

Megaupload boss allowed \$49,000 monthly expenses

22 March 2012



Megaupload boss Kim Dotcom leaves court after he was granted bail in the North Shore court in Auckland on February 22, 2012. A New Zealand court granted Dotcom NZ\$60,000 (\$49,000) a month in living expenses Thursday as he awaits a US bid to extradite him on online piracy charges, reports said.

A New Zealand court granted Megaupload boss Kim Dotcom NZ\$60,000 (\$49,000) a month in living expenses Thursday as he awaits a US bid to extradite him on online piracy charges, reports said.

The German national reportedly applied for NZ\$220,000 month to cover his costs when he was freed on bail last month, including funds to pay for luxuries such as a butler and nannies.

The High Court in Auckland ruled [Dotcom](#), who US authorities allege earned \$42 million from his file-sharing websites in 2010 alone, could have NZ\$60,000 a month, Fairfax Media reported.

It also gave the Internet tycoon, a keen car enthusiast, access to a 2011 Mercedes Benz, the New Zealand Herald reported.

The 38-year-old's assets were frozen after New Zealand police, cooperating with a major US probe, raided his sprawling Auckland mansion on

January 20, seizing artworks and luxury cars including a pink Cadillac.

The [US Justice Department](#) and FBI allege Megaupload and related sites netted more than \$175 million in criminal proceeds and cost copyright owners over \$500 million by offering pirated copies of movies, TV shows and other content.

Megaupload was founded in 2005 but shut down in January after the Auckland raid.

A US application for Dotcom's [extradition](#) is expected to be heard on August 20. US authorities have said they will seek the maximum penalty of 20 years in jail if he is brought before an American court.

Dotcom, who legally changed his name from Kim Schmitz, has denied any [wrongdoing](#) and vowed to fight extradition, labelling the case against him "misleading and malicious".

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