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Today's News

SCAMPERING FROM SOPA: Some cosponsors flee as major Web destinations go dark. (P. 1)

ROSS SLAMS CHINA for Internet censorship, says country hasn't made many technology strides. (P. 4)

GENACHOWSKI WORRIES

COURTS may interpret law too narrowly, hopes net neutrality survives challenge. He's seeing more online video competition. (P. 4)

OPEN INTERNET ENABLES but doesn't generate human rights movements, U.N. human rights official says. ISPs, intermediaries do have role in fostering human rights. (P. 6)

SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS removal of foreign works from public domain under 1994 law. Breyer, Alito warn administrative burdens will encourage piracy. (P. 7)

CAPITOL HILL: Pending online tax collection bills poised to change tax structure, say some e-commerce experts. (P. 9)

INDUSTRY NOTES: EBay urges manufacturers to review distribution channel strategies, key CE executive for site says. (P. 10)

Some SOPA Cosponsors Running for the Hills

Coordinated website blackouts had a resounding impact Wednesday on both public and congressional support for the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA). At our deadline at least five of the bill's original 30 cosponsors said they had either withdrawn or reconsidered their support for the bill. The bipartisan defections came after thousands of websites including Wikipedia, Reddit and Craigslist blacked out their home pages and urged users to contact their representatives in protest of the legislation (WID Jan 18 p1).

Reps. Ben Quayle, R-Ariz., Lee Terry, R-Neb., and Tim Holden, D-Pa., withdrew their sponsorship of the legislation, and on Wednesday Reps. Tim Griffin, R-Ark., and Dennis Ross, R-Fla., separately told us that they were "taking a second look" and "reconsidering" their support. At our deadline the bill still had 25 of its original 30 cosponsors vowing support for the bill. Those members are: Reps. Mark Amodei, R-Nev., Joe Baca, D-Calif., John Barrow, D-Ga., Karen Bass, D-Calif., Howard Berman, D-Calif., John Carter, R-Texas, Steve Chabot, R-Ohio, Jim Cooper, D-Tenn., Ted Deutch, D-Fla., Elton Gallegly, R-Calif., John Larson, D-Conn., Ben Lujan, D-N.M., Alan Nunnelee, R-Miss., Bill Owens, D-N.Y., Steve Scalise, R-La., Adam Schiff, D-Calif., Brad Sherman, D-Calif., Debbie Wasserman Schultz, D-Fla., Mel Watt, D-N.C., Tom Marino, R-Pa., Bob Goodlatte, R-Va., Peter King, R-N.Y., Judy Chu, D-Calif., John Conyers, D-Mich., Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., and Mary Bono Mack, R-Calif.

Assuming that all 39 members of the House Judiciary Committee vote during the final markup of the bill, it will require 20 yes votes for SOPA to pass and move to a full vote in the House. Committee Chairman Lamar Smith, R-Texas, said Tuesday that he plans to resume the markup of the bill in early February, though he declined to specify when. The original markup was postponed in December as lawmakers recessed for the holidays (WID Dec 19 p1).