

Japan to fine or jail computer virus creators

June 17 2011



This file photo shows people using Internet at a public kiosk. Japan will punish people who create or wilfully spread computer viruses with fines and prison terms of up to three years under a new law enacted by parliament.

Japan will punish people who create or wilfully spread computer viruses with fines and prison terms of up to three years under a new law enacted by parliament.

Under the law, police can seize email communication logs of suspects from Internet service providers, among other information.

The action, which has met with opposition from privacy and free speech advocates, brings Japan a step closer to concluding the Convention on Cybercrime, a Europe-led effort.

The convention is the first international treaty to combat crimes

committed via the Internet and other computer networks. Japan has signed the treaty but must pass relevant domestic laws to conclude it.

Under Japan's new law, people who create or distribute a computer virus with no justifiable reason face prison terms up to three years or fines up to 500,000 yen (6,200 dollars).

Those who deliberately store a [computer virus](#) face up to two years in prison or fines up to 300,000 yen.

Japanese police agencies had long pushed for such a law, but past bills failed amid strong criticism from privacy and [freedom-of-speech](#) advocates who have warned of excessive police powers.

The text of the law says that "in view of the realities of [cyber crime](#) associated with the advancement of information processing ... it is necessary to develop the necessary regulations".

Because of concerns the law could violate the privacy of communications guaranteed under the Japanese constitution, it includes a resolution that urges authorities to apply the law appropriately.

(c) 2011 AFP

Citation: Japan to fine or jail computer virus creators (2011, June 17) retrieved 11 July 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2011-06-japan-fine-virus-creators.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.