

TECHNOLOGY

IP help sought from four giants

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The telecom regulator hopes it can efficiently block intellectual property violations and crimes on internet platforms (that are encrypted abroad) through cooperation with the four big platform providers early next year.

The four global platform providers are Google, YouTube, Facebook and Line.

The National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) informed US embassy representatives last Tuesday about Thailand's new IP centre, asking the embassy to persuade the management of YouTube, Facebook, and Google in the US to discuss cooperation in Bangkok.

The NBTC also talked with representatives of the Japanese embassy about cooperation.

The moves came after the official opening ceremony of the Center of Operational Policing for Thailand against Intellectual Property Violations and Crimes on the Internet Suppression (Coptics) on Dec 18.

NBTC secretary-general Takorn Tantasith said the establishment of Coptics aims to block illegal content, especially involving IP infringement and internet crimes, within three days.

Previously, the process in some cases could take six months.

Some 403 websites or URLs have been listed in complaints at Coptics since the centre opened Dec 18, with 81 blocked by internet service providers (ISPs) under the operational procedure of Coptics and four URLs pending an official order approved by police.

Some 228 URLs have not been blocked by ISPs because they are encrypted

(https://) from abroad and local ISPs cannot block them.

Most of the encrypted webpages are run through the platforms of the big four.

The NBTC will cooperate with the police to ensure convenience for victims of IP violations. There will be police officers with expertise on the matter stationed at Coptics on a daily basis.

Under previous procedures, a company whose IP was violated had to file a complaint with police before going to the Digital Economy and Society Ministry, then the ministry would send the verified evidence to the court in order to block the illegal content.

To obtain a court order sometimes took 7-8 months.

Mr Takorn said any person or company whose IP is violated can phone the NBTC on 1200.