

## Operation D-Elite Results in Jail Time for BitTorrent Admin

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Daniel Dove, an administrator of EliteTorrent.org, a peer-to-peer (P2P) BitTorrent site was convicted on July 28, 2008 of one count each of conspiracy and copyright infringement for his involvement with the site. On September 9, 2008 Dove was sentenced to a term of 18 months of incarceration and a \$20,000 fine.

The FBI and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) shut the site down on May 25, 2005 as part of Operation D-Elite. Agents of the FBI and ICE targeted EliteTorrent primarily for its illegal distribution of copyrighted movies. The Department of Justice reported that the site had a copy of Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith available for download six hours before it was shown in theatres. Users downloaded the movie 10,000 times within the following 24 hours. At its peak the site had over 125,000 users that downloaded approximately 700 movie titles over 1.1 million times.

Several other BitTorrent sites have shut down in recent years, including LokiTorrent and SuprNova.org due to threats of legal action or a legal shut down. Shutting down BitTorrent sites does little to deter users of P2P networks. As quickly as one site shuts down users move to other sites, many of which are hosted outside of the United State and therefore are harder for the United States government to control.

Dove's conviction follows the convictions of several other administrators' for the P2P network, including Grant Stanley and Scott McCausland who each received five months incarceration, followed by five months home confinement and a \$3,000 fine.

### Sources:

Department of Justice, *Federal Law Enforcement Announces Operation D-Elite, Crackdown On P2p Piracy Network*, [http://www.usdoj.gov/opa/pr/2005/May/05\\_crm\\_291.htm](http://www.usdoj.gov/opa/pr/2005/May/05_crm_291.htm) (last visited Sept. 15, 2008).

Department of Justice, *Federal Jury Convicts High Ranking Web Site Administrator In Peer-To-Peer Piracy Crackdown*, <http://richmond.fbi.gov/dojpressrel/pressrel08/piracy062708.htm> (last visited Sept. 15, 2008).

### For Further Information:

*BitTorrent Tracker Admin Jailed for 18 Months*, TORRENTFREAK, <http://torrentfreak.com/bittorrent-admin-jailed-for-18-months-080909> (last visited Sept. 15, 2008).