

Registry Initiatives to Combat CSAM

Brian Cimboric
Rick Wilhelm

PIR

3 March 2024



Launch of Two Initiatives

- PIR is sponsoring two initiatives for registries and registry service providers (RSPs) to help combat Child Sexual Abuse Materials (CSAM) online:
 - “TLD Hopping” List; and
 - Domain Alerts
- A partnership with the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF)
- Furthers both PIR and IWF’s charitable missions

Internet Watch Foundation

- Non-profit charitable organization based in Cambridge, England
- Maintains the IWF Hotline for reporting CSAM
- Trained analysts that review reports and seek to identify CSAM
- INHOPE network provider in the UK

IWF's Work in .org/PIR TLDs

- CSAM prohibited in our Anti-Abuse Policy
- Worked with IWF since 2018, more than 5,700 images referred
 - The 5 years before that, a total of four images referred to us
- Aim of process is not suspension of domain, but referral down the chain to get the content removed

TLD Hopping List: TLD Hops

- “TLD Hopping” is a means to evade suspension for domains that are registered for the purpose of distributing CSAM
- A TLD hop for CSAM occurs when a domain is registered in one TLD for the purposes of distributing CSAM, then the same string (“label”) is registered in another TLD after the first domain name has been acted upon
 - If csam-example[.]com is registered for such purposes, suspended by the registrar, then csam-example[.]biz is registered for the same purpose, then “csam-example” has “hopped” TLDs

TLD Hopping List: Pilot Program

- 2020 pilot program between IWF, PIR, and Identity Digital (“ID”) to maintain a TLD Hopping List
- IWF provides a list of domain names used for the distribution of CSAM and three hops
- PIR and ID then reserve the labels on the TLD Hopping List for a period of one year
- Preventative measure: The TLD Hopping List does not lead to “takedowns” of CSAM, but rather prevents second-level domains that would be dedicated to distribution of CSAM from being registered

TLD Hopping List: Full Launch of the List

- Through a sponsorship with PIR, the TLD Hopping List is now available to all registries (both gTLD and ccTLD)
- No IWF Membership is required, though there are program Ts & Cs
- The more TLDs that participate, the broader the impact of the list

Domain Alerts: Overview

- IWF offers the Domain Alert service for its Registry members
- IWF proactively searches for CSAM and notifies subscribers in real-time whenever CSAM is identified on a website operating under a TLD within the member's portfolio of TLDs
- Unlike the TLD Hopping list, Domain Alerts are 'of the moment' and are a reaction to a live instance of known CSAM on a site

Domain Alerts: Launch of Sponsored Alerts

- PIR is sponsoring any registry operator (gTLD, or ccTLD) or RSP to enable them to receive Domain Alerts
- No IWF Membership is required, but there are Ts and Cs
 - PIR is not a part of the agreement
 - PIR has no visibility into any alerts provided to the registry or RSP
- No cost to the registry/RSP
- Existing IWF members excluded (though not as an RSP)
- Amounts to possible coverage of the entire DNS

Next Steps/Enrollment

- Both relationships will be directly with IWF, no further PIR involvement
- IWF onboarding process is ready to go!
- If interested, visit:
<https://www.iwf.org.uk/membership/iwf-domain-services/>

Still have questions?? contact membership@IWF.org.uk

- Blog post: <https://thenew.org/disrupt-the-spread-of-csam/>
- Blog post: <https://www.iwf.org.uk/news-media/>

Questions?

