

US Internet giants join effort to curb child sex abuse

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Pakistani rights activists stage a protest against a child sex abuse scandal in Islamabad on August 10, 2015

Major US Internet firms have joined an effort to curb the spread of images of sex abuse of children, organizers said Monday.

The Internet Watch Foundation said Facebook, Google, Microsoft, Twitter and Yahoo had agreed to adopt a system to identify and block

images of [child sex abuse](#).

The British-based group said in a statement that the system is based on a digital fingerprint, or "hash," which its analysts assign to inappropriate images.

This enables websites participating in the project to filter and block the content.

The "hashes" will be created from images that have been analyzed and classified as abusive by analysts from the foundation.

The new system "could be a game-changer and really steps up the fight against child sexual abuse images online," said Susie Hargreaves, [chief executive](#) of the IWF.

"It means victims' images can be identified and removed more quickly, and we can prevent known [child sexual abuse](#) images from being uploaded to the Internet in the first place."

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