[Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates" \o "Template:Use dmy dates) [Template:Infobox website](/wiki/Template:Infobox_website)[Template:File sharing sidebar](/wiki/Template:File_sharing_sidebar) **KickassTorrents** (commonly abbreviated **KAT**) is a website, founded in 2008, that provides a [directory](/wiki/Web_directory) for [torrent files](/wiki/Torrent_file) and [magnet links](/wiki/Magnet_URI_scheme) to facilitate [peer-to-peer file sharing](/wiki/Peer-to-peer_file_sharing) using the [BitTorrent](/wiki/BitTorrent) protocol. As of November 2014, KAT became the most visited BitTorrent directory in the world, overtaking [The Pirate Bay](/wiki/The_Pirate_Bay), according to the site's [Alexa](/wiki/Alexa_Internet) ranking.[[1]](#cite_note-1)

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## Blocking and censorship[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

KickassTorrents says that it complies with the [DMCA](/wiki/DMCA) and it removes infringing torrents reported by content owners.[[2]](#cite_note-2) On 21 April 2011, KickassTorrents moved to the [Philippines](/wiki/Philippines) [domain name](/wiki/Domain_name) kat.ph after a series of domain name seizures by the [United States Department of Justice](/wiki/United_States_Department_of_Justice) against [Demonoid](/wiki/Demonoid) and [Torrentz](/wiki/Torrentz).[[3]](#cite_note-3) The site later moved to several different domains, which the operators plan to do every six months, including ka.tt, kickass.to, kickass.so, kickasstorrents.im and kat.cr.[[4]](#cite_note-4) On 28 February 2013, [Internet service providers](/wiki/Internet_service_provider) (ISPs) in the [United Kingdom](/wiki/United_Kingdom) were ordered by the [High Court](/wiki/High_Court_of_Justice) in London to block access to KickassTorrents, along with two other torrent sites. Judge [Richard Arnold](/wiki/Richard_Arnold_(judge)) ruled that the site's design contributed to [copyright infringement](/wiki/Copyright_infringement).[[5]](#cite_note-5)[[6]](#cite_note-6) On 14 June 2013, the domain name was changed to [Tonga](/wiki/Tonga) domain name kickass.to as a part of the site's regular domain change.[[7]](#cite_note-7) On 23 June 2013, KAT was delisted from [Google](/wiki/Google_Search) at the [request of the MPAA](/wiki/MPAA#Anti-piracy_efforts).[[8]](#cite_note-8) In late August 2013, KAT was blocked by [Belgian](/wiki/Belgium) ISPs.[[9]](#cite_note-9) In January 2014, several [Irish](/wiki/Ireland) ISPs started blocking KAT.[[10]](#cite_note-10) In February 2014, [Twitter](/wiki/Twitter) started blocking links to KAT, however by the end of February 2014, KAT was unblocked on Twitter.[[11]](#cite_note-11) In June 2014, KAT was blocked in [Malaysia](/wiki/Malaysia) by the [Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission](/wiki/Malaysian_Communications_and_Multimedia_Commission) for violating copyright law.[[12]](#cite_note-12) In December 2014, the site moved to the [Somalia](/wiki/Somalia) domain name kickass.so. Reports stated that it was moved as a result of site's regular domain change.[[13]](#cite_note-13)[[14]](#cite_note-14) On 9 February 2015, kickass.so was listed as "banned" on [Whois](/wiki/Whois), causing the site to go offline. Later that day, the site reverted to its former domain name kickass.to.[[15]](#cite_note-15) On 14 February 2015, it was found that messages mentioning "kickass.to" were blocked on [Steam](/wiki/Steam_(software)) chat, but "kickass.so" and other popular torrent websites were not blocked, only flagged as "potentially malicious".[[16]](#cite_note-16) On 23 April 2015, the site moved to the [Isle of Man](/wiki/Isle_of_Man) based domain kickasstorrents.im[[17]](#cite_note-17) but was quickly taken down later that day and on 24 April it was quickly moved to the [Costa Rica](/wiki/Costa_Rica) based domain name kat.cr.[[18]](#cite_note-18) By July 2015, the site's kat.cr address had been removed from [Google Search's](/wiki/Google_Search) results. After the removal, the top Google search result for KAT in many locations pointed to a fake KAT site that prompted visitors to download [malware](/wiki/Malware).[[19]](#cite_note-19) In October 2015, [Portugal](/wiki/Portugal) bypassed its courts by making a voluntary agreement between ISPs, rightsholders and the Ministry of Culture to block access to KAT and most of the other popular BitTorrent websites.[[20]](#cite_note-20) In October 2015, [Google Chrome](/wiki/Google_Chrome) and [Mozilla Firefox](/wiki/Mozilla_Firefox) blocked access to KAT because of security concerns with some of the ads pointing to malware; users can bypass the block by clicking on the 'ignore' link.[[21]](#cite_note-21) In April 2016, Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox blocked KAT due to [phishing](/wiki/Phishing) concerns.[[22]](#cite_note-22) Both blocks were later removed after KAT dealt with the concerns.

In June 2016, KAT added an official [Tor](/wiki/Tor_(anonymity_network)) address.[[23]](#cite_note-23)

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

* [Comparison of BitTorrent sites](/wiki/Comparison_of_BitTorrent_sites)
* [Websites blocked in the United Kingdom](/wiki/Websites_blocked_in_the_United_Kingdom)

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

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## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

* [Template:Official website](/wiki/Template:Official_website)

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