


Scientology and the Internet

There are a number of disputes concerning the Church of Scientology's attempts to suppress material critical of Scientology on the Internet, utilizing various methods – primarily lawsuits and legal threats, as well as front organizations.^{[2][3][4][5]} In late 1994, the Church of Scientology began using various legal tactics to stop distribution of unpublished documents written by L. Ron Hubbard. The Church of Scientology is often accused of barratry^{[6][7][8]} through the filing of SLAPP suits. The official church response is that its litigious nature is solely to protect its copyrighted works and the unpublished status of certain documents.

Various critics of the Church of Scientology have characterized the organization as a confidence scam and claim that these secretive writings are proof, or allege that they contain evidence that the Church of Scientology's medical practices are illegal and fraudulent.^{[9][10]} Scientology has been convicted of fraud in the courts of several nations, although not those of the United States. Others have claimed that the Church of Scientology is abusing copyright law by launching lawsuits against outspoken critics.^[11]

Contents
<u>alt.religion.scientology</u>
<u>The Xenu revelation</u>
<u>Attempt to remove alt.religion.scientology</u>
<u>Raids and lawsuits</u>
<u>Scientology's online campaign</u>
<u>Project Chanology</u>
<u>WikiLeaks</u>
<u>Notable legal actions</u>
<u>See also</u>
<u>Notes</u>
<u>Further reading</u>
<u>External links</u>

alt.religion.scientology

Scientology and the Internet	
Part of <u>Scientology controversies</u>	
	
Counterclockwise from above: Protest by an Internet group calling itself 'Anonymous' against the practices and tax status of the Church of Scientology; Monument-style sign in front of the Founding Church of Scientology in Washington DC; Screenshot of error message when attempting to load www.scientology.org on January 25, 2008.	
Date	July 1994 – present
Location	Internet, courts of law, worldwide protests
Methods	litigation, spam, trolling, astroturfing, street protests, prank calls, black faxes, denial of service attacks
Status	ongoing
Parties to the civil conflict	
alt.religion.scientology Anonymous Operation Clambake WikiLeaks XenuTV	Church of Scientology, Church of Scientology International, Scientology front groups, various other associated entities

Scott Goehring set up the newsgroup [alt.religion.scientology](#) in 1991, partly as a joke, partly for the purpose of informing the public about Scientology.^[12] Debate over the pros and cons of Scientology waxed and waned on the newsgroup through the first three years of its existence, and flame wars flared up commonly, as they did on some other newsgroups.^[13]

The online battle is generally regarded as having begun with the arrival of Dennis Erlich to [alt.religion.scientology](#) in late July 1994. A former high-ranking official in the Scientology organization who had been personally affiliated with L. Ron Hubbard, he caused a number of regular participants in the newsgroup to sit up and take notice.^{[12]:4, 6[13]}

The Xenu revelation

On December 24, 1994, the first of a large number of anonymous messages was posted to [alt.religion.scientology](#), containing the text of the "secret" writings of Scientology known as the [OT Levels](#) (OT stands for "Operating Thetan"). Included among these postings was [OT III](#) (*Operating Thetan Level Three*), which gave L. Ron Hubbard's description of the "Xenu story". The Xenu story had been published in the Robert Kaufman book [Inside Scientology: How I Joined Scientology and Became Superhuman](#) in 1972, the [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) in 1977, and several times in the 1980s in the [Los Angeles Times](#);^[14] nevertheless, this action brought on the actions of lawyers representing Scientology, who contacted various newsgroup participants and posted warnings demanding that the unauthorized distribution of the OT writings cease. The lawyers described the documents as "copyrighted, trademarked, unpublished trade secrets", and the distribution of the materials as a violation of copyright law and trademark law.^[15]

The first postings of the OT documents were done through an anonymous remailer, and the identity of the person who made them available on the newsgroup was never discovered. However, Dennis Erlich posted replies to these messages on the newsgroup, and his replies contained the entire text of the original messages (including the disputed materials). Scientology's lawyers therefore approached him, declaring that Erlich had re-published the copyrighted works in his newsgroup messages. Erlich's reply to this was to deny their requests to remove his postings from the newsgroup.

Attempt to remove [alt.religion.scientology](#)

On January 11, 1995, Scientology lawyer Helena Kobrin attempted to shut down the Usenet discussion group [alt.religion.scientology](#) by sending a control message instructing Usenet servers to delete the group on the grounds that:

- (1) It was started with a forged message;
- (2) not discussed on alt.config;
- (3) it has the name "scientology" in its title which is a trademark and is misleading, as a.r.s. is mainly used for flamers to attack the Scientology religion;
- (4) it has been and continues to be heavily abused with

Lead figures	
<u>Andreas Heldal-Lund</u>	<u>David Miscavige</u>
<u>Mark Bunker</u>	<u>Tom Cruise</u>
<u>Julian Assange</u>	<u>John Travolta</u>
	<u>Tommy Davis</u>
	<u>Moxon & Kobrin</u>
Number	
unknown	~500,000 members ^[1]



A member of the Internet group Anonymous which has held protests in many countries against the CoS every month since January 2008.

copyright and trade secret violations and serves no purpose other than condoning these illegal practices.^{[12][16]}

In practice, this rmgroup message had little effect,^[17] since most Usenet servers are configured to disregard such messages when applied to groups that receive substantial traffic, and newgroup messages were quickly issued for those servers that did not do so. However, the issuance of the message resulted in increased public criticism of Scientology by free-speech advocates.

