



October 5th, 2024

Mr. Daniel Lee  
Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Innovation and Intellectual Property  
Office of the United States Trade Representative  
600 17th St., NW  
Washington, DC 20508

**Submission by beIN Media Group LLC and Miramax, LLC  
2024 Out-of-Cycle Review of Notorious Markets  
(Docket Number USTR-2024-0013)**

Dear Mr. Lee,

beIN Media Group LLC (“beIN”) and Miramax, LLC (“Miramax”) appreciate the opportunity to provide comments in response to the request by the Office of the United States Trade Representative (“USTR”) to identify examples of online and physical notorious markets that engage in and facilitate substantial copyright piracy and trademark counterfeiting, for the purposes of USTR’s 2024 Out-of-Cycle Review of Notorious Markets.

beIN is a global sports and entertainment media company incorporated under the laws of the State of Qatar. beIN engages in television production, distribution and media rights acquisition, and broadcasts in 43 countries across North America, France, Turkey, the Middle East and North Africa (“MENA”), and Asia. beIN has also expanded significantly into entertainment through television production and distribution, and currently owns a majority share of Miramax Films to grow its movie production capabilities. Since 2022, beIN has also been operating a OTT service in MENA and Turkey known as “TOD”, which includes Arabic and Turkish language original entertainment productions, as well as exclusively-licensed content.

During the past year, beIN has held exclusive rights to broadcast, and to authorize others to broadcast, premium US sporting competitions in the MENA region, including but not limited to the National Basketball Association (“NBA”), Major League Baseball (“MLB”), the US Open Tennis Championships, as well as major international sporting competitions such as the Champions League by the Union of European Football Associations (“UEFA”), and national soccer leagues.

The core of beIN’s business is dependent on intellectual property (“IP”) rights that result both from having acquired exclusive media rights from third parties, such as major sporting leagues (including many based in the US), and from beIN’s own efforts as the creator of media content.

beIN's negotiations to acquire broadcast rights from major US and international sporting leagues have been underpinned by a necessary confidence in international IP protection. Accordingly, the protection and enforcement of those IP rights is fundamental to the health and success not only of beIN and the rights holder sporting leagues themselves, but also of the many people in the United States, and around the world, whose livelihoods are dependent on the revenue that this industry generates.

Miramax is a global film and television studio headquartered in Los Angeles, CA. Miramax is known for films such as Good Will Hunting, 13 Going on 30, Kill Bill, Halloween (and its sequels), The Gentlemen, Uncle Frank, City of Lies, Wrath of Man, Operation Fortune, and many others. Miramax is also the sales agent for the production company Revolution Films ("Revolution") and has worldwide television and digital distribution rights for Revolution's films. Revolution acquired some of its titles from the library of the Morgan Creek Entertainment Group ("Morgan Creek") several years ago and Miramax now represents these titles, having television and digital distribution rights worldwide, excluding North America. Miramax was acquired by beIN in March 2016, and, since December 2019, has been 49 percent owned by ViacomCBS.

Piracy presents a serious threat to the broadcasting, film, and television industry. In the MENA region in particular, where beIN broadcasts directly to customers via its own encrypted satellite channels (in Arabic, English, and French) and an OTT (over-the top) service directly via the Internet (beIN Connect, and since 2022, an OTT service known as "TOD"), piracy is likely the principal means in many countries by which consumers access premium television content, including live sports broadcasts. Piracy is also likely the primary means in many countries in the MENA region by which consumers access premium movie and television content on demand, including content owned by Miramax. Indeed, there are many well-established pirate operators, and well-known piracy "brands," that are openly sold in physical and online markets in countries across the MENA region.

In many respects the piracy in MENA is occurring in a far more widespread, and open way, than is seen in most other parts of the world, and so represents a particularly acute threat to the sustainability and growth potential for the audio-visual sector in the region.

beIN and Miramax are fully committed to the fight against piracy through all available technological and legal means. We are pleased to say that some of the services referred to in our previous USTR submissions have now ceased operating.

We therefore welcome USTR's publication of key online and physical marketplaces that are involved in infringements of IP rights, and commend its aim to encourage the licensed distribution of legitimate content.

In this year's submission, beIN and Miramax respectfully submit that the following should be considered for inclusion in the Notorious Markets report.

### **Physical TV Piracy Marketplaces**

While in many markets, the distribution of pirate IPTV services occurs online and/or "underground" (with apps being made available from "unofficial" app stores, websites, or otherwise distributed through less formal means (such as through messaging groups and local networks), in many countries across MENA the piracy is far more in the open and conducted

in a manner that appears “legitimate”. For instance, it is common in many MENA countries for set top boxes and other media receivers preloaded with pirate IPTV apps to be openly sold from local electronics and satellite shops.

