

I'm not robot



Motherless go ahead

For nearly two weeks, the FBI operated one of the largest child pornography websites on the Internet, allowing users to download thousands of illicit images and videos from a government site in Washington. This operation, whose details remain largely secret, was at least the third time the FBI took control of such a site but left it online to catch users who officials said would otherwise remain hidden behind an anonymous computer network. The FBI infected the sites with software that punctured the security, allowing agents to identify hundreds of users. The Justice Department acknowledged in court filings that the FBI operated the site, known as Playpen, from February 20 to March 4, 2015. At the time, the site had over 215,000 registered users and included links to more than 23,000 sexually explicit images and videos of children, including over 9,000 files that users could download directly from the FBI. The approach taken by the FBI is a significant departure from their past tactics for battling online child porn. In the past, agents were instructed not to allow images of children being sexually assaulted to become public, as this would harm the children and once those images left the government's control, there was no way to prevent them from being copied and re-copied to other parts of the Internet. However, officials acknowledged that children depicted in such images are harmed each time they are viewed, and agents had no other way to identify the people accessing the sites. They noted that this approach allowed them to catch hundreds of users who would have otherwise remained hidden. Lawyers for child pornography victims expressed surprise at the FBI's tactics but ultimately approved, stating that these were places where people knew exactly what they were getting when they arrived and it was not like they were blasting it out to the world. The FBI hacks have drawn repeated legal challenges, largely centered on the search warrants agents obtained before cracking the computer network. However, they have also prompted a backlash of a different kind. In a court filing, a lawyer for one of the men arrested after the FBI sting charged that what the government did in this case is comparable to flooding a neighborhood with heroin in the hope of snatching an assortment of low-level drug users. Federal Judge Scheduled to Hear Request to Dismiss Child Pornography Charges Against Former Teacher A federal judge is set to hear arguments on Friday regarding a request to dismiss child pornography charges against Jay Michaud, a former middle school teacher. The charges stem from allegations that Michaud's client was involved with the online site "Playpen," which was reportedly accessed by over 100,000 users during its 13-day operation under government control. Law enforcement agencies, including the FBI, have been accused of using controversial methods to combat child pornography online. In court filings, it was revealed that agents did not post any new child pornography on their own websites but allowed existing content to remain. They also failed to block users from uploading new material while under government control. The FBI has claimed it could not prevent users from circulating downloaded content on other sites. Experts argue that this approach blurs the line between investigative methods and the crime itself, raising questions about who decides what is an acceptable way to combat child pornography. University of California Davis law professor Elizabeth Joh notes that the "cost/benefit analysis" for such tactics is often unclear. The FBI has a history of using similar tactics, including operating a child pornography site in 2012, which led to federal charges against at least 25 people. However, some cases remain unresolved due to difficulties in linking specific individuals to network addresses. In recent years, the agency has taken control of dark web sites and injected them with malware to crack Tor's anonymity. This technology was initially used for counterterrorism purposes but later became a tool for combating child pornography. Advocates for victims of online exploitation call for stronger legislation to compel companies to better police illegal content. One Canadian woman who spent years trying to have explicit material removed from the internet says it has become "a cancer" that grows and spreads unless addressed. Started getting links about myself on Pornhub and other unknown websites, constantly reliving my trauma. I was stalked and harassed online and in real life for years, trying to get social media platforms and adult websites to remove explicit videos featuring me. Removing the burden from victims like me is crucial. To address this issue, Canada's federal government is working on legislation that aims to shift the responsibility of removing illegal content from individuals to companies. Canadian Heritage Minister Steven Guilbeault stated that his department is drafting rules requiring social media platforms and adult websites operating in Canada to remove illegal content within 24 hours or face significant penalties. These regulations will apply to any company operating in Canada, regardless of their registration location or server existence. If companies refuse to comply with the laws, they may face hefty fines. The heritage minister cited examples from Europe where high fines have led to changes in company behavior to comply with laws and regulations. The regulations are still being drafted, but the issue gained international attention recently after survivors of child pornography came forward, accusing Pornhub of allowing users to post illegal videos on its site. In response, Pornhub introduced new rules for uploading content, and millions of videos were removed. The Canadian government is taking steps to combat the issue of child pornography on online platforms. Pornhub has stated that it has a zero-tolerance policy for such material and uses an industry-leading trust and safety policy to identify and remove illegal content. However, critics argue that fines alone are not enough to address the problem. New Democrat MP Charlie Angus suggests that companies responsible for distributing child pornography should be charged, not just fined, saying "we cannot stop it on the big sites unless the people who actually run the sites and make the money become accountable." The federal Justice and Public Safety departments are working on updating a national strategy to protect children from online exploitation. They have committed \$15.25 million over three years to help internet child exploitation units investigate cases. The Conservative shadow minister for public safety has also called on the government to take stronger action against revenge porn and child pornography. In a joint statement, Canada and other Five Eyes intelligence alliance members recommitted to pushing tech giants to adopt voluntary principles around identifying, disclosing, and removing online child sexual exploitation content. The Canadian Centre for Child Protection is working with Ottawa to develop Project Arachnid, a web crawler that searches for illegal images and sends take-down notices to platforms. The centre's associate executive director describes the current regulations as inadequate, saying "we've had no regulations in place... we've trusted that adults and children get to play together online." Accordingly, they won't manage their platforms correctly."Notably, Project Arachnid's findings demonstrate that this isn't the case," she pointed out."We've identified 27 million suspected CSI [child sexual imagery] images and issued 6.5 million notices to providers. These numbers indicate that Arachnid is detecting this content faster than we can process removal requests."The centre, one of the few globally focused on collecting and addressing this data, could assist the federal government by sharing its findings, Arnason noted. However, it lacks the resources to enforce take-down notices.Arnason emphasized the need for companies to implement age verification for viewers and uploaders of sexual content, as well as individuals appearing in such images.