

Megaupload Boss Pleads Innocence



The founder of the file-sharing website megaupload.com has plead not guilty to charges of Internet piracy and money laundering. Kim Dotcom, aka Kim Schmitz, told a New Zealand court that authorities were doing their best to portray him as a dangerous criminal. His lawyer Paul Davison said: "Mr Dotcom emphatically denies any criminal misconduct or wrongdoing." Authorities in the USA want to extradite Dotcom on charges of abusing intellectual copyright by allowing millions of his site's users to illegally download movies and songs. They say he made \$175 million by distributing copyrighted content. Megaupload's lawyer said his client simply offered an online storage service.

Kim Dotcom is a German national who now lives in a huge mansion amid sprawling grounds in New Zealand. He and three others were arrested on Friday at the request of the FBI. His arrest coincides with a heated debate in the U.S. Congress about new laws to protect intellectual copyright. The Wikipedia website had earlier gone offline for 24 hours in protest at the proposed legislation, called the Stop Online Piracy Act, and the Protect Intellectual Property Act. Police had to cut Dotcom out of a hidden room he had locked himself in. They also found a loaded gun in his house. Police confiscated 18 luxury cars from Mr Dotcom, with license plates including "HACKER", "MAFIA", "STONED" and "KIMCOM".

PIRACY: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'piracy'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

FILE-SHARING: Students A strongly believe there's nothing illegal about it; Students B strongly believe there's everything illegal about it.

ILLEGAL: From 0 (legal) – 10 - What is and isn't illegal? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you wrote. Change and share again.

Legal? / Illegal?	0 - 10	Why?
Downloading movies		
Not returning library books		
Speeding		
Keeping taxable income secret		
Photocopying part of a book		
Punching someone		

SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. founder | a. depict |
| 2. aka | b. just |
| 3. portray | c. suggested |
| 4. content | d. citizen |
| 5. simply | e. argument |
| 6. national | f. creator |
| 7. amid | g. removed |
| 8. debate | h. material |
| 9. proposed | i. in the middle of |
| 10. confiscated | j. also known as |

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
 - b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'upload'?
 - c) What do you think of downloading movies and music?
 - d) Do you think Mr Dotcom is guilty or not guilty?
 - e) How bad do you think Internet piracy is?
 - f) What should the punishment be for people who download a movie that is copyright protected?
 - g) Can people say they are innocent because they did not know the movie, song, application... was protected by intellectual copyright laws?
 - h) Should Mr Dotcom sue the authorities for portraying him in a bad light?
 - i) Are file-sharing sites simply online storage services?
 - j) Could file sharing eventually kill the music and movie industries?
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STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Is Mr Dotcom a hero or villain?
- c) Would you be bothered if someone found a way to make us pay for everything we download?
- d) What would you say to an artist losing money because of file sharing?
- e) What is intellectual property?
- f) What do you think will happen to Mr Dotcom?
- g) What do you hope will happen to Mr Dotcom?
- h) Have you ever downloaded something you shouldn't have?
- i) What questions would you like to ask Mr Dotcom?
- j) What do you think his answers might be to those questions?



<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/world/megauploads-kim-dotcom-relieved-at-bail-victory/story-e6frg6so-1226278243870>