Within the MENA region, two of the most notorious physical marketplaces where pirate IPTV services are openly sold from shops are located in the United Arab Emirates. These are:

- **Dragon Mart** - This is the largest Chinese wholesale market in the world outside China. It is located in the international city district of Dubai, and is home to over 6,000 stores selling a wide variety of products, including furniture, home appliances, electronics, clothing and souvenirs. It is popular with locals and tourists alike. It attracts an average of 100,000 visitors per day, with an annual turnover said to be over US\$50 billion.

The electronics section of the market contains *dozens* of shops which sell receivers and IPTV apps enabled for TV piracy. The sellers do not make any efforts to conceal the piracy products on offer, and they are openly sold to customers. The market is a well-known place to buy such products. beIN is aware that some action was taken by local law enforcement against illegal sellers in the Dragon Mart in May 2024. However, subsequent visits to the Dragon Mart have unfortunately indicated that there has been no appreciable reduction in the availability of TV piracy.



*Pictures showing TV piracy products on sale in the Dragon market, Dubai.*

- **Deira Satellite Market** – The satellite market in Deira City in Dubai is a major hub for the sale and repair of satellite dishes, receivers and other satellite equipment. It is said to generate over US \$100 million in annual revenue and to employ over 5,000 people directly and indirectly. The market is home to hundreds of shops selling a wide variety of satellite equipment, from basic receivers to high end systems. It is said to attract over 1 million visitors annually. Similar to the Dragon Market, there are many sellers that openly offer receivers and IPTV apps enabled for TV piracy. This market is also well-known for such products.



*Pictures showing TV piracy products on sale in the Deira Satellite Market, Dubai.*

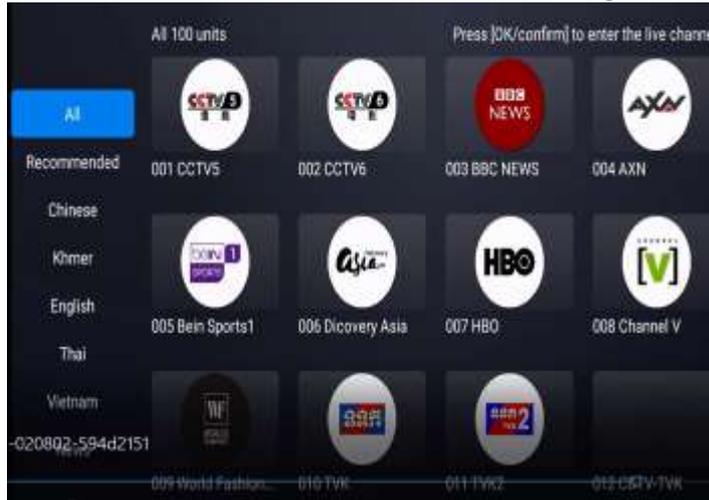
In both markets, Pirate IPTV services are sold pre-loaded on generic android devices, or as a standalone product. The price for a one-year subscription to a pirate IPTV service is typically between AED 130 to 450 AED (approx. US\$35 to US\$120). These services all typically provide access to 1000s of pirate live TV channels and on demand content (including beIN, Miramax, and US rights owners' content). The products on offer include many of the brands of receivers associated with piracy, and pirate IPTV services detailed further below in this submission.

beIN and Miramax propose that both of these markets be considered for inclusion in the Notorious Markets Report.

### **B2B Markets**

In addition to the sale of piracy devices to end consumers, a lax approach to enforcement can also be manifested through the proliferation of piracy services in the business to business market for audio-visual services. For example, in **Cambodia**, beIN is aware of a number of operators that supply pirated television channels, including beIN, US and other local and international content to the hotel market and serviced apartments. These operators, including **Cambodia Digital TV Co Ltd** (a joint venture between Yunnan Media Group and National Television of Cambodia), and **Phnom Penh Cable Television** (one of the major cable TV services in Cambodia), supply channels to both serviced apartments and international hotel chains for guests to watch channels within the rooms and other public areas. Weak enforcement laws in the country make it very difficult for rights owners to prevent this, and means legitimate licensed B2B operators cannot viably enter market.

Channels offered in the EPG for Cambodia Digital TV.



