

Microsoft-affiliated publication announces censorship of all Internet content

The website Neowin has focused its coverage on Microsoft products since the site was founded 15 years ago, has been accused of employing a Microsoft publicist,¹ and can be assumed to have a promotional relationship with Microsoft.

Neowin writer Jett Goldsmith has announced the arrival of the "better Internet" that will forbid privately owned websites from containing speech that the powers controlling the Internet disapprove of.² Specifically named websites to be banned are the neo-nazi site Stormfront, the anti-government website Above Top Secret, and Reddit's /r/conspiracy forum for discussing anti-establishment conspiracy theories. Specifically mentioned as ideas to be banned from the entire Internet are white supremacism, opposition to vaccines, and denying the existence of climate change.

The events of the past year suggest that there is broad support for this goal among the investors and executives of the most prominent websites on the Internet;³ that there is unanimous support for this goal within the commercial media;⁴ that censored content will include inoffensive material that is at odds with commercial and political interests;⁵ that elements of the Anonymous hacker movement have been recruited as an international police force to disrupt websites with undesirable speech,⁶ raising the expense of maintaining an independent website beyond the reach of the average individual; that federal law enforcement has granted this force immunity from prosecution;⁷ and that this goal is promoted by the Russian recruitment network in Western universities.⁸ The close association of the Berkman Center to these events raises the question of whether the center was studying internet censorship in China for the benefit of the State Department or for the benefit of China to refine its censorship techniques.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Legislative: Build a national public internet backbone so that it remains possible to access the Internet with no restrictions other than those in law. Promote this plan as rebuilding the NSFNet using modern technology.
- Legislative: Reconsider any sections of the 1995 Telecommunications Act that allow businesses to consolidate control of communications networks.
- Executive: Reduce collusion and increase competition by enforcing the Sherman Antitrust Act using the legal standards that existed prior to the Reagan administration.
- Private industry: Recruit private investors to finance the development of competing distributed networks, data centers, cloud services, online advertising networks, and payment processing services for every service that censors political speech.

1 "Neowin Authorship Affiliated with Microsoft", Tech Rights, <http://techrights.org/2009/05/02/neowin-microsoft-affiliation/>

Quote: "MSPs, which we wrote about before, are unpaid Microsoft boosters who receive gifts from the company in order to promote and spread its products."

2 Jett Goldsmith, "Users should embrace a better internet, not fight it", Jun 11, 2015 <https://archive.is/tW8nd>

3 Reference draft report "Observations on the Gamergate scandal"

4 As per the unanimous media endorsement of, or silence on, internet censorship issues.

5 As per the observed censorship on participating websites of verifiable information regarding the Gamergate commercial scandal, the actions of Zanu-PF and Jamaat-e-Islami, and the 1938 Berlin decree banning Jews from owning firearms.

6 "Observations"

7 As per the observed lack of prosecutions and the identification of force members as FBI and Defense assets

8 As per the identification of involved university professors as "critical theorist", "Marxist", etc, and the recruitment of over 150 students at Oberlin College to protest the appearance of independent feminist Christina Hoff Sommers.

Voat targeted for persistent disruption

Voat is a competitor of Reddit that has come under sustained attack since mid-June when it gained new users after Reddit banned five forums on controversial claims of harassment. The administrators of two of these forums have claimed that they had not engaged in harassment, had complied with Reddit's terms of service, and had not been warned of any problems beforehand. One of these forums had banned Imgur CEO Alan Schaff shortly before Reddit banned it, which has led to speculation about the venture capital firm Andreessen-Horowitz which has heavily invested in both Imgur and Reddit.



Voat (Private) Follow

Voat.co is currently under a DDoS attack. This is the second attack in the last 24 hours.

26 REPLY 17 SHARE

4:42 AM - 14 Jun 2015



Voat (Private) Follow

voat1.co is under DDoS attack again. We have ordered cloudflare package and are working on mitigation.

19 REPLY 20 SHARE

5:23 AM - 14 Jun 2015



Our provider, hosteurope.de shut down our servers due to "political incorrectness" (self.announcements)

submitted 11 hours ago by [Atko](#)

Our hosting provider, hosteurope.de has terminated all our contracts and shut down all our servers without issuing a warning or trying to talk to us. This includes my private server which was only used to host my girlfriends blog. She is a scientist. She published her research papers on that blog (pre-formatted papers to which she owns the copyright). That server contained no other data whatsoever.

The reason they gave us when they notified us that they have cancelled our contract is "...we have received significant information that the content on your server includes political incorrect parts that are unacceptable for us." and "Due to the fact that we cannot keep bond of trust to you as our customer...".

Luckily, we have managed to move our databases to a cloud platform mere hours before they shut down our servers. Ladies and gentlemen, my eyes have been opened by this. I don't know about you, but we are living in a weird world. We will have to carefully evaluate our long term options of providing a platform of free speech if we are to stay online. Your donations are what keeps us afloat.

Also, I am back in Sweden from my post-graduation vacation, currently packing my things and I will be driving (moving) to Switzerland tomorrow or day after tomorrow.

Edit: just to clarify, I have been a hosteurope.de customer for well over 5 years, always paying my bills and never hosting any illegal content.

Edit 2: thank you all who donated. I removed info on how to donate as I feel we have received enough to help us survive for quite some time. We will publish a detailed report about how much money we



Voat PayPal account has been permanently limited (self-announcements)

submitted 2 hours ago by [Ako](#)

The reason given was "Under the Acceptable Use Policy, PayPal may not be used to send or receive payments for certain sexually oriented materials or services or for items that could be considered obscene". This is wrong/false on so many levels. We used PayPal only as a means to receive voluntary donations from people who wanted to support further development of Voat and to help pay for our hosting fees. This is beyond crazy.

