



Friday, November 19, 2010

Dear Operation:Payback,

We, the undersigned, call upon you to immediately cease your Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) attacks and to instead seek out a legal method to express your frustration and disquiet with the copyright industry, and their perversions of copyright law for personal gain.

We understand, only too well, that, as a group, you feel the need to bring attention to this problem. We understand and share your frustration that rational arguments backed up by solid evidence are frequently ignored in favor of talking points based on slogans that have never been backed up with hard data. This frustration has led you to carry out a series of DDoS attacks against high profile websites belonging to various anti-piracy groups and government agencies, under the name of "Operation:Payback".

What began as a counter-attack on Aiplex Software (the company hired to DDoS several websites that did not comply with take-down notices) later turned into a full-on assault against the RIAA, MPAA, and IFPI, among other groups and organizations that had nothing to do with the original purpose of Operation: Payback.

Operation: Payback needs to end. While it is certainly an indication that an increasing number of people are becoming frustrated with the way laws are being constantly re-written to kill our creative culture in the name of preserving profitability, its methods do more harm than good to the global effort.

By continuing Operation:Payback attacks, you will hamper those who promote copyright reform and curtailment of abuses of copyright, but who do so within the bounds of the law. Instead of being able to argue for legislative reform of copyright on its own merits, they will be accused of defending criminals and promoting lawlessness. It will be easier for legislators and the media to ignore the clear benefits of fair copyrights and free speech, in favor of clamoring for harsher legislation to "stop those pirates and hackers."

Please help those of us who care about your freedoms, your rights and your liberty, and choose a more moderate and legal way.

Yours sincerely,

United States Pirate Party
Pirate Party of the United Kingdom

<http://pirate-party.us>
<http://pirateparty.org.uk>