### **Piracy Receiver Brands / Related IPTV services**

In this section of the submission, beIN and Miramax outline a number of well-known and significant brands of receivers which are distributed across the MENA region, which are typically pre-enabled for TV piracy with pirate IPTV apps, along with some of the well-known piracy apps that typically pre-loaded on those devices, or otherwise believed to be popular in the region.

While this list is by no means exhaustive, beIN and Miramax propose that each of the below services warrant being included in the Notorious Markets Report.

#### ***Chaloos / Mediastar / Forever TV***

The Chaloos company, which is based in Erbil, Iraq, is a major source of piracy, including, of beIN and Miramax content. The Chaloos company owns and distributes Mediastar branded receivers which enable IPTV and control word sharing piracy. Among many other channels, they provide access to pirated beIN content.

Mediastar (*mediastar.co*), which is owned by Chaloos operates shops that sell household appliances and “Mediastar” branded receivers across Iraq. Mediastar receivers are also sold in Iraq from Chaloos electronics goods store.

More generally, Mediastar receivers are distributed and sold all across the MENA region, and are one of the major well known piracy receiver “brands”. Mediastar receivers are one of the brands of receivers which are commonly sold through physical outlets in MENA (including at the physical markets places referred to above).

Mediastar shop in As Sulaymaniyah, Iraq

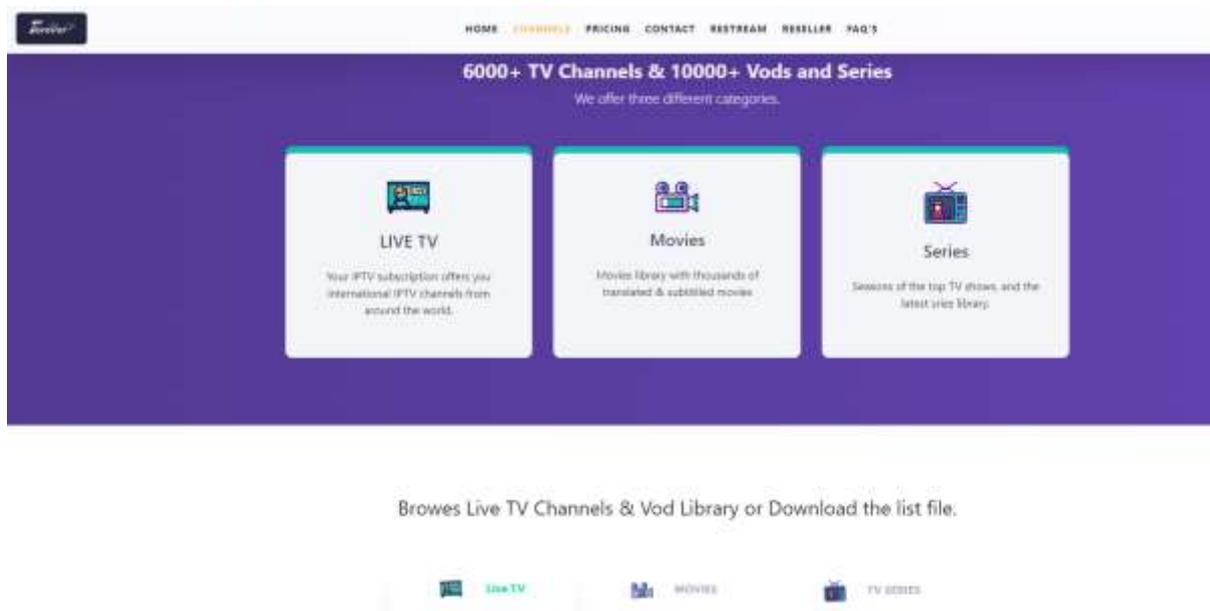


Mediastar receivers are commonly pre-loaded with an IPTV app formerly known as Forever IPTV, which in 2022 was renamed “Forever TV”.

Forever TV provides access to thousands of on-demand movies and television shows, including content owned by Miramax. For example, the following US channels are available on Forever TV: ABC News, CBS, CNN, Discovery, Disney, ESPN, FOX, HBO, and MTV. Screenshots of ABC News and ESPN being made available on Forever IPTV are provided below:



In addition to being made available on Mediastar devices, Forever TV also operates from a website at <https://foreveriptv.net/>. The website offers plans for direct customers, as well as options to operate as re-streamer and re-seller of the Forever TV service.



Investigations have shown that the operations of Forever TV is closely linked to Mediastar and the Chaloo company.

