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FBI/DHS Attempt to Seize Colorado Indymedia Server and Silence Our Users

Submitted by ringo on June 24, 2010 - 5:43pm

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On Jun 17, Colorado Indymedia was contacted by Special Agent Adam Kowalski of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)/Department of Homeland Security (DHS). As part of an "ongoing investigation" by Federal Protective Services, they attempted to seize the Colorado Indymedia server, believing that we kept logs (such as IP address access logs) that could identify users on our site. Our servers are graciously hosted at Denver Open Media who was approached by Kowalski. Kowalski claimed he had a court order but refused to leave a copy at Denver Open Media. He was told to contact the system administrators in order to obtain the logs as Denver Open Media does not have the ability to consent to a seizure or search of our property.

As of this date, we do not have a copy of the court order if it even exists. It's likely that this was just a bluff as it's well-established that cops, the FBI, and other law enforcement can lie in order to illicit consent and lying about court orders is no exception.

We told the FBI that "Colorado Indymedia does not retain this [identifying] information because we strongly believe in the First Amendment right to free, anonymous speech. Frequently communities outside of our society's mainstream feel more comfortable expressing their views in an anonymous setting. Like all Independent Media Centers, Colorado Indymedia exists to serve these communities, and thus strives to maintain the anonymity of its users."

In particular, the FBI was looking for information that would identify a user(s) who had used the "spamsucks"

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Open Newswire



[The Shortwave Report 06/25/10 Listen Globally](#)

19 hours 44 min ago

by : [outfarpress@sab...](#)

Dear Radio Friend,
The latest Shortwave Report (June 25) is up at the website <http://www.outfarpress.com/outfa...> in both broadcast quality (13.3MB) and quickdownload or streaming form (4.9MB) (28:59) (NEW! If you have access to Audioport.org there is a higher quality version posted up there {26.7MB} <http://www.audioport.org/index.p...>)

[What Those Codes Mean – Deciphering Sidewall Graffiti](#)

1 day 9 hours ago

by : [GiovanniU](#)

Does the sidewall graffiti on your car's tires hold the secret to life, the universe and everything? Author **Douglas Adams** may be intrigued at the notion, but the truth is that tire codes tell consumers about the tire's size, wear, construction and speed rating, among other things. Using the right size tires for your vehicle is an significant part of getting the most from your automobile and increasing mpg. Thanks to all of our friends at **Edmunds**, here's the official cheat sheet for breaking down the

account. This account's username and password are posted on the main page of our site for users who would like to post and remain anonymous. Given the time period of the logs they were seeking, we believe they are looking to identify the individual(s) who posted the two communiques that claimed responsibility for the recent attacks on Immigrations and Custom Enforcement (ICE) offices. (See "ICE Facility Attacked in Loveland" <http://colorado.indymedia.org/no...> and "ICE Office Attacked" <http://colorado.indymedia.org/no...>).

This request is part of an investigation by Federal Protective Services, the agency which is tasked with protecting the security of Federal property (such as buildings). Communiques posted by the same account claiming direct action attacks against other places such as a Wells Fargo branch (<http://colorado.indymedia.org/no...>) have not attracted similar reactions from the agency. It appears as if the ICE attacks prompted additional attention and heat due to their status as Federal buildings even though the attack on the Wells Fargo branch seems related to their funding of private ICE prisons through the GEO Group.

While this may look to many as a run-of-the-mill investigation, there are several things that bring this into question. Firstly, it is a well known and widely publicized policy of Colorado Indymedia that we do not retain logs that can identify individual users. For instance, our privacy policy (<http://colorado.indymedia.org/no...>), which is linked to twice from our main page, notes that we do not log such information. The FBI is well aware of this policy but still decided to ask us for logs they know we do not keep. This could be a simple "fill in the box" task that has to be completed, but then why not approach DOM's Internet service provider, which almost certainly does retain logs of this nature (as all major Internet Service Providers and the NSA do)? Additionally, the FBI seemed intent on seizing our server when they came to Denver Open Media, indicating their goal may have been the disruption of our service instead of simply identifying users.

Given this, it seems likely that the government is upset that we provide a venue for anonymous speech and is retaliating for this. We allow people who ordinarily cannot speak to tell their story to the world including those who took credit for smashing up the ICE offices. In any democratic society, it's important that all members of society can have as much available information in order to make informed decisions, including decisions about whether to support the actions that these communiques discuss. If places like COIMC did not exist, it could be that nobody would have heard why this office was attacked and people would be forced to make evaluations based on coverage from mainstream media outlets who act as a police mouthpiece. In retaliation for providing this service and working to give everybody a voice, we have been targeted.

mystery of the tire codes on your daily commuter or weekend joy-rider. You will know what the sidewall graffiti means and only need to go to a Car Deal Expert whenever you need an auto loans with bad credit.

