



Police Intellectual Property Crime Unit (PIPCU)

Combating IP Crime - United Kingdom

Detective Inspector Emma Warbey



OVERVIEW

- City of London Police is the National Lead Force for economic crime in the United Kingdom
- Funded by the Intellectual Property Office (IPO)
- Enforcement – Disruption – Prevention.



COLLABORATION

Our Partners





CURRENT INITIATIVES

- IP Crime Directory.
- Media campaigns.
- Foreign engagement.
- Industry staff attachments.
- Enforcement – Disruption – Prevention – Education.





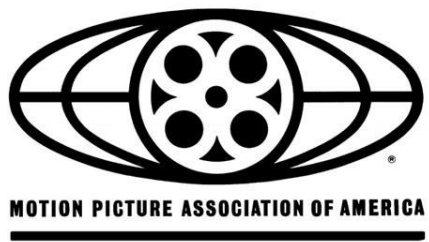
OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY

- 135 investigations since 2013:
- £110m at initial referral but up to £719m
- 65 live cases involving:
 - Clothing & footwear
 - Car parts
 - Digital piracy
 - Internet Protocol Television (IPTV)
- Worldwide reach



OPERATION CREATIVE

UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE CITY OF LONDON POLICE AND THE UK ADVERTISING INDUSTRY AND RIGHTS HOLDERS OF CREATIVE INDUSTRIES TO DISRUPT CRIMINAL ONLINE PIRACY.





OPERATION CREATIVE

Infringing Website List Portal

- Collaboration of industry partners and advertisers to combat fraudulent advertising on illicit websites.
- Key partners gather evidence of criminality and submit to the PIPCU for assessment.
- Once confirmed action is taken to blacklist advertisements, payments and merchant accounts to the websites in question.



OPERATION CREATIVE

Infringing Website List Portal



[Sites](#) [Organisations](#) [Users](#) [Roles](#) [Email Accounts](#) [Message Templates](#) [Application Log](#) [Audit Log](#) [Message Queue](#) [Email Statistics](#) [Email Bounce](#)

User accounts

Create

4251 Referrals
1998 Sites no longer active
1642 sites within IWL portal

Email/Username

Organisation:

Registration Status:

All ▼

Locked Out

All ▼

Search



IDEA|EXCHANGE



groupm



CONVERSANT





OPERATION ASHIKO

Background

- Protects UK business a priority.
- Proliferation of cyber enabled IP crime linked to counterfeit goods.
- PIPCU created Operation Ashiko.
- Targeted the sale and distribution of counterfeit websites with a focus on the .UK ccTLD.
- PIPCU developed partnerships with brands and UK Registry.

