

# Cyber rally disrupts US recording industry website

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Members of 4chan online forum that promotes users remaining anonymous organized distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks on websites for the [Recording Industry Association of America](#) (RIAA) and the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA), according to the

security firm PandaLabs.

DDoS attacks are efforts to overload websites with so many simultaneous requests that [computer servers](#) can't handle the load and freeze or crash.

Attacks on RIAA caused a dozens of interruptions in service, taking down the group's website for a total of one hour and 37 minutes, according to PandaLabs.

Protest organizers gave instructions throughout the weekend at 4chan, providing the online computer address and when to strike, the researchers reported.

"The most significant aspect of this event, in addition to the damage caused, is that it could mark the first mass cyber protest of its kind on the Web," said PandaLabs technical director Luis Corrons.

"This attack is an example of the potential for future cyber protests and the difficulty in pinpointing and stopping them."

A DDoS attack was also launched on an Indian software company hired by RIAA and MPAA to shut down free [file-sharing](#) sites such as [The Pirate Bay](#), which the trade groups argue are haunts for swapping pirated films and music.

An attack on the MPAA website was being planned for Tuesday at noon California time (1900 GMT).

Protests also tried to rig [Google](#) search results to lead searchers to misleading and unflattering results involving the MPAA president, according to PandaLabs.

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