

## After TorrentSpy closure, what's next for MPAA?

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The Motion Picture Association of America ("MPAA") has been battling individuals and BitTorrent search engines over file sharing for a number of years now. While results in cases against individuals have been mixed, there have been some significant successes against the search engines. The MPAA received news of another victory on March 24, 2008 as one of the most popular BitTorrent indexes, TorrentSpy, shut down due to the crippling costs of defending themselves in the litigation against the MPAA.

In 2006 the MPAA brought a lawsuit alleging copyright infringement against a group of BitTorrent search engines, including TorrentSpy. The closure of TorrentSpy allows the MPAA to narrow their focus to other search engines, in particular IsoHunt.

IsoHunt hopes to take their case to the conclusion, forcing the courts to rule on whether search tools can be held liable for copyright infringement. Sites like TorrentSpy and IsoHunt do not store unauthorized movie files, but users often utilize the search engines to find and download pirated copies of copyrighted works.

Following TorrentSpy's closure, the MPAA issued a statement summing up their position, stating, "[t]he demise of TorrentSpy is a clear victory for the content industries, and sends a clear message to operators of other illegal BitTorrent portals that they will not be allowed to operate in the United States without facing relentless litigation by copyright holders." With a statement like this, IsoHunt knows it must be prepared to see the litigation to the end if the company wants to continue its operations.

### Source:

After TorrentSpy Closure, What's Next for MPAA?, *available at* [http://www.news.com/newsblog/8301-10784\\_3-9904810-7.html?tag=nefd.lede](http://www.news.com/newsblog/8301-10784_3-9904810-7.html?tag=nefd.lede) (last visited Mar. 29, 2008).