Raids and lawsuits

Shortly after the initial legal announcements and *rmgroup* attempt, representatives of Scientology followed through with a series of lawsuits against various participants on the newsgroup, including Dennis Erlich, in *Religious Technology Center v. Netcom*. The first raid took place on February 13, 1995.^[18] Accompanied by Scientology lawyers, federal marshals made several raids on the homes of individuals who were accused of posting Scientology's copyrighted materials to the newsgroup. Raids took place against Arnaldo Lerma (Virginia),^[19] Lawrence A. Wollersheim and Robert Penny of FACTNet (Colorado), and Dennis Erlich (California). Internationally, raids took place against Karin Spink (The Netherlands) and Zenon Panoussis (Sweden). In addition to filing lawsuits against individuals, Scientology also sued the *Washington Post* for reprinting one paragraph of the OT writings in a newspaper article, as well as several Internet service providers, including Netcom, Tom Klemesrud, and XS4ALL. It also regularly demanded the deletion of material from the Deja News archive.

Participants in *alt.religion.scientology* began using quotes from OT III in particular to publicize the online battle over the secret documents.^[20] The story of Xenu was subsequently quoted in many publications, including news reports on CNN^[21] and *60 Minutes*.^[22] It became the most famous reference to the OT levels, to the point where many Internet users who were not intimately familiar with Scientology had heard the story of Xenu, and immediately associated the name with Scientology. The initial strikes against Scientology's critics settled down into a series of legal battles that raged through the courts. The Electronic Frontier Foundation provided legal assistance to defendant Tom Klemesrud and his attorney Richard Horning helped find Dennis Erlich *pro bono* defense. Daily reports of the latest happenings were posted to *alt.religion.scientology*.

In the wake of the Scientologist actions, the Penet remailer, which had been the most popular anonymous remailer in the world until the Scientology "war" took place, was shut down. Johan Helsingius, operator of the remailer, stated that the legal protections afforded him in his country (Finland) were too thin to protect the anonymity of his users and he decided to close down the remailer as a result.^{[23][24][25]}

Scientology's online campaign

After failing to remove the newsgroup, Scientologists adopted a strategy of newsgroup spam and intimidation.^[26] Scientologists hired third parties to regularly flood the newsgroup with pro-scientology messages, vague anti-scientology messages, irrelevant comments, and accusations that other posters are secret Scientologists intent on tracking and punishing posters. This makes the newsgroup virtually unreadable via online readers such as Google Groups, although more specialized newsreading software that can filter out all messages by specific "high noise" posters make the newsgroup more usable.

While legal battles were being fought in the courts, an equally intense and aggressive campaign was waged online. The newsgroup *alt.religion.scientology* found itself at the heart of an electronic maelstrom of information and disinformation, as the newsgroup itself was attacked both literally and figuratively. Tens of thousands of junk messages were spammed onto the newsgroup, rendering it nearly unreadable at times when the message "floods" were at their peaks.^[26] Over one million sporgery articles were injected into the

newsgroup by Scientology management and staff; former Scientology staff member Tory Christman has spoken at length about her involvement in these attacks. Lawyers representing the Church of Scientology made public appeals to Internet service providers to remove the newsgroup completely from their news servers.^[27] Furthermore, anonymous participants in the newsgroup kept up a steady stream of flame wars and off-topic arguments. Participants on the newsgroup accused Scientology of organising these electronic attacks, though the organization consistently denied any wrongdoing.

In the early days of the World Wide Web, groups associated with Scientology employed a similar strategy to make finding websites critical of the organization more difficult. Scientology employed Web designers to write thousands of Web pages for their site, thus flooding early search engines.^[28] This problem was solved by the innovation of clustering responses from the same Web server, showing no more than the top two results from any one site.

Since 1995, Scientology has used copyright infringement laws to prosecute critics posting controversial information about the organisation on the Web. The organization has been accused of employing not only legal pressure, but also blackmail and character assassination in an attempt to win many of the court cases in which it involves itself.^[29] On the other side of the battle, many Web-page developers have linked the words "Dianetics" and "Scientology" to Operation Clambake. This resulted in the anti-Scientology site having the highest Google index on the term for a while, which in turn resulted in Scientology persuading Google to remove links to the site^[30] until international outcry led to the links being restored. This might be considered an early example of a Google bomb, and has led to questions about the power and obligations of Internet search providers.

