

Dotcom promises 'interesting facts' in legal struggle

March 12 2013, by Robert Macpherson



Megaupload founder Kim Dotcom appears March 11 2013 via Skype video link from New Zealand, during the South by Southwest festival. Dotcom explained his fight against extradition to the United States, which alleges that Megaupload cost the US movie industry millions of dollars in copyright infringement before a police raid on his home outside Auckland shut it down.

Megaupload founder Kim Dotcom said that "interesting facts" will

emerge in his ongoing pitched battle against extradition to the United States over copyright infringement.

Speaking via Skype video link from New Zealand to the South by Southwest (SXSW) festival, [Dotcom](#) promised "a really cool (court) hearing" in April focusing on evidence surrounding the January 2012 raid on his Auckland home.

"There will be interesting facts revealed," said the flamboyant German-born entrepreneur and former teenage hacker whom the US Justice Department accuses of criminal [copyright infringement](#) on top of several conspiracy charges.

Dotcom reiterated his belief that his case—which shut down the Megaupload file storage site, causing 66.6 million users worldwide to suddenly lose the data they'd uploaded—was politically driven.

"Get the popcorn ready," said Dotcom, 39, appearing like a cheerful ghostly face against a pitch-black background on a giant projection screen, "because you won't believe what these guys did."



The mansion of Megaupload founder Kim Dotcom is shown in Auckland on January 20, 2013. US authorities allege Dotcom's Megaupload and related file-sharing sites netted more than US\$175 million and cost copyright owners more than US\$500 million by offering pirated copies of movies, TV shows and other content.

And he predicted ultimate victory in a case that has captivated the online world. "I will never be in a prison in the [United States](#)," he said to applause from his SXSW audience. "I can guarantee you that."

US authorities allege Dotcom's Megaupload and related file-sharing sites netted more than \$175 million and cost copyright owners more than \$500 million by offering pirated copies of movies, TV shows and other content.

"This action is among the largest criminal copyright cases ever brought

by the United States," the [US Justice Department](#) has said.

Dotcom, a German national who changed his name from Kim Schmitz, faces an extradition hearing in August. Until then, his passport has been seized and he cannot travel out of the country.

Last week an appeal court in New Zealand upheld Dotcom's right to sue New Zealand's foreign [intelligence agency](#) for illegally spying on him as part of a US probe into alleged online piracy.



The home page of Megaupload.com, one of the largest file-sharing websites shut down by US authorities, is shown January 20, 2012. US authorities allege Dotcom's Megaupload and related file-sharing sites netted more than \$175 million and cost copyright owners more than \$500 million by offering pirated copies of movies, TV shows and other content.

Dotcom said Monday that before it was shut down, Megaupload had 50 million users a day who uploaded files to its servers in return for a unique Internet link that they could share any way they like.

He repeated his opinion that the case against him is political, rather than legal, emanating from the financial support President Barack Obama got from the multinational Hollywood film industry during his winning election campaigns.

"This is very important," he said, arguing that a crackdown on Megaupload was Washington's "plan B" after the Obama administration, in the face of public protests, abandoned the controversial Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA).

He also suggested New Zealand's willingness to help Washington target Megaupload was greased by the decision to make the popular "The Lord of the Rings" films on its soil, resulting in a lucrative influx of film production revenue.

Pending his [extradition](#) hearing, Dotcom—who last month launched a new cloud storage and file-sharing service, simply called Mega, and now is working on an online music service—said he is leading a "pretty relaxed" life.

"My biggest luxury, you'd be surprised, is sleep," he said, adding: "I miss Germany. I miss my mom and I hope I can visit her soon."

File-sharing is a major theme at the ongoing SXSW interactive, film and music festival, with several panels tackling the topic and two documentaries—one on Napster, the other about The Pirate Bay—being shown on the big screen.

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