**Online piracy – downloading the facts** 

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#### **Overview**

- Online piracy is endemic, ingrained and global
- Its growth has been fuelled by the dual factors of digitisation and broadband penetration
- Figures are unreliable but frightening nonetheless
- Consumer behaviour is a crucial element, and interdemographic patterns suggest problems may worsen if unchecked
- Practical solutions are varied: legal challenge, technological remedies, new, compelling business models





### Some sobering facts



For every legal track sold online, 20 are "stolen"



Average teenager has 800 illegal tracks on his or her iPod



UK music industry says piracy will cost £1.2bn between 2007 and 2012



25% of all Britons have consumed A/V content illegally online



30bn pirated CDs and DVDs are manufactured globally every year



TV and Film piracy cost UK industry c£530m in 2008



Currently 35% of all computer software globally is pirated



UK games industry loses £2bn a year from piracy

# What is IP piracy?

- Camcording
- Sale/purchase of counterfeit DVDs and CDs
- Home copying
- File-sharing/downloading
- Streaming
- Secondary distribution

## Extent of the problem is clear...

- Music piracy "led the way" with Napster (70m users by 2001)
- Sophisticated black market in music CDs and A/V DVDs, software and games – 30bn counterfeit discs produced each year in "copyright rogue" territories such as China, Russia, Thailand, Indonesia
- Secondary distribution is now prevalent
- Broadband penetration is major driver of illegal consumption (amplified by consumer willingness to engage in piracy)
  - Improvements in speed and volume have led to the sharing of larger files – the era of "BitTorrent"





#### Are we all going the way of South Korea?



# Why piracy matters...

- Current content funding fundamentally based on traditional business models (YouTube video advertising revenues c\$100m in 2008, compared to £3bn of TV advertising revenues in the UK)
- Ability to spend c£2bn on UK TV content, for example, is dependent on generating those revenues
- Online viewing of content is already cannibalistic of traditional revenues rendered worse by "seepage" owing to illegal consumption
- Export-led recovery in the UK would be strengthened by anti-piracy measures aimed at ensuring full value for UK content producers

#### Who puts the content on the internet?





"It is an enormous game of mole-whacking" Cliff Fluet, Lewis Silkin

#### How many are involved in online piracy worldwide?

- BitTorrent has 150m users worldwide
- Pirate Bay and Mininova have over 50m users alone
- File sharing accounts for 60% of all internet traffic Envisional research
- In the UK 7.3m households involved in piracy 28% of the population
- UK Government estimates 25% of UK internet users engage in online music piracy

## What has online piracy done to music?

- Piracy hit music first and worst; physical sales in continual decline – down 15% globally in 2008
- IFPI says 95% of all digital music comes from unlicensed sources
- 83% of European iPod owners do not regularly buy music online
- Legitimate digital music sales grew by 25% to \$3.7bn in 2008, accounting for 20% of music sales:
  - Ahead of newspapers (4%), magazines (1%) and film (4%)





#### **Re-legalisation efforts have borne some fruit...**

- iTunes has sold 6bn songs
- Games synchronisation e.g., Guitar Hero
- Mobile music access services
- ISPs (BSkyB, TeliaSonera, Neuf Cegetel)
- Advertising supported services are evolving: Spotify, Last FM, MySpace Music
- New online stores
- Efforts to involve ISPs in throttling music piracy







#### What has online piracy done to film?

- Physical piracy of DVDs biggest factor
- In 2007, 95m films were downloaded illegally in the UK, compared to 158,000 legal downloads
- UK piracy fuelled by English-language dominance of global film market
- The most recent Ipsos survey indicates a UK annual TV and film revenue loss of £531m due to copyright theft of all kinds
- *Dark Knight* downloaded more than 7m times on BitTorrent
- Mixed evidence as box office doing well, UK cinema audiences up 16% in 2008

### Case in point: Wolverine

- Leaked in early April
- Downloaded 100,000 times in 24 hours
- Cinematic release 29 April UK, 1 May US
- Fox reviewer sacked





#### Efforts to re-legalise in early stages of development

- New online services evolving Lovefilm streaming service, services from 40D, Sky Player, BT Vision
- Findanyfilm website, which aspires to be the film information of choice and links only to legal commercial sites, has achieved 1 million visitors within its first 3 months of operation
- iTunes gaining traction with movie sales and rentals – 33m movies sold or rented to date





## TV content piracy rife in the UK

- UK world leader in TV piracy 25% of all online piracy taking place here (English as a global language a factor)
- TAP Research put total loss from piracy for TV at £82m in 2007
- Broadcast schedule determines demand the most popular downloads are US series not yet broadcast in UK, but which have a terrestrial or pay-TV showcase window
- Popular series are available illegally online within minutes of their legal broadcast
- Most recent series of *Lost* on Sky One is mirroring the US schedule with the aim of reducing online piracy
- Threat to TV export industry: piracy potentially reduces the value of UK content exports a critical sector post the financial services meltdown?