In the 1990s Scientology was distributing a special software package for its members to 'protect' them from "unapproved" material about the church. The software was designed to completely block out the newsgroup *alt.religion.scientology*, various anti-Scientology web sites, and all references to various critics of Scientology. This software package was derided by critics, who accused the organization of censorship and called the program "Scieno Sitter", after the content-control software net-filter program Cyber Sitter. Since no updates have been reported since 1998 (and the original filter program only worked with Windows 95) the package is unlikely to be in use with recent operating systems and browsers due to software rot.^[28]

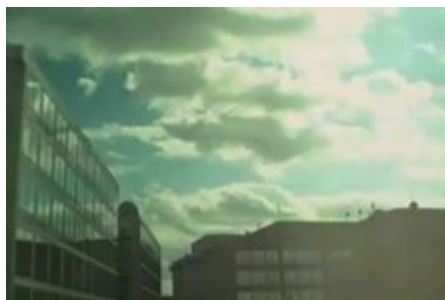
In June 2006, Scientology lawyers sent cease-and-desist letters to Max Goldberg, founder of the website YTMND, asking him to take down all sites that either talked about or mocked Scientology, which had recently become a fad on the site following a popular South Park episode. Goldberg responded by stating that the "claims are completely groundless and I'm not removing anything," adding to the members of the site, "it should only be a matter of time before we're sued out of existence." In response, YTMNDers created yet more sites about Scientology; these were highlighted on the main page. They also campaigned to Google bomb "The Unfunny Truth About Scientology" site. No legal action was taken against YTMND or Goldberg.

In August 2007, MSNBC quoted Associated Press, in an article on the Wikipedia Scanner, that computers owned by the Church of Scientology had been removing criticism in the Scientology entry on Wikipedia.^[31] A Fox News article also reported that Church of Scientology computers had been used to delete references to the relationship between Scientology and the Cult Awareness Network, in the article on the Cult Awareness Network on Wikipedia.^[32] In May 2009, the Wikipedia Arbitration Committee decided to restrict access to its site from Church of Scientology IP addresses, to prevent self-serving edits by Scientologists.^{[33][34]} A "host of anti-Scientologist editors" were topic-banned as well.^{[33][34]} The committee concluded that both sides had "gamed policy" and resorted to "battlefield tactics", with articles on living persons being the "worst casualties".^[33]

Project Chanology

In early 2008, another protest against the Church of Scientology was organized by the Internet-based Anonymous, which originally consisted of users of the English speaking imageboard 4chan and forums such as Somethingawful.com, and several Internet Relay Chat channels, among other Internet-based communities claiming affiliation with Anonymous.

On January 14, 2008, a video produced by the Church of Scientology featuring an interview with Tom Cruise was leaked to the Internet and uploaded to YouTube.^{[35][36][37]} The Church of Scientology issued a copyright violation claim against YouTube requesting the removal of the video.^[38] In response to this, Anonymous formulated Project Chanology.^{[39][40][41][42]} Calling the action by the Church of Scientology a form of Internet censorship, members of Project Chanology organized a series of denial-of-service attacks against Scientology websites, prank calls, and black faxes to Scientology centers.^[43]



Play media

"Message to Scientology", January 21, 2008

On January 21, 2008, Anonymous announced its goals and intentions via a video posted to YouTube titled "Message to Scientology", and a press release declaring a "War on Scientology" against both the Church of Scientology and the Religious Technology Center.^{[42][44][45]} In the press release, the group states that the attacks against the Church of Scientology will continue in order to protect the right to freedom of speech, and end what they believe to be the financial exploitation of church members.^[46] A new video "Call to Action" appeared on YouTube on January 28, 2008, calling for protests outside Church of Scientology centers on February 10, 2008.^{[47][48]}

On February 2, 2008, 150 people gathered outside of a Church of Scientology center in Orlando, Florida to hold a protest against the organization's practices.^{[49][50][51][52]} Small protests were also held in Santa Barbara, California,^[53] and Manchester, England.^{[50][54]} On February 10, 2008, about 7,000 people protested in more than 93 cities worldwide.^{[55][56][57]} Many protesters wore Guy Fawkes masks inspired by the character V from *V for Vendetta*, or otherwise disguised their identities, in part to protect themselves from reprisals from the Church of Scientology.^{[58][59]} Anonymous held a second wave of protests on March 15, 2008 in cities all over the world, including New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, London, Paris, Vancouver, Toronto, Berlin, and Dublin. Anonymous held its third protest against Scientology on April 12, 2008.^{[60][61]} Named "Operation Reconnect", it aimed to increase awareness of the Church of Scientology's disconnection policy.^[35] A fourth protest occurred on May 10, 2008 and a fifth (Operation Sea Arrgh) occurred on June 14, 2008.

WikiLeaks

In March 2008, WikiLeaks published a 612-page Scientology manual on the eight Operating Thetan levels, considered secret by the Church of Scientology.^[62] Three weeks later, Wikileaks received a warning from the Church of Scientology that the manual was copyrighted and that its publication infringed intellectual-property rights.^[62] WikiLeaks refused to remove the material, and its operator released a statement saying that Scientology was a "cult" that "aids and abets a general climate of Western media self-censorship."^[62] A Church of Scientology International spokeswoman, writing to FOXNews.com, said: "I can only assume that religious bigotry and prejudice is driving their activity, as there is no altruistic value in posting our copyrighted scriptures, despite WikiLeaks' statements to the contrary. Posting entire books and hundreds of pages of published works is not 'Sunshine Policy' but wholesale copyright infringement."^[62] Julian Assange replied: "We thought it was a small issue, and our normal fare is government corruption and military secrets, so it seemed that this nutty religious organization was pretty inconsequential in terms of what we normally do. But after receiving these legal threats from them ... it was time for us to make a stand."^[62]

Notable legal actions

A few of the court cases ended with rulings in favor of Scientology, though most of the cases were settled out of court. Many cases have been criticized as examples of malicious litigation and its members and lawyers have been indicted and fined for such actions. Noteworthy incidents in the later years of the online war included:

