IP Crime And Digital Piracy

Felix AVELLAN
Operations Coordinator

A GLOBAL STRUCTURE

Brussels, Belgium
Office of the Special Representative
of INTERPOL to the European Union

The Hague, the Netherlands
INTERPOL Liaison
Bureau at Europol

Vienna, Austria
Liaison Office

Lyon, France
General Secretariat

New York, USA
Representative of INTERPOL
to the United Nations

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Representative of INTERPOL
to the African Union

Singapore
INTERPOL Global Complex
for Innovation

San Salvador, El Salvador
Regional Bureau

Bridgetown, Barbados
INTERPOL Liaison Office
for the Caribbean

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
Regional Bureau

Nairobi, Kenya
Regional Bureau

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Liaison Office to the International
Police Cooperation Centre

Buenos Aires, Argentina
Regional Bureau

Harare, Zimbabwe
Regional Bureau

Yaoundé, Cameroon
Regional Bureau

INTERPOL

196 MEMBER COUNTRIES CONNECTED
THROUGH A SECURE NETWORK

INTERPOL

INTERPOL

OUR EXPERTISE TO SUPPORT
MEMBER COUNTRY INVESTIGATIONS

CRIMINAL ANALYSIS

INNOVATION

FUGITIVE INVESTIGATIVE SUPPORT

POLICE DATA MANAGEMENT

FORENSIC SUPPORT

CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING

COMMAND AND COORDINATION CENTRE

SPECIAL PROJECTS

IGGH Crime areas

IP Crime and Digital Piracy

- Intellectual property (IP) crime describe a range of counterfeiting and piracy offences.

- Counterfeiters violate the rights of trademark and patent owners and operate in every product category.

- Copyright pirates copy and sell unauthorized copies of both physical and digital books, music, video, games and software.

Public Health & Pharmaceutical Crime

- Pharmaceutical crime relates to the production, distribution and sale of falsified medical products aimed at the health market.

- This includes PPE, medicines, vaccines and medical instruments.

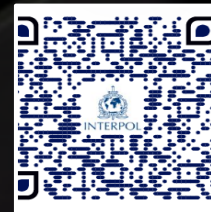- Pharmaceutical crime also includes its packaging and associated documentation, as well as the laundering of the money involved.

I-SOP Project Activities

- Case coordination

- Case meetings

- Operational support

- Analytical support

- Increase capacity in LEAs

- Awareness raising

- Cross-sector (public-private) collaboration

HOW DO PIRATE SERVICES MAKE THEIR MONEY?

Ads

Fraud

Subscriptions

Scams

Identity theft

#MoreThanYouBargainedFor

ILLEGAL STREAMING SITES

#MoreThanYouBargainedFor

BASIC BUNDLE
▶ Pirated films, tv shows, music and *premium sports content*
▶ Inappropriate pop-ups
▶ Bad quality and/or feed disruption

ANNOYING ADS INCLUDED!

ADVANCED BUNDLE
▶ Pirated films, tv shows, music and *premium sports content*
▶ Inappropriate pop-ups
▶ Bad quality and/or feed disruption
+ Credit card fraud

ANNOYING ADS INCLUDED!

PREMIUM BUNDLE
▶ Pirated films, tv shows, music and *premium sports content*
▶ Inappropriate pop-ups
▶ Bad quality and/or feed disruption
▶ Credit card fraud
+ Malware
+ Identity theft

ANNOYING ADS INCLUDED!

Beware! It's not just you, it's your whole network

Illicit streaming sites often have:

Ransomware

Trojans

Spyware

Keyloggers

Viruses

#MoreThanYouBargainedFor

DO YOU KNOW WHO IS BEHIND THE PIRATED CONTENT YOU'RE CONSUMING?

#MoreThanYouBargainedFor

DIGITAL PIRACY METHODS

PROJECT I-SOP

ONLINE CRIMES TARGETING CONSUMERS GOVERNMENTS
AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Digital or online piracy relates to intellectual property rights offenses and refers to the illegal access, download and/or distribution of digital content such as software, music, TV series, films, video games, webcomics and books.

This crime has a serious economic impact, resulting in financial losses for the creative industries and tax revenue loss for government authorities. It also opens up security risks to consumers such as malware and viruses, ID theft or exposure to inappropriate content.

