

Netflix taunts N. Korea on-demand TV service on Twitter

August 26 2016

Netflix is poking fun at North Korea's recent foray into on-demand TV, calling itself a "Manbang knockoff" on its Twitter bio.

The tongue-in-cheek change to the Netflix US bio comes after Pyongyang proudly unveiled a video streaming [service](#) called Manbang ("Everywhere"), which was instantly described as a Netflix-style service by Western media.

The system allows viewers with some sort of Internet [access](#) to enjoy the highly-propagandised output of its four state-run TV channels at their leisure.

A programme introducing the service that aired on Korean Central Television (KCTV) last week said it was available to any institute, company or household that subscribes to North Korea's state-operated intranet.

The number of intranet subscribers in North Korea is unknown, but KCTV said "hundreds" of people had signed up to the Manbang service in Sinuiju—one of three cities where the system is being rolled out.

Set up in 2000, the intranet only allows access to selected, government-approved websites and mostly functions as a communication platform between government agencies, universities, industry and commerce.

Outside of hotels catering to foreigners, access to the full-blown internet

in North Korea is for the super-elite only—a few hundred people or maybe 1,000 at most.

© 2016 AFP

Citation: Netflix taunts N. Korea on-demand TV service on Twitter (2016, August 26) retrieved 23 June 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2016-08-netflix-taunts-korea-on-demand-tv.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.