- Scientology's lawsuit against ex-member Arnaldo Lerma, his provider Digital Gateway, and *The Washington Post*. Lerma posted the Fishman Affidavit that contained 61 pages including the story of Xenu, a story simultaneously denied and claimed as a trade secret by the Church of Scientology.^{[12]:9}
- Zenon Panoussis, a resident of Sweden, was also sued for posting Scientology's copyrighted materials to the Internet. In his defense, he used a provision of the Constitution of Sweden that guarantees access to public documents. Panoussis turned over a copy of the NOTs documents to the office of the Swedish Parliament and, by law, copies of all documents (with few exceptions) received by authorities are available for anyone from the public to see, at any time he or she wishes. This, known as the Principle of Public Access (*Offentlighetsprincipen*), is considered a basic civil right in Sweden. The case, however, was decided against Panoussis. The results of his case sparked a legal firestorm in Sweden that debated the necessity of re-writing part of the Constitution.^{[63][64]}
- In 1995 Scientology caused a raid on the servers of Dutch Internet provider XS4ALL and sued it and Karin Spaink for copyright violations arising from published excerpts from confidential materials. There followed a summary judgment in 1995, full proceedings in 1999, an appeal in 2003^{[65][66]} which has been upheld by the Supreme Court of Netherlands in December 2005, all in favor of the provider and Karin Spaink.^[67]
- Dennis Erlich and Scientology settled their lawsuits. Erlich withdrew from the online battle entirely, and all mention of him was removed from Church of Scientology material.^{[12]:1, 4, 6–9[29]}
- Activist Keith Henson was sued for posting a portion of Scientology's writings to the Internet. Henson defended himself in court without a lawyer, while at the same time he carried out protests and pickets against Scientology. The court found that Henson had committed copyright infringement, and the damage award against Henson was \$75,000, an amount which Scientology said was the largest damages ever awarded against an individual for copyright infringement. Henson's case became increasingly more complex and ongoing, with a misdemeanor conviction of interfering with religion in Riverside County, California. In his Internet writings, Henson said that he was forced to flee the United States and seek asylum in Canada due to ongoing threats against him.^{[12][68]:10}
- Scientology was one of the first organizations to make use of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA). In June 1999, Scientology used the controversial law to force AT&T Worldnet to reveal the identity of a person who had been posting anonymously to *alt.religion.scientology* with the pseudonym of "Safe".^[69]
- In March 2001, legal threats from Scientology lawyers forced Slashdot to remove text from one of its discussion boards, after an excerpt from OT III was posted there. Slashdot noted this as the first time a comment had to be removed from its system due to copyright concerns, and retaliated by posting a list of links to anti-Scientology websites.^[70]
- The organization also used the DMCA to force the Google search engine to erase its entries on the controversial anti-Scientology Web site Operation Clambake in March 2002, though the entry was reinstated after Google received a large number of complaints from Internet users. The publicity stemming from this incident led Google to begin submitting DMCA takedown notices it received to the Chilling Effects archive, which archives legal threats of all sorts made against Internet users and Internet sites.^{[71][72]}

- In September 2002, lawyers for Scientology contacted [Internet Archive](http://archive.org) (archive.org), the administrators of the [Wayback Machine](http://www.archive.org/web/http://www.operationclambake.com) and asserted copyright claims on certain materials archived as historical contents of the [Operation Clambake](http://www.operationclambake.com) site. In response, the Wayback Machine administration removed the archive of the *entire* Clambake site, initially posting a false claim that the site's author had requested its removal. This claim has been removed but (as of February 2017) the site still returns a "Blocked Site Error" from the Wayback archive.^[72]

See also

- [Andreas Heldal-Lund](#)
- [Chilling effect](#)
- [List of trademarks owned by the Church of Scientology and its affiliates](#)
- [Project Chanology](#)
- [Scamizdat](#)
- [Scieno Sitter](#)
- [Scientology and law](#)
- [Scientology controversies](#)
- [Sporgery](#)
- [Streisand effect](#) – a similar situation
- [Church of Scientology editing on Wikipedia](#)

Notes

1. "Major Religions of the World Ranked by Number of Adherents" (https://www.webcitation.org/5mqurhEL9?url=http://www.adherents.com/Religions_By_Adherents.html). Adherents.com. Archived from the original (http://www.adherents.com/Religions_By_Adherents.html) on 2010-01-17. Retrieved 2010-05-10.
2. Critics split over DDoS attacks on Scientology (https://www.theregister.co.uk/2008/01/25/ddos_scientology_controversy/) The Register, 25 January 2008
3. http://ibls.com/cs/blogs/internet_law/archive/2008/01/30/hackers-disable-scientology-website-declare-war.aspx
4. Internet group launches War on Scientology, following YouTube video (http://www.canadiancontent.net/commtr/internet-group-launches-war-scientology-following-youtube-video_874.html) Canadian Content, 23 January 2008
5. Kent, Stephen A.; Krebs, Theresa (1988). "When Scholars Know Sin: Alternative Religions and Their Academic Supporters" (<http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/~skent/Linkedfiles/When%20Scholars%20Know%20Sin%20.htm>). *Skeptic*. 6 (3): 36–44. Retrieved 2006-06-06.
6. Berry, Graham E. "How the Scientology Organization uses and exploits the United States' legal system for its own ends" (https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/How_the_Scientology_Organization_uses_and_exploits_the_United_States%27_legal_system_for_its_own_ends). Retrieved January 7, 2011. "The Pattinson vs. Scientology case had to be dismissed when Scientology engaged in barratry..."
7. Behar, Richard (May 6, 1991). "The Thriving Cult of Greed and Power" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20070225132542/http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,972865-9,00.html>). *Time*. Archived from the original (<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,972865-9,00.html>) on February 25, 2007. Retrieved January 7, 2011. "Hubbard warned his followers in writing to 'beware of attorneys who tell you not to sue... the purpose of the suit is to harass and discourage rather than to win.'"

