



NZFACT

NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION AGAINST COPYRIGHT THEFT



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WOMAN ARRESTED IN POLICE RAID ON MOVIE BURNER LAB

Internet-based Operation Suspected of Making and Selling Unauthorized Copies of Newly Released US, Hong Kong and Japanese Movies and TV Series

Auckland: Today Detective Constable McLeod of the New Zealand Police's Henderson Criminal Investigation Bureau executed a search warrant on a New Lynn residential address. A woman in her 20s was arrested and computer equipment and more than 4,000 suspected pirated movies on DVD were seized. Included in the seizures were seven hard drives, suggesting a massive library of movies which could be burned on to optical discs.

The raid follows a joint investigation of the arrested woman's activities by police and investigators from the New Zealand Federation Against Copyright Theft (NZFACT) after NZFACT investigators became aware of a Chinese language website offering for sale digitally formatted products including movies, TV series, adult movies, cartoons, electronic games and music videos.

During the course of the investigation numerous purchases of pirated movies were made from the suspect including US movies, Hong Kong TV series and a Japanese animated movie. Purchases included Meet the Spartans, Alvin and the Chipmunks and Jumper, all titles on cinematic release at the time they were bought. A number of recently released movies were also seized by police in the raid, including The X Files: I Want to Believe and Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day, both currently on theatrical release in New Zealand.

"We all have a clear interest in stamping out movie piracy and other intellectual property theft," said Tony Eaton, Executive Director of NZFACT. "Burner operations cause massive damage to the film and other creative industries and suck money out of the many small local businesses distributing legitimate movies. The arrest, conviction and imprisonment of those responsible are necessary to protect these businesses and the livelihoods of ordinary Kiwis."

The woman arrested by Police has been placed on a holding charge relating to her activities and will make her first appearance at the Henderson District Court next week. Police investigations are continuing and the seized computer equipment will be subject to forensic examination by computer experts at the Department of Internal Affairs Censorship Compliance Unit.

Piracy in New Zealand

A study undertaken by independent research firm LEK Consulting on behalf of the Motion Picture Association (MPA) showed that piracy cost the film industry in New Zealand an estimated 25 percent of the potential market in 2005 – \$70 million. Internet piracy via P2P file-sharing networks is a significant concern and accounts for the majority of New Zealand movie industry losses – an estimated \$33 million in lost consumer spending in 2005. NZFACT represents the MPA in New Zealand.

About NZFACT: *The New Zealand Federation Against Copyright Theft was established in 2005 by the Motion Picture Association to protect the film industry in New Zealand from the adverse impact of copyright theft. NZFACT works closely with its members, government and enforcement authorities to protect the New Zealand film and television industry, retailers and movie fans. NZFACT members include: Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures, New Zealand; Paramount Pictures Corporation; Sony Pictures Releasing International Corporation; Twentieth Century Fox International Corporation; Universal International Films, Inc.; and Warner Bros. Pictures International, a division of Warner Bros. Pictures Inc.*

NZFACT works in association with the Motion Picture Association, which represents the interests of the film industry across the world. NZFACT also has an alliance with the Recording Industry Association of New Zealand to share information regarding copyright infringement, and is a member of the recently-formed Anti Counterfeiting Group, which represents the interests of New Zealand's major intellectual property stakeholders, such as the music industry, computer software and publishing. NZFACT has a nationwide hotline that enables the reporting of film copyright theft 24 hours a day, 7 days a week: 0800 267 9744.

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