

Iran's version of YouTube hits the Web

December 9 2012

(AP)—Iran says it has launched a video-sharing website in the latest move to create government-sanctioned alternatives to Internet powerhouses such as YouTube.

The Web page of Iranian state TV says the new site—Mehr, or affection in Farsi—seeks to promote Iranian and Islamic culture and artists. It's unclear, however, how heavily the site, www.mehr.ir, will be monitored or censored.

Western websites such as Facebook, [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#) are blocked by Iranian officials, who claim Western bloggers and governments are waging a "soft war" against the Islamic Republic.

[Iran](#) also says it is seeking to create its own Internet universe scrubbed of Western content, but experts in cyber-technology question whether any country can completely break away from it.

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