8. Ortega, Tony (June 24, 2008). "Scientology's Crushing Defeat" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20080709230659/http://www.villagevoice.com/2008-06-24/news/Scientologys-Crushing-Defeat/full>). *The Village Voice*. Archived from the original (<http://www.villagevoice.com/2008-06-24/news/Scientologys-Crushing-Defeat/full>) on July 9, 2008. Retrieved January 7, 2011. "The federal court threw out the lawsuit (dubbed Wollersheim 2), calling it frivolous and 'bordering on malicious.'"
9. See for instance Jacobsen, Jeff. "Medical claims within Scientology's secret teachings" (<https://www.cs.cmu.edu/~dst/NOTs/medical/jacobsen-medical.txt>), 1996
10. O'Connor, Mike. "How Scientology claims to cure physical illness" (<https://groups.google.com/group/alt.religion.scientology/msg/63a67a019d7e0cb4>), 2003
11. For instance, see Hausherr, Tilman. "NOTS34: criminality successfully protected by copyright law" (http://www.xenu.net/archive/events/9805henson-case/notes34_anal.html)
12. Grossman, Wendy (October 1997). "Copyright Terrorists" (http://www.nyupress.org/netwars/textonly/pages/chapter06/ch06_.html). *Net Wars* (<https://archive.org/details/netwars00gros/page/77>). New York: New York University Press. pp. 77–78 (<https://archive.org/details/netwars00gros/page/77>). ISBN 0-8147-3103-1. Retrieved 2006-06-11.
13. Grossman, Wendy M. (December 2005). "alt.scientology.war" (<https://www.wired.com/wired/archive/3.12/alt.scientology.war.html>) (3.12). *Wired magazine*. p. 3. Retrieved 2007-07-19. "His critical posts, with quotations from the church literature, turned alt.religion.scientology from debating club to battlefield."
14. The Un-Funny Truth about ARS (<https://groups.google.com/group/alt.religion.scientology/msg/d24819df480c74bb?hl=en&dmode=source>) alt.religion.scientology, 3 September 2010
15. Prendergast, Alan (1995-10-04). "Hunting rabbits, serving spam: The net under siege" (<http://www.westword.com/1995-10-04/news/hunting-rabbits-serving-spam-the-net-under-siege/full>). *Denver Westword*. Village Voice Media. Retrieved 2008-03-08.
16. "Archived copy" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20050824091341/http://www.xs4all.nl/~kspaink/cos/rnewman/usenet/rmgrou>). Archived from the original (<http://www.xs4all.nl/~kspaink/cos/rnewman/usenet/rmgrou>) on 2005-08-24. Retrieved 2005-09-02.
17. "Archived copy" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20080120172417/http://www.xs4all.nl/~kspaink/cos/rnewman/usenet/rmgrou.html>). Archived from the original (<http://www.xs4all.nl/~kspaink/cos/rnewman/usenet/rmgrou.html>) on 2008-01-20. Retrieved 2016-02-06.
18. "The Church of Scientology vs. Dennis Erlich, Tom Klemesrud & Netcom" (<http://www.spaink.net/cos/rnewman/erlich/home.html>).
19. Ryan, Nick (2000-03-23). "The Gospel of the Web" (<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2000/mar/23/religion.internet>). *The Guardian; Technology*. London. Retrieved 2007-10-12.
20. Roland Rashleigh-Berry. "The XENU Leaflet" (<http://www.xenu.net/archive/leaflet/>) (download in various formats). Operation Clambake.
21. "Church of Scientology protects secrets on the Internet" (<http://www.cnn.com/US/9508/scientology/>). *CNN*. August 26, 1995.
22. Lesley Stahl, *60 Minutes*, (December 28, 1997) "The Cult Awareness Network". *CBS News*.
23. "Archived copy" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20081207122638/http://www.xs4all.nl/~kspaink/cos/rnewman/anon/penet.html>). Archived from the original (<http://www.xs4all.nl/~kspaink/cos/rnewman/anon/penet.html>) on 2008-12-07. Retrieved 2016-02-06.
24. Prendergast, Alan (1995-10-04). "Stalking the Net" (<http://www.westword.com/1995-10-04/news/stalking-the-net/full>). *Denver Westword News*. Village Voice Media. Retrieved 2008-01-30.
25. Helmers, Sabine (1997-09-01). "A Brief History of anon.penet.fi" (<http://www.december.com/cm/mag/1997/sep/helmers.html>). *CMC Magazine*. Retrieved 2008-01-30.
26. Jones, Colman (1996-07-04). "Freedom Flames Out on the 'Net - Who launched the largest-ever sabotage of the Internet?" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20080129101614/http://www.nowtoronto.com/issues/15/44/News/feature.html>). *NOW*. Archived from the original (<http://www.nowtoronto.com/issues/15/44/News/feature.html>) on 2008-01-29. Retrieved 2006-12-03.

