

WikiLeaks website kicked off Amazon's servers

December 1 2010, By PETER SVENSSON , AP Technology Writer

(AP) -- Amazon.com Inc. forced WikiLeaks to stop using the U.S. company's computers to distribute embarrassing State Department communications and other documents, WikiLeaks said Wednesday.

The ouster came after congressional staff had questioned Amazon about its relationship with WikiLeaks, said Sen. Joe Lieberman, an independent from Connecticut.

WikiLeaks confirmed it hours after The Associated Press reported that Amazon's [servers](#) had stopped hosting WikiLeaks' site. The site was unavailable for several hours before it moved back to its previous Swedish host, Bahnhof.

WikiLeaks released a trove of sensitive diplomatic documents on Sunday. Just before the release, its website came under an Internet-based attack that made it unavailable for hours at a time.

WikiLeaks reacted by moving the website from computers in Sweden to those of Amazon Web Services. Amazon has vast banks of computers that can be rented on a self-service basis to meet surges in traffic.

But the move also exposed WikiLeaks to legal and political pressure.

"WikiLeaks servers at Amazon ousted. Free speech the land of the free--fine our \$ are now spent to employ people in Europe," the organization said Wednesday in a posting on the [Twitter](#) messaging

service.

Amazon.com would not comment on its relationship with WikiLeaks.

"The company's decision to cut off Wikileaks now is the right decision and should set the standard for other companies [Wikileaks](#) is using to distribute its illegally seized material," Lieberman said in a statement. He added that he would have further questions for Amazon about the affair.

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