



Singapore Police Force  
Police Headquarters  
New Phoenix Park  
28 Irrawaddy Road  
Singapore 329560  
Tel: 6478 2122 / 2133  
Fax: 6252 4636

## **POLICE MEDIA RELEASE**

---

### **INTERNET PIRATES BUSTED IN INTERNATIONAL OPERATION**

In an internationally coordinated operation involving 12 other countries, Police busted 2 syndicates downloading and offering for sale pirated computer software, games and movies in the form of CD and DVD-Roms. The operation which took place on 21 Apr 04 at 9 pm led to the arrest of 3 Chinese men. All three are Singaporeans aged between 23 and 40 years. One of them is unemployed, another is an undergraduate and the third is serving his national liability.

2 In Jan 04, SPF's Intellectual Property Rights Branch (IPRB) received an official request from the US Department of Justice (USDOJ) to participate in an international operation against members of an international Internet piracy organisation called "Fairlight". Thirteen countries participated in this FBI-led operation. The countries include Belgium, Britain, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Spain, Sweden, USA and Singapore.

3 Fairlight comprises of a group of IT savvy persons who use computers and the Internet to steal, modify and distribute copyrighted digital works. Such groups are also commonly known as 'Warez groups' in the online community. The group is highly structured with each member playing a well-defined role in the overall conspiracy. The members will attempt to remove its copyright protection controls, including its serial numbers, duplication controls and security locks etc. Once successfully cracked, the software will be picked up for rapid distribution, usually via FTP (file transfer protocol) to hundreds of other websites.

4 Police in collaboration with FBI, identified a Singapore Permanent resident providing financial support to Fairlight. He had been purchasing cracked software, games and movies from Fairlight since Jun 01. Police have also identified another syndicate operating out of Singapore and have successfully apprehended them during the raid. Both syndicates would download the cracked software, store them in CD or DVD-Roms and thereafter courier them to neighboring countries for replication in factories.

5 Senior Assistant Commissioner Ng Seng Liang, Director, Criminal Investigation Department said, "We value the close working relationship that we share with other police forces. We will continue to work with them to eradicate piracy in Singapore and Police will clamp down on any pirates who attempt to use Singapore as a base for manufacturing or distribution of counterfeit or infringing articles."

6 The three men will be charged in court tomorrow morning. Persons found guilty of making for sale or hire an infringing copy shall be punished on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 for the article or for each article in respect of which the offence was committed or \$100,000, whichever is the lower, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years or to both.

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT  
SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE  
22 Apr 04 @ 9pm**