#### Efforts to re-legalise online TV content nascent

- Catch up TV a huge success, led by BBC iPlayer – over 380 million streaming/download requests since launch
- But BBC content is not monetised and is increasing consumer expectations of content on demand, ad free and without subscription or other payment
- C4 service performing well; ITV and five lagging
- Canvas Project may introduce mass market appeal for catch-up, archive (with a pay element in place)?







#### **Business software massively pirated**

- All major software companies have been affected by piracy: US company Autodesk estimates there are more than five illegal copies of its software for each legal one sold
- Currently about 35% of all software in the world is pirated; if all were legal this would provide an additional \$40bn in revenues to software companies
- The Business Software Alliance estimates that a 10% reduction in piracy worldwide would add \$140bn in GDP, 600,000 new jobs and \$24 billion in tax revenues



#### **2006 Business Software Piracy Rates**

## Video games: pirated but still buoyant

- Video games hardware and software sales were £4.0bn in the UK in 2008
- Games sales reached an all time high of £1.9bn last year compared to £1.5bn in 2007
- The UK is the third largest market after the US and Japan
- The industry employs more than 20,000 in the UK
- £2bn is lost every year in the UK to games software counterfeiters (Source: Elspa)





#### **Connectivity promotes pilfering?**

- Broadband penetration is now 65% in the UK
- Digital Britain aims for universal broadband capability by 2012
- 34 million adults, or 67%, now go online every month, up 7 percentage points since 2006
- Time spent online per internet user has doubled in the last five years on the back of the roll-out of flatrate/free internet access
- Internet use remains far lower than TV viewing, even amongst young demos (with 15-24 internet users averaging just over 10 hours per week)
- Non-linear viewing expected to reach 20% of viewing by 2014

Average time spent online per internet user (Hours per week)



### Mobile phones more resilient to pirates?

- Penetration is estimated at 84% in the UK
- Services such as texting, ringtones and user generated video clips have created large new markets
- Micro payments and integrated billing platforms minimise direct piracy issues
- Content piracy has mainly been a secondary effect on mobile phones, with pirated material procured elsewhere and transferred to the device
- Mobile phones are morphing into multimedia devices – MP3 player, portable video player, web browser, GPS – e.g. iphone



### **Remedies to combat piracy**

- To date:
  - YouTube has been filtering out illegal content, following Viacom's \$1bn copyright lawsuit and YouTube's desire to partner with Hollywood
  - Amazon handed over control of the Kindle 2's text-to-speech application when the Authors Guild claimed the function violated copyright law
  - Sweden's court ruling that Pirate Bay is guilty of violating copyright law
  - ISPs have been testing warnings and graduated response (e.g. AT&T in the US): warnings alone cause a significant drop in illegal downloading
  - More inclusive and less threatening marketing messages

### **Other possible solutions**

- Emphasise "must have" destination programming/content, easily accessible (sport, talent shows, results-based programming in real time)
- Offset revenue losses by emphasising live "gigs" over recorded – i.e., touring bands
- Bundle services tied to valued offerings (e.g., music free to phone subscribers)
- Stop giving away professional content (newspaper sites, catch-up);
  - BUT be aware that piracy may actually stimulate commercial purchase – free window may be a useful marketing ploy











#### New business models are key...

- Increased co-operation between content owners and networks an end to mutually assured disruption (win-win)?
- Emphasis on live events live performance revenues rose in the UK by 133% in 2008
- Re-deployment of "old media" assets legacy players need to protect/enhance content funding models or die
- Delivery and pricing that is attractive make it easy, make it simple, make it cheap
- Teenagers will spend on ringtones, texts, TV voting: why not on music and videos?

#### "Monetise don't demonise!"

# Conclusions

- Reliable figures are hard to come by
- It's a global problem, hitting every sector, in different ways
- Piracy is now a mass activity and involves millions of people
- Close correlation with internet penetration and connection speeds
- Different moral perceptions across the generations fundamental difference in concept of ownership?
- Technical solutions are continually thwarted
- New business model need to make legal content attractive, convenient, reasonably priced

#### Sources

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