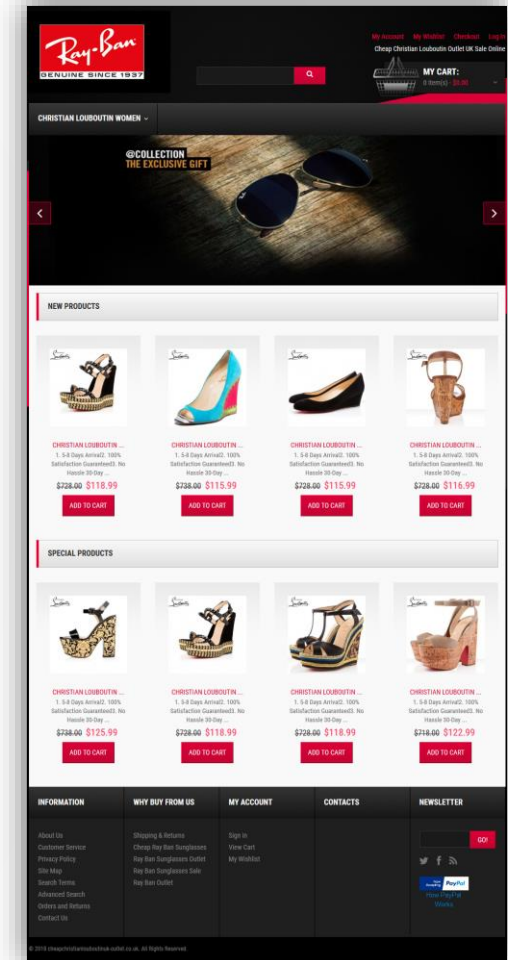
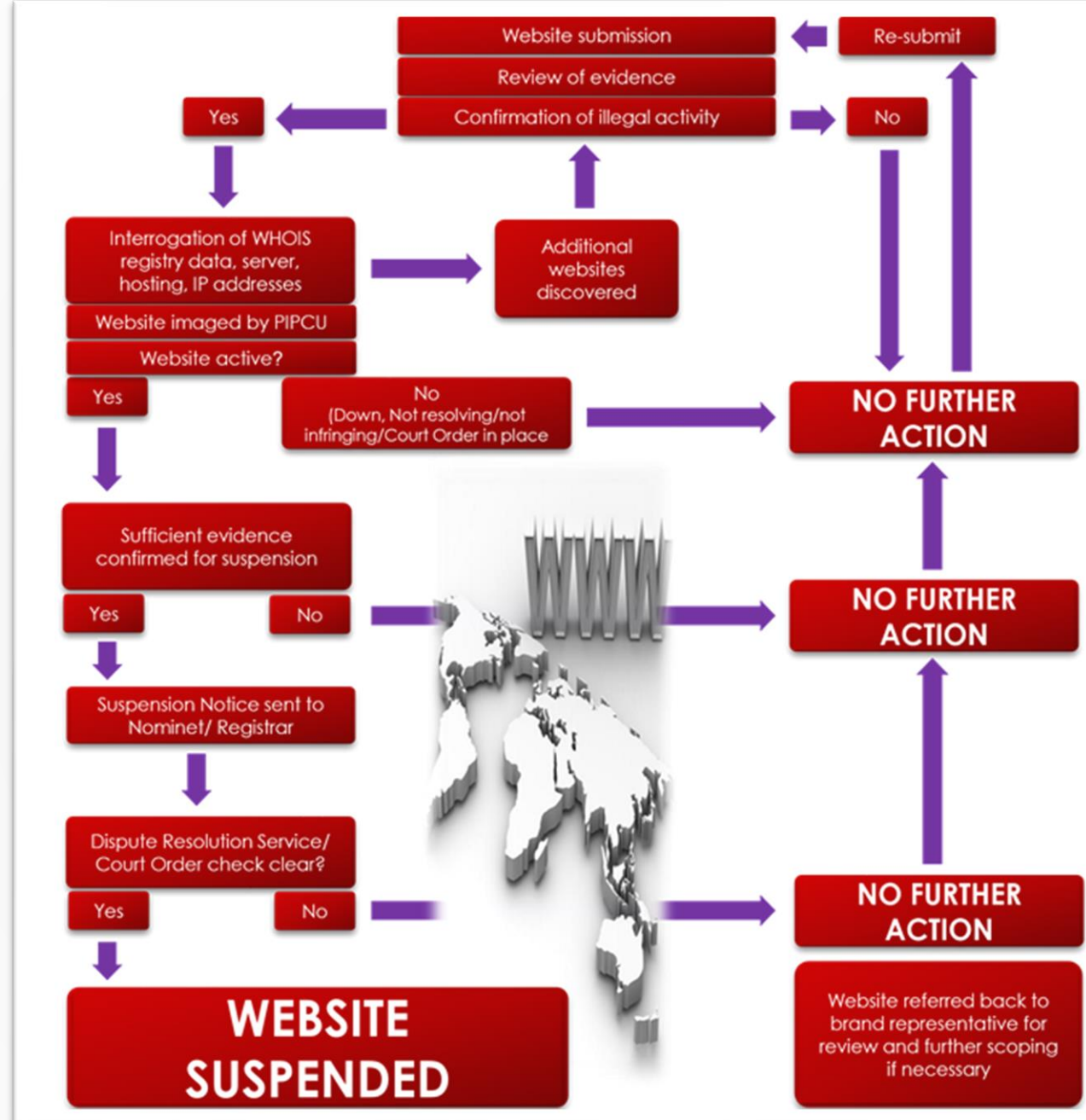