According to PayPal User Agreement, our funds can be kept by PayPal for 180 days. I requested further clarification from PayPal, but I would like to advise everyone who planned to donate to Voat - to NOT do so via PayPal.

Honestly, I don't know what I expected when I trusted PayPal with our donation money. I apologize to everyone who donated to us through PayPal and I will badge everyone who did so even if the funds are never released by PayPal.

283 comments

Cuban intelligence influence on LGBT activism

Around 700-750 people signed a petition to release the Cuban Five,⁹ five of a group of 14 Cuban spies known as the Wasp Network, who were imprisoned after members of the group were caught spying on U.S military installations. The circumstances of the case suggest the influence of Cuban intelligence on anyone who would sign such a petition.

The signatories included over 40 LGBT activists, including around 9 transgender activists, and a small number of gender studies professors. The presence of a Cuban-influenced network within the LGBT community would provide a mechanism for the insertion of propaganda meant to fuse disruptive ideals with the gay and transgender identities.

One of the signatories is Adedoyin Ola of New York, who shares the same name as an Adedoyin Ola listed as the director of grassroots fundraising for the Sylvia Rivera Law Project on the project's 2012 IRS form 990. No other members of SRLP were recognized in the list. No other names on the list have been recognized as related to Gamergate.

For further consideration, the Bradley Manning incident included large marketing campaigns to encourage copycat espionage. These included efforts to promote Manning as a hero within the hacker community and within the LGBT community. The participants and sources of funding for these campaigns are not presently public knowledge.

Recommendations:

- Contact the appropriate agency to begin building a case for a national security warrant on SRLP starting with this potential Cuban link and SRLP's relationship to HSBC as noted in the Observations draft.
- Request the assistance of analysts who have studied international LGBT organizations and the Bradley Manning / Edward Snowden marketing campaigns to compare notes and look for commonalities with the Gamergate incident.

9 Signature list, <http://nyfreethefive.org/rainbowsigners.htm>

Possible mafia connection to Reddit

Alphonse “Buddy” Fletcher, the husband of Reddit CEO Ellen Pao, has been accused of defrauding Louisiana pension funds of \$100 million¹⁰ and has \$140 million in court judgments against him.¹¹ Fletcher has avoided criminal charges.

The filmmaker Roger Corman lost \$60 million invested in Citco Group of Amsterdam after Citco transferred management of a \$73 million property to Fletcher.¹² Citco is run by a Christopher Smeets.¹³ A Dutch news article dated 1995 reported on Smeets's denial of a claim in the book *Bloedsporen* that Smeets worked for Vincenzo Bertucci, a broker alleged to have mafia connections. The article said that a similar allegation against Smeets was made in 1987.¹⁴

Recommendations:

- Obtain updated information about who Smeets and Citgo currently work for to determine whether this lead is worth following.
- Obtain information on where Fletcher's money went. \$130 million is difficult to spend, and the lack of criminal charges after several years of published accusations of fraud suggests that some of it went to protection.

One of Reddit's advertisers is the defunct video game maker Atari. In 2014 Atari announced an unusual business plan of catering to LGBT organizations and social casinos.¹⁵ Atari partnered with the company Pariplay which is based on the Isle of Man,¹⁶ a location notorious for money laundering. Part of the plan involved placing Atari-branded games on gambling platforms.¹⁷ Atari's video game properties have little commercial value today and can be easily cloned by any game development shop.

Recommendations:

- Request that FinCen look into the Atari-Pariplay licensing arrangement as a possible scheme for money laundering through overpayment for unnecessary services.

10 Rachel Abrams, “Pension Funds Sue on a Deal Gone Cold”, New York Times, February 24, 2014
<http://dealbook.nytimes.com/2014/02/24/pension-funds-sue-on-a-deal-gone-cold/>

11 Michelle Celarier, “Case builds against former NY hedgeie ‘Buddy’ Fletcher”, New York Post, February 18, 2015
<http://nypost.com/2015/02/18/case-builds-against-former-ny-hedgeie-buddy-fletcher/>

12 Edvard Pettersson, “Filmmaker Roger Corman Sues Over Losses From Buddy Fletcher”, Bloomberg,
<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-03-24/filmmaker-corman-sues-for-losses-on-funds-sent-to-buddy-fletcher>

13 Bloomberg profile of Citco, accessed June 2015
<http://www.bloomberg.com/research/stocks/private/board.asp?privcapId=1004747>

14 “Bankier: Geen bewijs voor contacten mafia – Schandaal Aruba achtervolgt directeur Citco”, Digibron, copied from Reformatorisch Dagblad, dated September 21, 1995
<http://www.digibron.nl/search/detail/012de680583348482759c769/bankier-geen-bewijs-voor-contacten-mafia>

15 Nicole Kline, "Atari's plan includes catering to LGBT, social casinos, real-money gambling, and YouTube", Warp Zoned, June 22, 2014, <http://www.warpzoned.com/2014/06/atari-future-plan-includes-catering-to-lgbt-social-casinos-real-money-gambling-and-youtube/>

16 Brian Pempus, Atari To Dabble With Real-Money Online Gambling, Cardplayer, Apr 18, 2014
<http://www.cardplayer.com/poker-news/17115-atari-to-dabble-with-real-money-online-gambling>

17 Alexa Ray Corriea, "Atari bringing its classic games to real-money gambling platforms", Polygon, Apr 16, 2014,
<http://www.polygon.com/2014/4/16/5620106/atari-bringing-its-classic-games-to-real-money-gambling-platforms>