

INFORMASIE TECHNOLOGIE

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REMEMBER THAT MOVIE YOU DOWNLOADED?

With a fast internet connection and enough internet data, it's possible to watch and download movies and series whenever you want. Unfortunately, it's also not legal and everything you do online can be tracked and traced.

Until recently television networks and film companies weren't geared to trace and stop downloading and distribution of illegal movies. It was just too difficult and not cost-effective, however, this is no longer the case. Even in South Africa,

We frequently receive notifications from companies such as Warner Bros. and Columbia Pictures indicating that illegal, copyrighted material is being downloaded and seeded (distributed) from IP addresses within the university's network.

These emails include the specific IP address, the material downloaded and distributed and at which times. When we receive these notifications, we immediately send an email to the user of the address with a written warning. If they do not comply, these companies will take legal action.

The distribution or seeding of copyrighted material without a licence is both a criminal and civil offence in South Africa, even if distribution takes place from BitTorrent. Just because it's available via a torrent, it doesn't mean it's legal.

In South Africa, under the Copyright Law of 1978, you can be sentenced for up to 5 years in prison and a fine of up to R10,000 for each item you distribute. Between 2010 and 2012, 200,000 people have been sued for uploading and downloading copyright material via BitTorrent.

So before you download the latest episode of your favourite series from Pirate Bay or stream movies from an illegal sharing site, consider the consequences. There are many legal options to watch media online, from Netflix to Showmax, so rather be safe and legal.

MORE INFORMATION:

How does BitTorrent and seeding work?

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BitTorrent>

<http://www.bittorrent.com/help/guides/beginners-guide>

Example of a warning letter:

We are writing this letter on behalf of Columbia Pictures Industries, Inc. ("Rights Holder") who own certain rights under copyright law in the title White House Down.

You are receiving this notice because your Internet account was identified as having been used recently to copy and/or distribute illegally the copyrighted motion pictures and/or television shows listed at the bottom of this notice. This notice provides you with the information you need in order to take immediate action that can prevent serious legal and other



consequences. These actions include:

1. Stop downloading or uploading without authorization any motion pictures or TV shows owned or distributed by Rights Holder; and
2. Permanently delete from your computer(s) all unauthorized copies you may have already made of these movies and TV shows.

If this notice is being received by an Internet Service Provider (ISP), please forward the notice to the individual associated with the activities.

The unauthorized distribution or public performance of copyrighted works constitutes copyright infringement under the Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S Code Section 106(3)-(4). This conduct may also violate the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works and The Universal Copyright Convention, as well as bilateral treaties with other countries that allow for protection of Rights Holder copyrighted works even beyond U.S borders.

Below is the detail for your reference:

- ----- Infringement Details -----

Title: White House Down

Timestamp: 2013-09-19T23:18:28Z

IP Address: 146.232. **. **

Port: *****

Type: BitTorrent

Torrent Hash: *****

[SOURCE: <http://mybroadband.co.za>]

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