Article Source: [Deciphering sidewall graffiti - What those tire codes mean?](#)

Sidewall graffiti and if your tires could talk

For an example, let's use 205/55R 16 89V. Let's see how that breaks down:

[New Denver FBI HQ Constructed, Moved Into](#)

1 day 19 hours ago

by : spamsucks

DENVER—Alex S. Palmer & Company announced that Denver's new Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) building project is completed. The Denver-based FBI staff, whose jurisdiction is all of Colorado and Wyoming, is now fully operating in the space.

Alex S. Palmer & Company is the developer/owner of the 220,000 gross square-foot office building and 120,000-square-foot adjoining parking garage. The structure's design and appointments provide a heavy emphasis on security planning and meet all of the required functional and aesthetic goals of the FBI. Located on a 10-acre campus, which formerly served as home to Denver Stapleton Airport, the building incorporates several "green" construction and maintenance elements and is LEED Certified. The glass building also features two large private courtyards and is built to provide stunning views of the Rocky Mountains.

"This building is a state of the art facility which will allow us to more effectively and efficiently carry out our responsibilities," said FBI Special Agent in Charge James H. Davis. "We are delighted to become part of the Stapleton community and we appreciate the warm reception we've received."

The FBI entered into a 20-year lease with Alex S. Palmer & Company for the Class A office space, and construction began in late 2008.

"We are proud of this project and honored to partner with the General Services Administration again," said Alex Palmer, president of Alex S. Palmer & Company. "We have created a building that will serve the FBI well."

About Alex S. Palmer & Company

[International Human Rights Summit 2010](#)

1 day 21 hours ago

by : social reform

International Human Rights Summit 2010

[Solution to World-Wide Drug Abuse Starts at Grass Roots Level](#)

1 day 22 hours ago

by : social reform

This targeting is no surprise and something we expect from law enforcement. Police are a tool of those who are in power who use them to maintain that power through force. Behind every law is a charge, behind every badge is a gun, and behind every subpoena is the possibility of being kidnapped and held hostage for contempt. This type of targeting is done every day against those who assert their right to privacy, who do not have societal privilege, who lack the money to defend themselves in court or conform to society's norms, and who choose to defy and change those norms themselves or challenge the power structures that control society. We are not treated differently than anybody else and the targeting of Colorado Indymedia is business as usual. If the Department of Justice had their way (based on their actions and lobbying efforts), the right to anonymous speech would completely disappear. The services that we provide are a critical part of fostering social change and democratic discourse in this region. For this reason and many others we will not be intimidated into maintaining investigative records on our own users or shutting down our service. As far as we know, we are the only media outlet that has provided coverage on the attacks against ICE offices.

It's important when things like this happen we not internalize this repression and that we let people know we are being bullied. The majority of a bully's power is derived from their ability to keep their victim's silent. This is true whether those bullies are police, rapists, the bully who steals your lunch money, or an abusive parent. This enforced silence keeps the victim feeling powerless and alone. When we are silent, we cannot find others who have faced the same treatment and speak out about it or fight back. Police are a tool of those in power which they use to enforce their rules, laws, social codes, and ultimately maintain their place at the top of the hierarchy. They do not want to hear about people challenging their authority. Most of all, they want to make sure that nobody sees or hears about those actions and chooses to support those individuals or becomes inspired to challenge authority on their own.

You may view our privacy policy at <http://colorado.indymedia.org/no...> which contractually binds us to protect your information. We would like to thank Denver Open Media (<http://denveropenmedia.org>) for continuing to host our server and recognizing the importance of the service we provide. We continue to look for people who are willing to help with website/server administration, moderation, legal problems, and other things. Please see <http://colorado.indymedia.org/no...> for more information. The original letter from the FBI can be found below including our response (with minor formatting changes for your viewing pleasure).

From: Kowalski, Adam J <adam.kowalski@dhs.gov>
Date: Thu Jun 17 2010 at 4:16 PM

In America alone, 50% of school children have experimented with an illicit drug or are using one. At the same time, youths are exposed to drugs earlier and earlier in their lives, with some using marijuana as young as ten years old. That is not to mention Ritalin —now referred to as “Kiddie Coke” on the street. A psychotropic drug prescribed to millions of children, Ritalin is today a bestselling drug.

