for use in combating child abuse material on the Internet. I would be obliged if you would acknowledge this correspondence and indicate your organisation's position on this proposal.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact Detective Inspector [REDACTED] or myself.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

DETECTIVE SUPERINTENDENT