27. Lippard, Jim; Jacobsen, Jeff (1995). "Scientology v. the Internet: Free Speech & Copyright Infringement on the Information Super-Highway" (<http://www.discord.org/~lippard/skeptic/03.3.jl-jj-scientology.html>). *Skeptic*. The Skeptics Society. 3 (3): 35–41. Retrieved August 9, 2009.
28. Brown, Janelle (1998-07-15). "A Web of their own" (http://www.salon.com/1998/07/15/feature_299/). *Salon*. Salon.com. Retrieved 2006-06-21.
29. Freedom Magazine, Vol 27, Issue 4: *A Crime By Any Other Name* (<https://web.archive.org/web/19990116234531/http://www.theta.com/goodman/crime.htm>). See "Dennis Erlich: Copyright Terrorist". (Archived January 16th, 1999.)
30. Matt Loney; Evan Hansen (2002-03-21). "Google pulls anti-Scientology links" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20090707014044/http://news.cnet.com/2100-1023-865936.html>). CNet. Archived from the original (<http://news.cnet.com/2100-1023-865936.html>) on 2009-07-07. Retrieved 2006-12-12.
31. New online tool traces Wikipedia edits: PCs in Scientology officialdom removed criticism in church's entry (<http://www.nbcnews.com/id/20284811>), *NBC News*, Associated Press, Brian Bergstein, August 15, 2007
32. Wal-Mart, CIA, ExxonMobil Changed Wikipedia Entries (<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,293389,00.html>), August 16, 2007, Fox News, Rhys Blakely, Fox News Network, LLC.
33. Shea, Danny (2009-05-29). "Wikipedia Bans Scientology From Site" (https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2009/05/29/wikipedia-bans-scientolog_n_208967.html). *The Huffington Post*. Retrieved 2009-05-29.
34. Metz, Cade (2009-05-29). "Wikipedia bans Church of Scientology" (https://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/05/29/wikipedia_bans_scientology/). *The Register*. Retrieved 2009-05-29.
35. John Cook (March 17, 2008). "Scientology - Cult Friction" (https://web.archive.org/web/20080323063402/http://www.radaronline.com/from-the-magazine/2008/03/scientology_anonymous_protests_tom_cruise_01.php). *radaronline.com*. Radar Magazine. Archived from the original (http://radaronline.com/from-the-magazine/2008/03/scientology_anonymous_protests_tom_cruise_01.php) on March 23, 2008. Retrieved 2008-03-18.
36. Warne, Dan (January 24, 2008). "Anonymous threatens to "dismantle" Church of Scientology via internet" (https://archive.today/20120921005702/http://www.apcmag.com/7905/anonymous_threatens_to_dismantle_church_of_scientology_via_internet). *APC Magazine*. National Nine News. Archived from the original (http://www.apcmag.com/7905/anonymous_threatens_to_dismantle_church_of_scientology_via_internet) on September 21, 2012. Retrieved 2008-01-25.
37. KNBC Staff (January 24, 2008). "Hacker Group Declares War On Scientology: Group Upset Over Church's Handling Of Tom Cruise Video" (<http://www.knbc.com/news/15132759/detail.html>). *KNBC*. Retrieved 2008-01-25.
38. Vamosi, Robert (January 24, 2008). "Anonymous hackers take on the Church of Scientology" (http://www.news.com/8301-10789_3-9857666-57.html). *CNET News*. CNET Networks, Inc. Retrieved 2008-01-25.
39. George-Cosh, David (January 25, 2008). "Online group declares war on Scientology" (<https://archive.today/20080128145858/http://www.nationalpost.com/news/canada/story.html?id=261308>). *National Post*. Canwest Publishing Inc. Archived from the original (<https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/story.html?id=261308>) on January 28, 2008. Retrieved 2008-01-25.
40. Singel, Ryan (January 23, 2008). "War Breaks Out Between Hackers and Scientology – There Can Be Only One" (<http://blog.wired.com/27bstroke6/2008/01/anonymous-attac.html>). *Wired*. CondéNet, Inc. Retrieved 2008-01-25.
41. Feran, Tom (January 24, 2008). "Where to find the Tom Cruise Scientology videos online, if they're still posted" (<http://www.cleveland.com/entertainment/plaindealer/index.ssf?/base/entertainment-0/120116724530070.xml&coll=2>). *The Plain Dealer*. Newhouse Newspapers. Retrieved 2008-01-25.