Statistically proven, young users suffer more illnesses, miss more days of school, and are more prone to engage in criminal conduct than their non-using peers.

On the heels of the UN’s Office on Drugs and Crime’s (UNODC) 2006 World Drug Report, and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan’s call to “arm people with the information they need,” the Foundation for a Drug-Free World provides 13 powerful and enlightening “Truth About Drugs” information booklets. These booklets dispel the myths associated with today’s most abused drugs and reveal the true negative effects and dangers of drugs such as Ecstasy, Cocaine, Ritalin, Marijuana, Crack, Crystal Meth and other harmful drugs.

[NEW WORLD ORDER TAX BREAK FOR U.S.WEALTHY ELITE ALLOWS THEM TO SEND THEIR FOUNDATIONAL TAX FREE \\$\\$ INTO THEIR INTERNATIONAL POOR AGENDA](#)

3 days 3 hours ago

by : LAWYERS FOR POO...

IF U.S.ATTORNEY GENERAL ERIC HOLDER WAS BILL GATES or WARREM BUFFET WE KNOW HE WOULD HELP FINANCE JUSTICE 4 POOR AMERICANS !!!

WE AGREE WITH YOUR CANDID AND SPECIAL U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL ERIC HOLDER ...PRESIDENT OBAMA !!!

OUR WEALTHY ELITE RUNNING AMERICA THROUGH THEIR CONTROL OF OUR U.S.CONGRESS NOW APPEAR TO BE HEARING ALL us little people CRYING OUT FOR REAL JUSTICE TO BEGIN TO BE PROPERLY FINANCED IN ALL OUR VARIOUS COURTS OF LAW .

ALL OF OUR POORER AMERICANS SURELY MUST HAVE A FUTURE OPPORTUNITY TO BE AFFORDED PROPER LEGAL REPRESENTATION PRIOR THE VERY REAL THREATS OF WRONGFULL LOSE OF THEIR THEIR CHILDREN, HOMES, FREEDOMS OR LIVES... FOR OUR SPECIAL AMERICA TO CONTINUE BEING ONE OF THE FAIREST AND FINEST COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD 4 ALL OF OUR CITIZENS TO RESIDE IN.

Attorney General Holder Delivers Remarks at the North Carolina Advocates for Justice Convention
by: USDOJ: Justice News | Jun 19th, 2010

Date: Thu, Jun 17, 2010 at 1:10 PM

Subject: Request for information on Open Media Foundation server / Colorado Indymedia

To: jeff@openmediafoundation.org

Cc: Tony@openmediafoundation.org, "Kowalski, Adam" <Adam.Kowalski@ic.fbi.gov>

To: Open Media Foundation Executive Director Tony Sawcross [sic] and Business and Finance Director Jeff Villano

Gentlemen,

Pursuant to our discussion today, the Colorado Indymedia organization, as found at <http://colorado.indymedia.org/>, and/or IP address 129.19.150.17, is utilizing an Open Media Foundation computer server maintained on the premises of 700 Kalamath Street in Denver, Colorado to host its webpage.

Through my discussions with you today, it is your belief that Open Media Foundation representatives are unable to obtain any of the information described below on the applicable Open Media Foundation server and that only representatives of Colorado Indymedia are able to access the requested information.

In order to minimize any adverse impact this request for information may have on either organization, I request that the organization able to access the requested information be identified as soon as practicable to receive the appropriate legal process for release of the requested information.

If the requested information is no longer available, I request that the responsible party issue a return correspondence noting the negative results of the search and identify the standard retention period that information of this type is typically retained.

Information sought:

Pursuant to an ongoing federal investigation, Department of Homeland Security, Federal Protective Service is seeking the following information, if available, as data files on CD-ROM or other electronic media or facsimile:

1. The following customer or subscriber account information for each account registered to or associated with the "spamsucks" screen name on Colorado Indymedia's website for the time period May 17, 2010 through May 26, 2010:

1. subscriber names, user names, screen names, or other identities;
2. mailing addresses, residential addresses, business addresses, e-mail addresses and other contact information.
3. local and long distance telephone records, or records of session times and durations;
4. length of service (including start date) and types of service utilized;
5. telephone or instrument number or subscriber number or identity, including any temporally assigned network

Thank you, Jim [Coleman], for that warm welcome. It's an honor to be with you today and to salute the great work that the North Carolina Advocates for Justice supports and inspires. For nearly half a century, this organization's leadership has been working to protect the rights of all citizens, to improve public understanding of our legal system, and to help attorneys across this state develop and enhance their skills.

