

Wikipedia, Google protest US antipiracy proposals

January 18 2012, By PETER SVENSSON , AP Technology Writer



This screen shot shows the blacked-out Wikipedia website, announcing a 24-hour protest against proposed legislation in the U.S. Congress, intended to protect intellectual property that critics say could facilitate censorship, referred to as the "Stop Online Piracy Act," or "SOPA," and the "Protect IP Act," or "PIPA." (AP Photo/Wikipedia)

(AP) -- January 18 is a date that will live in ignorance, as Wikipedia started a 24-hour blackout of its English-language articles, joining other sites in a protest of pending U.S. legislation aimed at shutting down sites that share pirated movies and other content.

Reddit.com shut down its [social news](#) service for 12 hours. Other sites made their views clear without cutting off surfers. [Google](#) blacked out the logo on its home page, directing surfers to a page where they could

add their names to a petition against the bills.

Local listings site Craigslist took a middle route, changing its local home pages to a black screen directing users to an anti-legislation page. After 10 seconds, a link to the main site appears on the home page, but some surfers missed that and were fooled into thinking the whole site was blacked out.

The Internet companies are concerned that the Stop Online Piracy Act in the House and the Protect Intellectual Property Act under consideration in the Senate, if passed, could be used to target legitimate sites where users share content.

The 24-hour Wikipedia blackout is an unprecedented move for the [online encyclopedia](#). The decision was reached after polling the community of contributors, but dissenters say political advocacy undermines the site's mission as a neutral source.

However, it's not complete: the block can be bypassed by changing browser settings to disable JavaScript, or by using the version of the site designed for cellphone screens.

There's also a "mirror" or copy, of [Wikipedia](#) called The Free Dictionary, but it's not up to date.

More information: Wikipedia for mobiles: <http://en.m.wikipedia.org/>

"Mirror" site of Wikipedia: <http://encyclopedia.thefreedictionary.com/>

©2012 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Citation: Wikipedia, Google protest US antipiracy proposals (2012, January 18) retrieved 24 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2012-01-wikipedia-google-protest-antipiracy.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.