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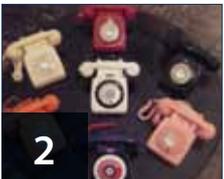
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Saudi Arabia Highly Ranked in Anti-Piracy and Combating IP Violations

BELGIUM-The annual report of the World Customs Organization (WCO) 2011 has surprisingly revealed that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia continues to occupy the advanced levels in anti-piracy and combating Intellectual Property violations, for the second year in a row..

The report pointed out that the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) stressed that the Customs of Saudi Arabia came fourth in the list of countries that participated in fighting piracy and counterfeited products through strict seizure procedures.

KSA occupied the third place as well in terms of the amount of seized counterfeit commodities among 11 regional countries, through continuously reporting the number of seized counterfeit drugs including Methamphetamine, Captagon, Weed and Qat.

Source: Okaz Newspaper



Jordan's Cabinet Approves Draft Press and Publications Law

AMMAN-The Cabinet approved during one of its last sessions, the 2012 draft law amending the Press and Publications Law.

The amended Law aims at limiting the extent of crimes and penalties in the Press and Publication Law, and enable those who have been offended to get compensation through quick judicial procedures.

The draft law aims to regulate work of electronic sites, make them accountable under the penal code and oblige the ones interested in covering Jordan's internal and external affairs to register and get license like the print press.

Under the amended law, rules and procedures will be applied to electronic websites just like the print press without imposing any additional restrictions.

Director General of the Press and Publications Department, Fayez Shawabkeh, said the amendments were made to regulate work of electronic websites and guarantee their freedom within the law.

He said the Legislation and Opinion Bureau made some amendments to the 1998 Press and Publications Law focusing on registration and licensing for electronic websites, adding that these websites were given a period of 90 days to rectify their status.

Source: Jordan News Agency



Over 27, 600 Illegal Phones Confiscated in the UAE

ABU DHABI - The UAE Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) has confiscated over 27, 600 devices in its ongoing pursuit and the efforts to seize unauthorized devices.

The TRA said recently in a statement that the move comes in line with its policy to protect the telecommunications market in the UAE from the use of unsupported telecommunication devices, which are non-compliant with the specifications.

Eng. Ahmad Al-Shamsi, director of Type Approval in the TRA, asserted that the Authority is moving forward in the regulatory campaigns to reduce the increasing number of unauthorized telecommunication devices. This is achieved by refining the capacities and developing the skills of inspectors through training courses; hence, controlling the telecommunications market in the country through developing effective inspection and education programs along with on ground presence of inspection teams.

He added that the campaigns carried out by the TRA during the first half of the year resulted in the confiscation of over 35,000 sets, including multiple and different types of unauthorized devices. Al-Shamsi

emphasized on the seriousness of the spread of such devices in the telecommunications market since technical problems may disrupt the telecommunication networks causing, for example, frequency interference affecting the telecommunication services' subscribers.

For his part, Majid Sultan Al Mesmar, deputy director general of the Telecommunications Sector in the TRA, noted the prominent role played by the strategic partners of the TRA in its support for the formation of a competitive digital regulatory environment, which is safe, sustainable and a global leader in the telecommunications and information technology sectors within the UAE.

He added that in the past two years, the TRA intended, in cooperation with local economic departments in all of the Emirates, to carry out regulatory campaigns in the area of telecommunications gadget sales and take action to prevent the spread and use of unauthorized devices through the adoption of standard and international specifications for the registration of local and international manufacturers, licensed operators, and companies importing telecommunications devices. "This is in addition to issuing warnings or imposing fines that may reach in some cases to license suspension," Al Mesmar concluded.

Source: Dubai Chronicle



DED Seizes AED4 Million Worth of Fake Electronic Goods

DUBAI-The Department of Economic Development (DED) has confiscated electronic appliances worth around four million dirhams in its biggest crackdown on counterfeiting from a warehouse in Al Aweer area of Dubai.

The warehouse, tracked and raided by officials from the Commercial Compliance and Consumer Protection (CCCP) division of DED, had stored over 26,000 duplicates of popular electronic brands including LG, Panasonic, Sony, Sharp and Hitachi. The duplicates were carefully packaged to avoid suspicion and even had warranty labels of leading distributors in the region.

Khalid Ali Al Youha, acting manager of CCCP's Intellectual Property Rights Protection Unit said the confiscation marks a major episode in the efforts for protecting trademarks and consumer rights in Dubai.

"We maintain extreme vigil against counterfeiting and trademark infringement as Dubai being a major logistics hub and retail destination. The Commercial Compliance and Consumer Protection division conducts regular market

inspections and also acts on complaints received, to avoid Dubai being used as a conduit to sell or distribute counterfeit goods," he added.

The goods seized from Al Aweer weighed 120 tonnes in total and included 5,300 television sets, 7,000 DVD players and various other devices including stereo sets, pressing irons and vacuum cleaners. Nearly 60 people were found working in the warehouse.

Al Youha said the confiscated goods will be destroyed and that the owner of the goods will have to pay a fine of AED30,000, the maximum penalty for trademark infringement.

"Trademark infringement violates Intellectual Property Rights and Dubai is determined to curb such practices. Counterfeiting corrupts the market, kills innovation and denies the consumer's right to quality and information. Full support and co-operation from traders and consumers will help DED protect trademarks and maintain healthy relations in the retail market," Al Youha observed.