[Retenes / Checkpoints este weekend \(18-19/jun/2010\)](#)

6 days 22 hours ago

by : spamsucks

by Checkpoint response Friday, Jun. 18, 2010 at 1:31 PM
noretene@gmail.com

What is Checkpoint response? Checkpoint response is a network of volunteers who spread information about where and when checkpoints are to take place through e-mail, social networking, and text messages. When possible, we also warn the drivers in our communities through standing protests on the affected streets at a distance of a block from the checkpoint. If you would like to report a checkpoint announced in your local press or that you've seen in your community, or if you would like to receive text alerts, please email noretene@gmail.com.

¿Qué es Checkpoint response? Checkpoint response es una red de voluntarios y voluntarias que se dedican a la difusión de información sobre dónde y cuándo se efectúan retenes policiales a través de correo electrónico, redes sociales, y mensajes de texto. Cuando nos sea posible, también avisamos a los conductores de nuestras comunidades con plantones en la calle afectada a la distancia de una cuadra del retén. Si usted quiere reportar un retén anunciado en su prensa local o que haya visto en su comunidad, o si quiere recibir alertas por texto, favor de enviar un email a noretene@gmail.com.

"Durante la semana" / "During the week"

BELMONT (NH) - "Tilton police will be helping to conduct a sobriety checkpoint during the weeklong period beginning Wednesday... The checkpoints will be set up in Belmont." (<http://www.citizen.com/apps/pbcs...>)

"Durante el mes de junio" / "During the month of June"

[-24 Sinkhole And Canada Sinkhole Wreak Havoc](#)

1 week 14 hours ago

by : Ahmed

-24 Sinkhole And Canada Sinkhole Wreak Havoc

If your evening commute involves I-24 in Tennessee, the I-24 sinkhole is certain to throw a wrench into your plans. A deep sinkhole opened up on I-24 between Chattanooga and Nashville, and shut down a 13-mile stretch of traveled road. As a sinkhole opened up last week in Canada, a family was killed in their basement. So what is the deal with all of these sinkholes?

address; and

6. means and source of payment for such service (including any credit card or bank account number) and billing records.

7.

2. All records and other information relating to the account(s) and time period in Part A, including:

1. records of user activity for any connections made by the screen name, including the date, time, length, and method of connections, data transfer volume, user name, and source and destination Internet Protocol address(es);

2. telephone records, including local and long distance telephone connection records, caller identification records, cellular site and sector

information, GPS data, and cellular network identifying information (such as IMSI, MISISDN, IMEI, MEID, or ESN)

3. non-content information associated with the contents of any communication or file stored by or for the account(s), such as the source and destination email addresses and IP addresses.

4. correspondence and notes of records related to the account(s).

Again, thank you for your cooperation and timely response in this request.

Special Agent Adam Kowalski
(303) 210-7629

Mr. Kowalski,

This email is a response to the email sent by you to Tony Shawcross on Thursday June 17, 2010 as a representative of the Federal Protective Service of the Department of Homeland Security. That email requested that Colorado Indymedia disclose information related to the identity of persons who posted using the "spamsucks" user name during the period of May 17, 2010 through May 26, 2010. A copy of the original message is included below this reply.

Colorado Indymedia does not retain any personally identifying information, such as IP addresses or telephone numbers, of any of our site's users. IP addresses associated with user names are never logged, and web server logs are discarded after 48 hours. Because of this, we do not possess the information sought by the DHS, et al.

Colorado Indymedia does not retain this information because we strongly believe in the First Amendment right to free, anonymous speech. Frequently communities outside of our society's mainstream feel more comfortable expressing their views in an anonymous setting. Like all Independent Media Centers, Colorado Indymedia exists to serve these communities, and thus strives to maintain the

Article Source: [Sinkholes wreak havoc - I-24 Sinkhole and Canada sinkhole](#)

The Tennessee Department of Transportation reported today the I-24 sinkhole opened up Tuesday morning. A tractor-trailer missed the sinkhole just barely after it opened up, and nobody was injured or had to take out new automobile loans as a result of the sinkhole. The sinkhole is 40 feet long and 25 feet deep, and will take \$ 266,960 to fix as authority hopes repairs will be completed by May 22. The contract was given by a private contractor. Between mile marker 127 and exit 127 is where the sinkhole is located. Westbound lanes aren't closed as eastbound lanes are.

Family of four killed in Canadian sinkhole

On the northern side of the continent, a sinkhole that recently opened up in Canada killed a family of four. Just outside Montreal, a sinkhole appeared under several homes, and one family who was in their basement at the time was encased within the sloshing mud. Neighboring houses were evacuated, and also the area is being treated as a disaster rehabilitation area by the Canadian government.