42. Chan Enterprises (January 21, 2008). "Internet Group Declares "War on Scientology": Anonymous are fighting the Church of Scientology and the Religious Technology Center" (<http://www.prlog.org/10046797-internet-group-anonymous-declares-war-on-scientology.pdf>) (PDF). *Press Release*. PRLog.Org. Retrieved 2008-01-25.
43. Matthew A. Schroettnig; Stefanie Herrington; Lauren E. Trent (2008-02-06). "Anonymous Versus Scientology: Cyber Criminals or Vigilante Justice?" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20080705202321/http://www.thelegality.com/archives/22>). *The Legality*. Archived from the original (<http://www.thelegality.com/archives/22>) on 2008-07-05. Retrieved 2008-01-25.
44. Thomas, Nicki (January 25, 2008). "Scientology and the internet: Internet hackers attack the church" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20080129090731/http://www.edmontonsun.com/News/Edmonton/2008/01/25/4794425.html>). *Edmonton Sun*. Sun Media. Archived from the original (<http://www.edmontonsun.com/News/Edmonton/2008/01/25/4794425.html>) on January 29, 2008. Retrieved 2008-01-25.
45. Dodd, Gareth (Editor); Agencies (January 25, 2008). "Anonymous hackers vow to "dismantle" Scientology" (http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-01/25/content_7495986.htm). *Xinhua News Agency*. Retrieved 2008-01-25.
46. Brandon, Mikhail (January 28, 2008). "Scientology in the Crosshairs" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20120515005226/http://www.emorywheel.com/detail.php?n=24945>). *The Emory Wheel*. Emory University. Archived from the original (<http://www.emorywheel.com/detail.php?n=24945>) on May 15, 2012. Retrieved 2008-01-31.
47. Feran, Tom (January 31, 2008). "The group Anonymous calls for protests outside Scientology centers - New on the Net" (<http://www.cleveland.com/entertainment/plaindealer/index.ssf?base/entertainment-0/1201771820310820.xml&coll=2>). *The Plain Dealer*. Newhouse Newspapers. Retrieved 2008-02-04.
48. Vamosi, Robert (January 28, 2008). "Anonymous names February 10 as its day of action against Scientology" (http://www.news.com/8301-10789_3-9859513-57.html). *CNET News*. CNET Networks, Inc. Retrieved 2008-01-28.
49. Braiker, Brian (February 8, 2008). "The Passion of 'Anonymous': A shadowy, loose-knit consortium of activists and hackers called 'Anonymous' is just the latest thorn in Scientology's side" (<http://www.newsweek.com/id/109410>). *Newsweek*. Newsweek, Inc. pp. Technology: Newsweek Web Exclusive. Retrieved 2008-02-09.
50. Barkham, Patrick (February 4, 2008). "Hackers declare war on Scientologists amid claims of heavy-handed Cruise control" (<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2008/feb/04/news>). *The Guardian*. London: Guardian News and Media Limited. Retrieved 2008-02-03.
51. Staff (February 3, 2008). "Group Lines Road To Protest Church Of Scientology" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20080328184704/http://www.local6.com/news/15205679/detail.html>). *WKMG-TV*. Internet Broadcasting Systems and Local6.com. Archived from the original (<http://www.local6.com/news/15205679/detail.html>) on March 28, 2008. Retrieved 2008-02-03.
52. Eckinger, Helen; Gabrielle Finley, Katherine Norris (February 3, 2008). "Anti-Scientology group has protest rally" (http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/orange/orl-cfbriefs03_508feb03,0,1439702.story). *Orlando Sentinel*. Retrieved 2008-02-03.
53. Standifer, Tom (February 4, 2008). "Masked Demonstrators Protest Against Church of Scientology" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20080420142238/http://www.dailynexus.com/article.php?a=15686>). *Daily Nexus*. University of California, Santa Barbara. pp. Issue 69, Volume 88. Archived from the original (<http://www.dailynexus.com/article.php?a=15686>) on 2008-04-20. Retrieved 2008-02-04.
54. Eber, Hailey (February 4, 2008). "Anti-Scientologists Warm Up for February 10" (<http://www.radaronline.com/exclusives/2008/02/antiscientologists-warming-up-for-february-10.php>). *Radar Online*. Radar Magazine. Retrieved 2008-02-04.
55. Carlos Moncada (2008-02-12). "Organizers Tout Scientology Protest, Plan Another" (<http://sunc.oastpinellas.tbo.com/content/2008/feb/12/organizers-tout-scientology-protest-plan-another/>). *TBO.com*. Retrieved 2008-02-13.

