

Police arrest hundreds over international child sexual abuse website

Called Welcome To Video, the website relied on the bitcoin **cryptocurrency** to sell access to 250,000 videos depicting child sexual abuse, authorities said, including footage of extreme abuse of young children. Its upload page specifically stated, "Do not upload adult porn".

"**Darknet** sites that profit from the sexual exploitation of children are among the most **vile** and **reprehensible** forms of criminal behaviour," US Assistant Attorney General, Brian Benczkowski, said.

cryptocurrency 加密数字货币; 虚拟货币

darknet 暗网

vile 卑鄙的; 邪恶的

reprehensible 应该谴责的

Officials have rescued at least 23 underage victims in the United States, Britain and Spain who were being actively abused by users of the site, the Justice Department said.

The site's vast library is an illustration of what authorities say is an explosion of sexual abuse content online. In a statement, Britain's National Crime Agency said officials were seeing "increases in severity, scale and complexity".

Welcome To Video's operator, a South Korean named Jong Woo Son, 23, and 337 users in 12 different countries, have been charged so far, authorities said.

Welcome To Video is one of the first websites to **monetize** child sexual abuse using bitcoin, which allows users to hide their identities during financial transactions.

monetize 货币化

redeem 兑换; 赎回

Users were able to **redeem** the digital currency in return for "points" that they could spend downloading videos or buying all-you-can-watch "VIP" accounts. Points could also be earned by uploading child sexual abuse images.

"These are the bottom feeders of the criminal world," said Don Fort, Chief of Criminal Investigation at the US **Internal Revenue** Service (IRS), which initiated the investigation.

Internal Revenue 国内税收