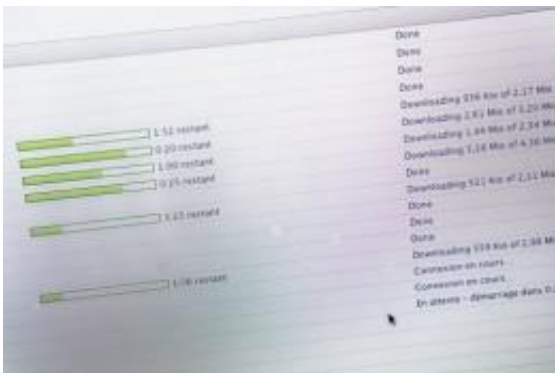


New Zealand outlaws Internet file-sharing

April 14 2011



An MP3 music file is being downloaded through a peer to peer website. New Zealand passed a law against online piracy which outlaws file-sharing and threatens repeat offenders with having their Internet access cut off.

New Zealand passed a law against online piracy Thursday which outlaws file-sharing and threatens repeat offenders with having their Internet access cut off.

The new law allows for penalties of up to NZ\$15,000 (\$12,000) to be paid to the copyright owner and if this is ineffective offenders can have their Internet account suspended for up to six months.

"Online [copyright infringement](#) has been damaging for the creative industry, which has experienced significant declines in revenue as [file sharing](#) has become more prevalent," Commerce Minister Simon Power said.

"This legislation will discourage illegal file sharing and provide more effective measures to help our creative industries enforce their copyright."

The new law gives copyright owners the power to send evidence of alleged infringements to Internet service providers, who will then send up to three infringement notices to the account holder.

If the warnings are ignored then a claim can be made to the Copyright Tribunal which can make awards of up to NZ\$15,000 against the account holder.

The new [law](#) will take effect on September 1 but will not apply to mobile networks until October 2013.

Only the Green Party and two independent MPs voted against the bill although there were strong objections by user groups over the past year as it went through the select committee process.

MPs were accused of not understanding file sharing and Internet basics.

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