56. Andrew Ramadge (2008-02-14). "Scientology protest surge crashes websites" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20080215034151/http://www.news.com.au/technology/story/0%2C25642%2C23212002-5014239%2C00.html>). *News.com.au*. News Limited. Archived from the original (<http://www.news.com.au/technology/story/0,25642,23212002-5014239,00.html>) on February 15, 2008. Retrieved 2008-02-14.
57. Andrew Ramadge (2008-03-17). "Second round of Anonymous v Scientology" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20091006062843/http://www.news.com.au/technology/story/0%2C25642%2C23389091-5014239%2C00.html>). *News.com.au*. News Limited. Archived from the original (<http://www.news.com.au/technology/story/0,25642,23389091-5014239,00.html>) on 2009-10-06. Retrieved 2008-03-17.
58. Harrison, James (*The State News*) (February 12, 2008). "Scientology protestors take action around world" (http://www.statenews.com/index.php/blog/entertainment/2008/02/internet_group_). Retrieved 2008-02-14.
59. Forrester, John (2008-02-11). "Dozens of masked protesters blast Scientology church" (https://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2008/02/11/dozens_of_masked_protesters_blast_scientology_church/). *The Boston Globe*. Retrieved 2008-02-15.
60. Davies, Shaun (March 20, 2008). "Scientology strikes back in information war" (<http://news.ninemsn.com.au/article.aspx?id=409940>). *National Nine News*. ninemsn. Retrieved 2008-03-20.
61. Andrew Ramadge (2008-03-20). "Scientology site gets a facelift after protests" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20080320233601/http://www.news.com.au/technology/story/0%2C25642%2C23407107-5014239%2C00.html>). *News.com.au*. News Limited. Archived from the original (<http://www.news.com.au/technology/story/0,25642,23407107-5014239,00.html>) on 2008-03-20. Retrieved 2008-03-20.
62. "Watchdog Web Site Draws Legal Threats from Scientologists, Mormons" (<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,368315,00.html>). Fox News. 2008-06-19.
63. Macavinta, Courtney (1998-09-15). "Short Take: Scientologists win Net court case" (https://web.archive.org/web/20121104092708/http://news.cnet.com/Short-Take-Scientologists-win-Net-court-case/2110-1023_3-215586.html). *CNET*. Archived from the original (http://news.cnet.com/Short+Take+Scientologists+win+Net+court+case/2110-1023_3-215586.html) on 2012-11-04. Retrieved 2007-08-10.
64. Macavinta, Courtney (1999-03-30). "Scientologists settle legal battle" (https://web.archive.org/web/20121103052054/http://news.cnet.com/Scientologists-settle-legal-battle/2100-1023_3-223683.html). *CNET*. Archived from the original (http://news.cnet.com/Scientologists+settle+legal+battle/2100-1023_3-223683.html?tag=item) on 2012-11-03. Retrieved 2007-08-10.
65. Hines, Matt (2003-09-08). "Scientology loss keeps hyperlinks legal" (https://web.archive.org/web/20110616205912/http://news.cnet.com/2100-1028_3-5072581.html). *CNET*. Archived from the original (http://news.cnet.com/2100-1028_3-5072581.html) on 2011-06-16. Retrieved 2007-08-10.
66. Libbenga, Jan (2003-09-08). "Scientologists loses copyright case" (https://www.theregister.co.uk/2003/09/08/scientologists_loses_copyright_case/). *The Register*. Retrieved 2007-08-10.
67. Final Victory! XS4ALL and Karin Spaink Win Scientology Battle (<http://www.religionnewsblog.com/13054/final-victory-xs4all-and-karin-spaink-win-scientology-battle>), Press Release, December 16, 2005
68. Zapler, Mike (2007-07-07). "Scientology critic seeks pardon" (http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_6320693). *San Jose Mercury News*. Retrieved 2007-08-11.
69. Goodin, Dan (1999-06-03). "Scientology subpoenas Worldnet" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20110616205921/http://news.cnet.com/2100-1023-226676.html>). *CNET*. Archived from the original (<http://news.cnet.com/2100-1023-226676.html>) on 2011-06-16. Retrieved 2007-08-10.
70. "Scientologists Force Comment Off Slashdot" (<http://slashdot.org/yro/01/03/16/1256226.shtml>). *Slashdot*. 2001-03-16. Retrieved 2007-09-05.
71. "Google Begins Making DMCA Takedowns Public" (<http://www.linuxjournal.com/article/5997>).

72. Bowman, Lisa M. (2002-09-24). "Net archive silences Scientology critic" (<http://www.news.com/2100-1023-959236.html>). *CNET*. Retrieved 2007-09-17.

Further reading

- Scientology v. the Internet: Free Speech & Copyright Infringement on the Information Super-Highway (<http://www.discord.org/~lippard/skeptic/03.3.jl-jj-scientology.html>), *Skeptic* vol. 3, no. 3, 1995, pp. 35–41, Jim Lippard and Jeff Jacobsen.
- Grossman, Wendy M. (1995-12-01). "alt.scientology.war" (<https://www.wired.com/wired/archive/3.12/alt.scientology.war.html>). *Wired* 3.12. Wired. Retrieved 2008-10-14.
- Bjorhus, Jennifer (1995-08-26). "Scientology Critics Claim Harassment For Using Internet" (<http://archives.seattletimes.nwsource.com/cgi-bin/texis.cgi/web/vortex/display?slug=2138183&date=19950826>). *Seattle Times*. Retrieved 2008-10-14.

External links

- BBC video: *Scientology v The Internet* May 15, 1995 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b6KM27TUsvM>)
- EFF Electronic Frontier Foundation "Legal Cases - Church of Scientology" Archive (https://w2.eff.org/legal/cases/Scientology_cases/)
- Scientology Video (<http://machinist.salon.com/blog/2008/01/16/scientology/index.html>)
- Anonymous site stating why they protest (<http://www.whyweprotest.net/>)
- Briefing prepared by the Church about the Church of Scientology and the internet (https://web.archive.org/web/20060829155933/http://religiousmovements.lib.virginia.edu/nrms/scientology_briefing.html)
- '*RTC v. Dennis Erlich* Stipulated Final Judgement and Permanent Injunction' (http://home.snafu.de/tilman/mystory/dennis_final_judgement.txt)
- "How Scientology changed the internet" (<https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-23273109>) – 2013 article from *BBC News*

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Scientology_and_the_Internet&oldid=1035143544"

This page was last edited on 23 July 2021, at 23:09 (UTC).

Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.