

By Paul Belleflamme, 27 November 2010

Legal responses to online piracy



Yesterday (November 26, 2010), the *New York Times* published two short articles concerning online piracy of digital goods.

The first article ([Swedish Court Upholds Convictions in File-Sharing Case](#)) reports that an appeals court in Sweden upheld the copyright convictions of three men behind Pirate Bay, a popular file-sharing site that remains in operation despite attempts to shut it down (this site is helping millions of people illegally download music, movies and computer games).

The second article ([U.S. Shuts Down Web Sites in Piracy Crackdown](#)) reports that the ICE (*Immigration and Customs Enforcement*) has seized the Web addresses of a number of sites that facilitate illegal file-sharing. In taking over the sites' domain names, or Web addresses, the government effectively redirected any visitors to its own takedown notice: "This domain name has been seized by ICE (...) pursuant to a seizure warrant issued by a United States District Court."

Online piracy will be the topic of the next two lectures of LLSMS2041 'Economics of Innovation'. This Thursday, we will have the pleasure to welcome [Alain Strowel](#). Alain will address the following topic: "**How to Deal with Online Piracy? Liability of Intermediaries and the Graduated Response for Repeat Infringers**", which is directly linked to the above two articles. Alain also organizes a [conference on this topic](#) on December 14, 2010.

Before this lecture, you are invited to express here your own feelings about the downloading of music, movies and computer games on the Internet.