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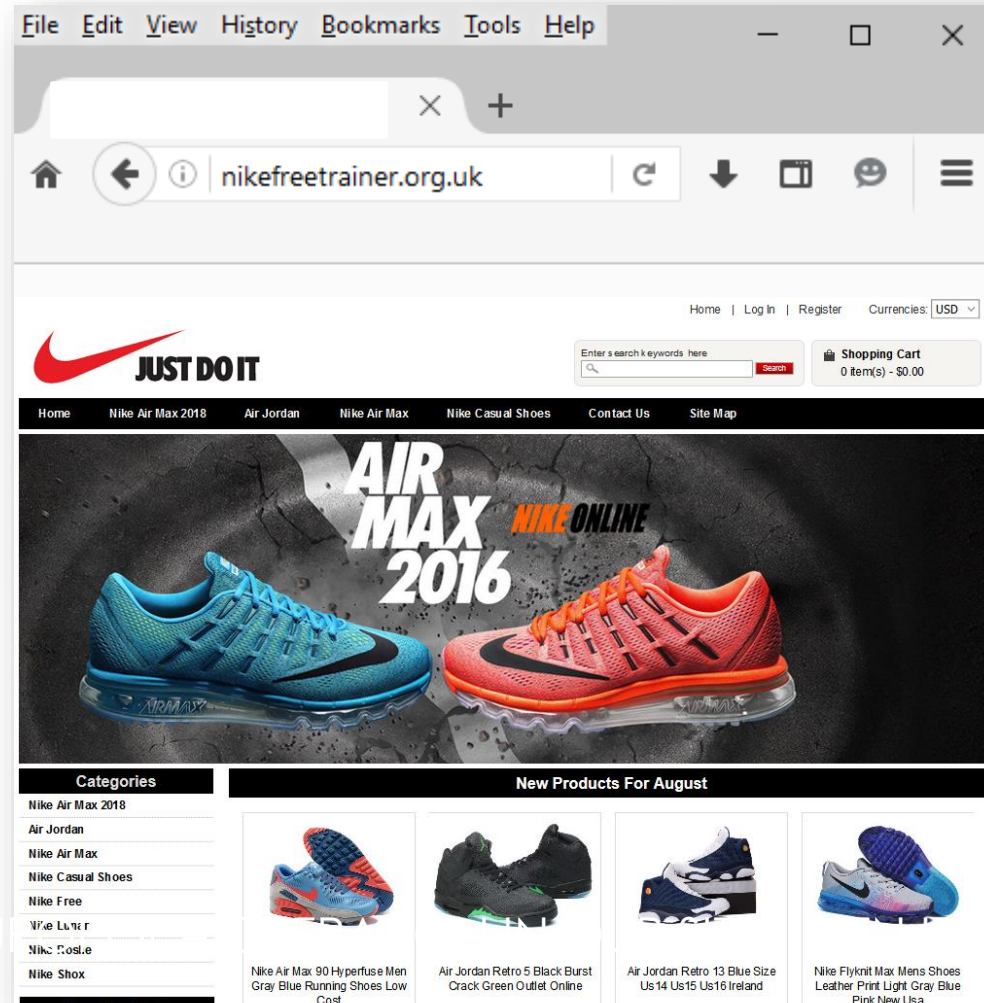
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ASHIKO PROCESS MAP