7 KEY DIGITAL PIRACY METHODS:

INFRINGING APPS

Infringing apps have become the most prevalent emerging digital piracy method reported by police services and private sector actors. They allow users to stream or download copyrighted content without proper licensing or authorization. These apps are widely accessible as they are designed to work on popular mobile operating systems or smart TV platforms.

THEFT OF PRE-RELEASE CONTENT

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a sharp increase in home digital entertainment. Digital pirates took advantage of this transformation to steal content and post it on various forums or sell it on their own websites and different IT and social media platforms. Content made available prior to an official release causes significant financial damage for creators, producers and investors.

OFFSHORE HOSTING PROVIDERS

Offshore hosting means that a server is based in a country that differs from the actual business operations. The anonymous nature of hosting and poor intellectual property regulations in the country of registration facilitates piracy activities.

STREAM RIPPING

Stream ripping means extracting or capturing audio or video content from a streaming platform and converting it into a downloadable file. This enables users to illegally listen to or watch the content offline or share it across multiple devices without proper authorization. This phenomenon has a particular impact on the music industry and right holders.

CYBERLOCKERS

Cyberlockers are online data hosting services that provide remote storage space. Unlike legitimate file-sharing services, cyberlockers do not have the internal frameworks to prevent the hosting of illicit content. They earn revenue from advertising, such as banner and 'pop-up' advertisements. Cyberlocker administrators may also gain additional profit for premium download speeds.

CRYPTOCURRENCIES

Illicit financial flows often fuel serious transnational criminal activity. Their scale makes it challenging for law enforcement agencies to prosecute offenders and recover criminal assets. The issue has become more complex with the introduction of cryptocurrencies. Criminals behind pirate sites are increasingly exploiting these virtual assets to mask the flow of illegal funds as part of money laundering schemes.

EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

Powered by a broad range of technologies, including virtual reality (VR), the Metaverse aims to enable people around the world to access shared 3D virtual environments.

Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs) are a unique digital asset that represent ownership or proof of authenticity for a specific item or piece of content. They are hosted on decentralized platforms such as blockchains and are increasingly used in cybercrimes.

NFTs and the Metaverse represent a series of challenges including intellectual property infringement. Specifically, users can upload unauthorized visuals or media content on to these platforms with no checks being carried out by content filtering or image recognition software.

"EVO" Case

P2P release group who illegally obtained high quality content, which was later shared through their different digital platforms.

Q1 – 2022
- NCB Lisbon shares the "EVO" case with the I-SOP team.
- 1 Portuguese suspect identified and another believed to be the leader.

Q2 – 2022
- Operational actions in Portugal supported by the I-SOP team.
- Data extraction and analytical reports issued.

Q4 – 2022
- Case meeting with third countries.
- Operational actions in Portugal supported by the I-SOP team.
- Data extraction and analytical reports issued.

Q2 – 2023
- Seizure of server based overseas.
- More operational and analytical actions are ongoing…

UNC3T and INTERPOL Awarded for Taking Down Piracy Group EVO

October 21, 2023 by Ernesto Van der Sar

HOME › ANTI-PIRACY › TAKEDOWNS AND SEIZURES ›

The Alliance for Creativity and Entertainment has awarded INTERPOL's digital piracy unit and Portuguese cybercrime police unit UNC3T for their role in the dismantling of piracy release group EVO last year. The notorious group was one of Hollywood's prime targets and often the first to release high-quality movie screeners. The group's leader was arrested in Portugal and will be prosecuted.

Piracy release group EVO was long considered one of Hollywood's main targets, publishing thousands of movie and TV show titles including several high-profile releases.

Ways forward…

Collaboration and cooperation is key!

Target
- Streaming websites
- IPTV services and devices
- Apps…

Need
- Information sharing
- Legislation
- Points of contacts

Actions
- Case coordination
- Analytical and operational support
- Seizures and arrests
- Convictions

نشكركم جزيل الشكر على انتباهكم
Thank You – Merci – Gracias

Felix AVELLAN

IP Crime & Digital Piracy Unit
Illicit Goods and Global Health Programme

f.avellan@interpol.int