The Battle For Your Entertainment: The Internet, SOPA, and Censorship
In Context
The Battle For Your Entertainment: The Internet, SOPA, and Censorship
I want to tell you a story...
Our story begins...
The business of content
One out of three ain’t bad
The Villain appears...
The Villain gains a powerful ally
Justice John Paul Stevens
“I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him.”
“If there are millions of owners of VTR's who make copies of televised sports events, religious broadcasts, and educational programs ... and if the proprietors of those programs welcome the practice, the business of supplying the equipment that makes such copying feasible should not be stifled simply because the equipment is used by some individuals to make unauthorized reproductions of respondents' works....”

- Majority opinion, Betamax case
Time shifting is legal
A safe haven for technology
The Villains won
Return of the Content Creators
“I say to you that the VCR is to the American film producer and the American public as the Boston strangler is to the woman home alone... [the VCR] is an avalanche... a tidal wave... and will make the industry bleed and bleed and hemorrhage”

- Jack Valenti, President of the MPAA, 1982
Audio Home Recording Act of 1992
Digital Millennium Copyright Act
Time marched forward...
The Heroes of Silicon Valley
Self preservation is a powerful motivator
Today’s Battle
Stop Online Piracy Act
Domain Name System
2001:0db3:39fa:49ac:2934:bc2a:78ab:4949
A Personal Note to Congress
The Burden of Proof
January 18, 2012
Dear Dr. Sherriff:

Thank you for contacting my office regarding S.968, the Preventing Real Online Threats to Economic Creativity and Theft of Intellectual Property Act of 2011 (PROTECT IP), and H.R. 3261, the Stop Online Piracy Act of 2011 (SOPA). I appreciate your taking the time to share your views with me.

As you may know, the PROTECT IP Act and SOPA both seek to provide an expedited process for cracking down on counterfeit products and pirated content distributed over the Internet by targeting the domain names associated with sites that distribute that material. The PROTECT IP Act passed the Senate Judiciary Committee on May 26, 2011 and is currently awaiting full Senate consideration. SOPA is currently under consideration by the House Judiciary Committee. Should the Senate consider these bills, or similar legislation, I will review it to ensure the best interests of Virginians are met and will keep your views in mind.

As the 112th Congress continues to address intellectual property, telecommunication, and other important issues facing the United States, your views will be very helpful to me and my staff. I hope that you will continue to share your views with us in the years ahead.

Jim Webb, United States Senator
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Jim Webb, United States Senator
- January 5, 2012 (in response to a message dated December 20, 2012)
Dear Dr. Sherriff:

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As you may know, the PROTECT IP Act and SOPA both seek to provide an expedited process for cracking down on counterfeit products and pirated content distributed over the Internet by targeting the domain names associated with sites that distribute that material. Intellectual property theft is a serious problem that costs the American economy billions of dollars a year. However, I have serious concerns with the PROTECT IP Act as it is currently drafted, particularly with the bill’s potential impact on free speech and the safety and security of the Internet.

As you may be aware, the Senate was originally scheduled to begin consideration of the PROTECT IP Act on January 24, 2012. However, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid announced that he would postpone the vote, in an effort to develop compromise legislation that would address the concerns that have been raised. Should the Senate consider the PROTECT IP Act or similar legislation in the future, I will review it to ensure the best interests of Virginians are met and will keep your views in mind.

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Jim Webb, United States Senator
- February 2, 2012 (in response to a message dated January 18, 2012)
We are Content Creators
Even Bills... #OPEN
From the shadows...
Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Act
There are always two... a master and an apprentice
What can you do?
Questions, Queries, Quandaries