OPERATION ASHIKO



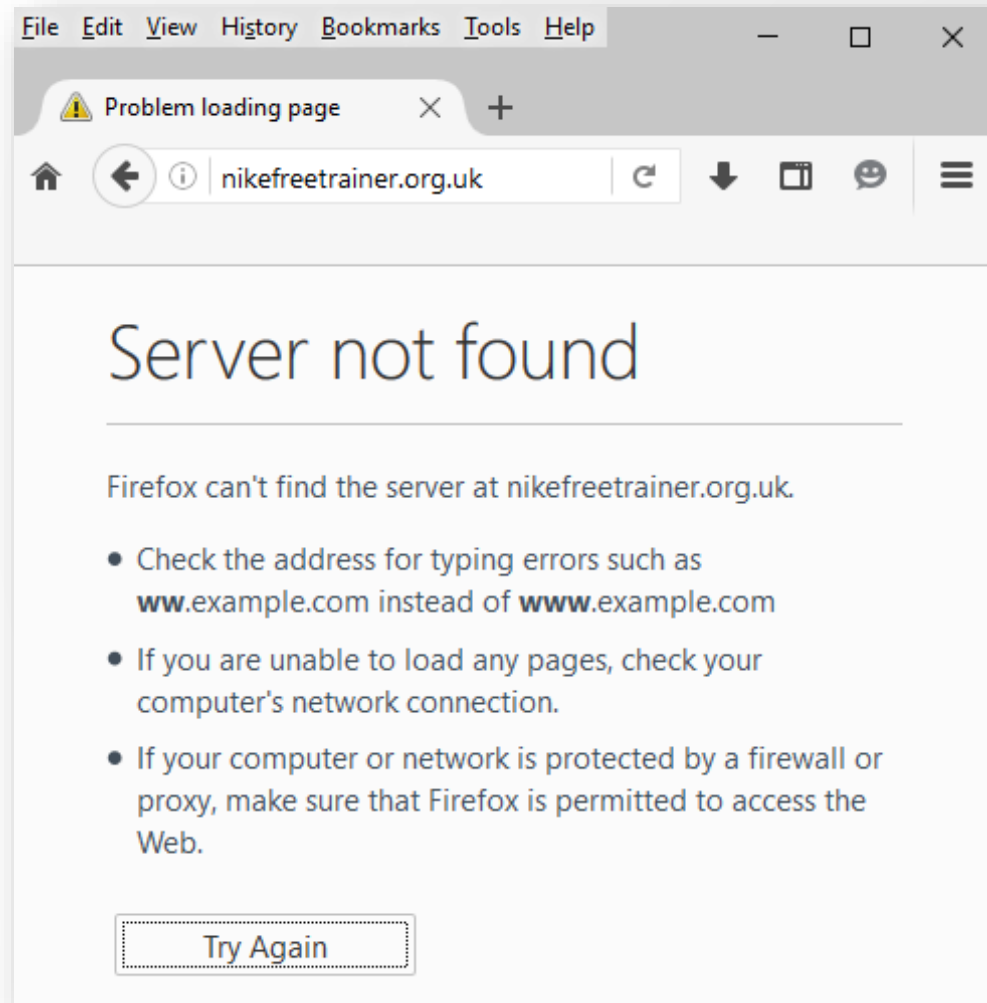
“Nominet expressly prohibits .UK domains from being used for any unlawful purpose. When alerted by the police or other law enforcement agencies, we work quickly with our registrars to suspend domains so they cannot be used to commit crime”.



GUE, NETHERLANDS 2019



OPERATION ASHIKO



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QUE, NETHERLANDS 2019



OPERATION ASHIKO

Achievements



32,813

domains suspended for criminal activity
(compared to 16,632 in the previous year)

RANGE OF LEGISLATION CITED FOR SUSPENSION REQUESTS INCLUDED:

The Fraud Act 2006; Trade Marks Act 1994; Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988; Human Medicines Regulations 2012; Medical Device Regulations 2002; Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008; The Electronic Commerce Regulations 2002; The Consumer Contracts Regulations 2013; Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.

• **HIGHER** THAN ANY OTHER
LAW ENFORCEMENT
AGENCY

BREAKDOWN BY REQUESTING AGENCY

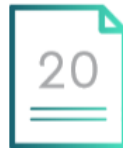
Total number of requests - 32,927



Financial Conduct
Authority (FCA)



Medicines and
Healthcare Products
Regulatory Agency
(MHRA)



Trading Standards (TS)



National Fraud
Intelligence Bureau
(NFIB)



Police Intellectual
Property Crime Unit
(PIPCU)

HOW IT WORKS



Law enforcement agency notifies
Nominet that a domain is
being used for criminal activity



Nominet makes
administrative checks



Nominet notifies the registrant
and works with the registrar
to suspend the domain



OPERATION ASHIKO

Achievements

**OVER 70,000
COUNTEREIT WEBSITES
SUSPENDED**



OPERATION ASHIKO

Achievements

**OVER £719M (€821.5m) OF
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
CRIME DISRUPTED**

OPERATION CHARGEWELL

- Operation Chargewell is a Payment Disruption initiative
- This initiative requires collaborative working practices with UK Banks, Police and Brand Protection Officers to achieve its aims.
- It aims to assist victims with obtaining refunds for fake items bought online and take funds away from sellers of the funds via chargebacks.