Source: Emirates News Agency (WAM)



ICANN Expects gTLD Application Processing to Start in December

CALIFORNIA - The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) said it would take up to December to come up with a process for handling the large number of applications for gTLDs (generic top-level domains).

There are close to 2,000 applications for gTLDs, and ICANN has said it is only possible to add 1,000 new gTLDs to the Root Zone per year, making it important that the organization evolves a process to handle the applications in batches.

The Root Zone is described by ICANN as the highest level of the Domain Name System (DNS) structure and it contains the numeric IP addresses for all top level domain names such as gTLDs like .com, .net and .org, and country code top level domains like .nl .us and .uk.

The organization will spend around six weeks developing "possible solutions," and then follow it up with a series of discussions with the community and at the level of the board, ICANN said.

The processing of gTLD applications consists broadly of two phases, the evaluation phase followed by pre-delegation, when the applicant is required to execute a registry agreement and pass technical pre-delegation tests before the new gTLD can be delegated to the Root Zone, ICANN said in a recent statement.

ICANN's current plan is to undertake the evaluation of all new gTLD applications in a single batch, a process that can be completed in 11 to 12 months, resulting in the simultaneous publication of all initial results of the evaluation phase in June or July next year. However, this plan might still be changed after reviewing public comments, it said.

While it is likely that there will be some natural filtering of applications into the delegation phase, the ICANN must still plan for the possibility that some kind of metering or batching will also be needed, it said. The ICANN cited six examples of possible metering techniques, that are being considered in coordination with the ICANN community. One of the proposed methods is a batching process that still restricts the number of applicants as they enter the evaluation phase resulting in an even flow of applications through the process, the ICANN said. This method would be similar to Digital Archery or random selection, but would have to work differently because both those methods have been ruled out, it said.

Another possibility is restricting the reporting of initial results of the evaluation phase, rather than reporting all at once, based on criteria to be determined. It is also possible to advance applications that fall into a specific category first, such as applications originating from developing countries, it added.

ICANN plans to produce a paper describing applicant and community suggestions, the implications for applicants plus the risks and the degree of agreement on a proposed solution in the week following October 2, according to the tentative roadmap. In the period following that paper, ICANN plans to discuss the proposals in public with members during its Toronto meeting in October, after which a new paper will be produced. That paper is planned to be submitted to the board at the beginning of December.

Source: IDG News Service



Government of India May Take Legal Action against Twitter

NEW DELHI - The Indian government has threatened to take legal action against social networking sites like Twitter for those who have refused to cooperate in the crackdown on web pages carrying inflammatory messages against Indians from the Northeast. Facebook and YouTube have already confirmed the government's suspicion that inflammatory messages were uploaded from Pakistan.

Speaking to CNN-IBN, the Telecom Secretary said that Twitter is not cooperating and legal action will be taken against all websites which do not respond. The hate messages sparked off the exodus of Indians from the Northeast from cities like Bangalore, Pune and Hyderabad.

Sources say 254 websites have been blocked so far and one person in Coimbatore has been held for forwarding a controversial SMS. Cases have also been registered in Pune and Mumbai. The preliminary investigation report will be shared with Pakistan.

Union Home Secretary RK Singh has said that the evidence will soon be shared with Islamabad. "Islamabad is demanding proof that the morphed pictures and hate messages originated in Pakistan. Proof will be handed over soon. A number of sites have been blocked. We have also identified a number of sites which were uploaded from Pakistan."

Meanwhile, Facebook and YouTube have informed the government that inflammatory content uploaded on their pages has indicated that they originated from Pakistan. "The initial response from international social networking sites indicates that such content has been hosted from outside the country and to a large extent from a neighboring country (Pakistan)," Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DEIT) said in a statement.

Referring to the misuse of the social media websites with regard to the exodus of northeastern people from cities like Bangalore, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Chennai, the Union Minister said, "If any platform will be misused, we need to stand back. We have asked the websites to be screened for objectionable content. Facebook and Twitter are good platforms for exchange of ideas, but they must not be misused...every country has the right to ensure that such websites are not misused. We want companies to be responsible to the needs of our society."

Source: IBNLive



Anti-Piracy Raids to Target Four New Governorates in Jordan

AMMAN - The Department of the National Library will soon launch a campaign of raids to enforce Intellectual Property Rights in four of the Kingdom's 12 governorates.

The raids, which will start in "the near future", will cover the governorates of Jerash, Aqaba, Mafrq and Irbid, where sales of pirated DVDs and CDs have increased over the past few months, the Department Director General, Mohammad Abbadi, told The Jordan Times.

"Our raids usually focus on Amman and Zarqa, where most of the trade in pirated CDs and DVDs occurs, but through this campaign, we will expand our coverage to include new areas that are witnessing a growth in sales of pirated items," he said.

"There was an increase of about 30 per cent in the number of pirated items confiscated compared to last year," he said.

According to Abbadi, the Department referred about 250 cases of Intellectual Property Rights violations to court during the first half of this year, compared to 200 cases during the first half of 2011.

Jordan's piracy rate (the quantity of pirated content compared to the total amount of content on the market) ranges from 56 to 57 per cent, according to the Department. While the volume of commerce in pirated software, games, DVDs and books amounts to about JD20 million annually.

The Jordanian Copyright Law stipulates that it is a crime to download software, music or movies that are protected under the legislation. Offenders face a prison sentence of between three months and three years and a fine ranging from JD1,000 to JD6,000.

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