What is a sinkhole?

[The Shortwave Report 06/18/10 Listen Globally](#)

1 week 20 hours ago

by : [outfarpress@sab...](#)

Dear Radio Friend,

The latest Shortwave Report (June 18) is up at the website

<http://www.outfarpress.com/outfa...> in both broadcast quality (13.3MB) and quickdownload or streaming form (4.9MB) (28:59) (NEW! If you have access to Audioport.org there is a higher quality version posted up there {26.7MB} <http://www.audioport.org/index.p...>)

[Record Hit With Mortgage Foreclosures Given that Prevention Program Falters](#)

1 week 1 day ago

by : TinaR

Mortgage foreclosure statistics reached an all-time high within the first quarter of 2010. Momentum is being lost by the federal foreclosure prevention program in the meantime. The Mortgage Bankers Association said Wednesday the inventory of homes in foreclosure rose to 4.63 percent from 4.58 percent in the fourth quarter. The combined share of foreclosures and mortgage delinquencies was at 14 percent, or about one in every seven mortgages. The mortgage foreclosure statistics are expected to go up quite a bit this year with more than 2 million borrowers losing their homes.

Article Resource: [Mortgage foreclosures hit record as prevention program falters](#)

anonymity of its users.

The "spamsucks" account was created to preserve this anonymity after we experienced a surge in anonymous spam articles and comments which forced us to temporarily disable the ability of user to post in a truly anonymous fashion. It is used by multiple individuals - both the "spamsucks" username and its password are publicly available at

<http://colorado.indymedia.org/no...>

You can also read our privacy policy in full at

<http://colorado.indymedia.org/no...>

Colorado Indymedia is a collective, and as such decisions about its policies are made by consensus amongst all of its members. However, if you have any future questions about our website, you may contact me directly by emails at nathan@coimc.org or by phone at 303.807.0086.

Yours in solidarity,
Nathan Acks
COIMC Webmaster
On behalf of the Colorado Independent Media Center collective

» [Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments
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And how do we know...

Submitted by Evan Herzoff on June 25, 2010 - 12:11pm.

And how do we know the ICE office and Wells Fargo were even attacked at all? One thing I noticed about those postings, the ones claiming that an ICE office and a Wells Fargo were vandalized, is that there were no pictures and nothing to substantiate the claims being made. Those postings could just as easily have been agents logging in with the "spamsucks" account. Were they just part of a setup or did anything actually happen? I haven't noticed any damaged Wells Fargo buildings, and they're pretty visible downtown. I didn't see any of these attacks, not in Loveland, nor the Springs and Denver, in the news. You'd think vandalism like this would have been seized upon by the corporate press to demonize May Day participants or what have you. But there was nothing that I can remember. Anyone remember seeing any reports of these incidents in the corporate press? Did S.A. Kowalski provide any evidence whatsoever that such incidents even occurred? The posts afforded responsibility for these events to "anarchists" and provided no other information to that effect besides being related to immigration issues, and even with regards to that the posts just muttered typical and predictable cliché slogans that anyone could have thought up, especially

U.S. unemployment rate to blame

One reason for the mortgage foreclosure statistics being so high is the unemployment rate. Homeowners have had a hard time paying monthly bills without online payday loans because of job losses. Jay Brinkmann of the Mortgage Bankers Association told **Bloomberg** that U.S. unemployment in the second half of 2009 -- when people now in foreclosure would have first fallen behind on their payments -- reached the highest level given that 1983, as outlined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The unemployment rate declined to 9.7 percent within the first quarter of this year from 10 percent in the last 3 months of 2009. Brinkmann said the states with the highest unemployment rates -- Ohio, Illinois and Michigan -- have the biggest mortgage foreclosure increases.

Failing is the Foreclosure prevention program

[more](#)

Upcoming events

- [Wild Roots Feral Futures 2010](#) (Event) (Now)



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- [The Numbers Are In, Mayoral Control Is Out:](#)

someone who monitors radical websites or conducts what is known as "data mining," say at the Colorado Information Analysis Center or somewhere like that perhaps?

<http://coloradoindependent.com/4...>

Affording credit for vandalism to an undefined and unspecified group of people identified by vague generalizations like ideological labels is rather suspicious. What would be the point? To cast a dark cloud over everyone who may have expressed their beliefs in those terms. A method of disrupting political movements that explicitly challenge power.

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If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the site administrator at webmaster@coimc.org.