In 2020, 2021 and 2022 USTR added Chaloo to its Notorious Markets List, and recognized that Chaloo reportedly owns and operates Mediastar and Forever IPTV. Since then, there have been no improvements, and Chaloo continues to pirate beIN and Miramax channels and distribute them via its IPTV services. beIN and Miramax therefore request that Chaloo, is included on the Notorious Markets List for 2024, along with the Mediastar brand of receiver, and the Forever TV service.

### ***Spider***

The Spider company, based in Amman, Jordan, distributes Spider-branded devices across the MENA region and Europe, either via online sales (including at <https://spiderreceiver.com>,

<https://spider-receiver.com/>) or from physical shops. The Spider brand is very well known in Jordan, and further across MENA.

The company has advertised online, in social media, and with outdoor advertising in Jordan, such as the below example from 2022.



Spider also operates its own stores, which distribute Spider receivers. See the below picture of Spider receivers stocked on the shelves inside a Spider store in Amman, Jordan.



Spider receivers are typically supplied so as to enable easy access to the following pirate IPTV apps:

- IPFOX
- SPEED TV
- Golden IPTV
- MYHD IPTV
- Echoo IPTV
- Bravo IPTV
- Aroma TV
- Forever TV
- Turbo TV
- LionZ TV



All of these apps offer access to pirated beIN channels, as well as content from Miramax, and many other US and international content owners. For example, Golden IPTV provides access to, amongst others, the following US channels: Cartoon Network, CBS, Discovery, Disney, ESPN, FOX, HBO, MTV, National Geographic, NBA HD and NBC. Screenshots of US ESPN Sports channels showing content from the 2024 MLB available on a Spider device are included below:



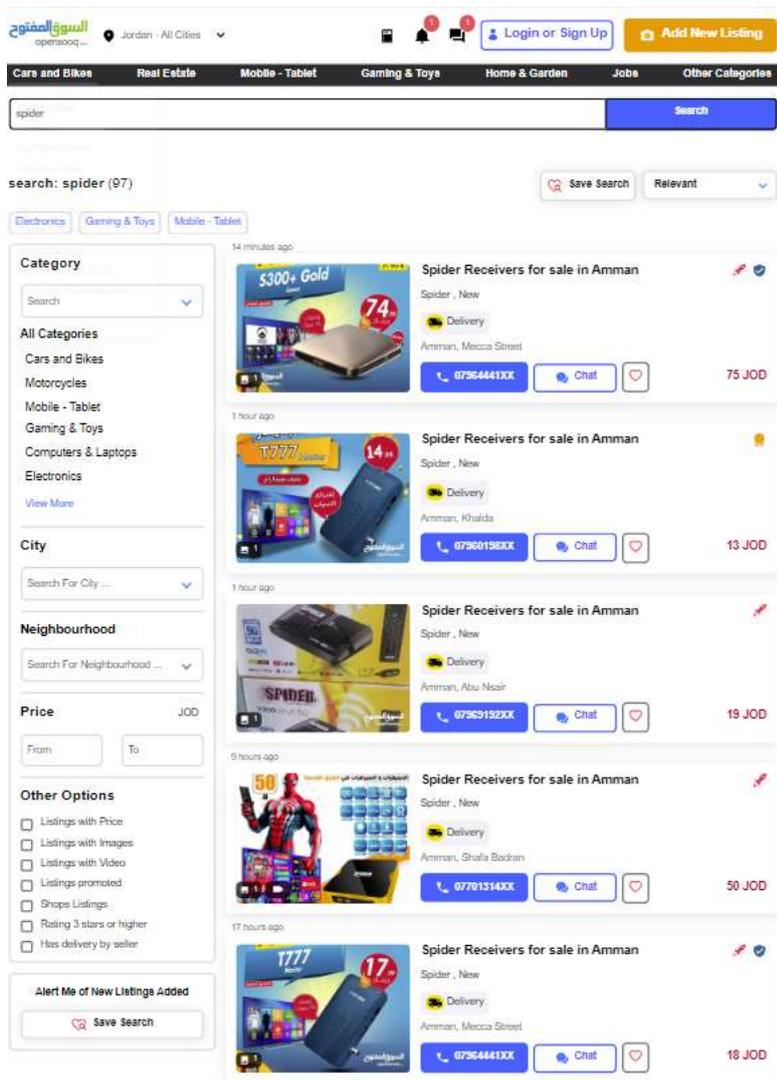


Subscriptions to well-known pirate IPTV services Haha IPTV, Brave, and MYHD IPTV, are also openly sold from the Spider company's website at <http://spiderreceiver.com>, as can be seen below:



In addition to sales from physical outlets in Jordan and other MENA countries, Spider is also extensively marketed and sold online.

The following shows an example of adverts for Spider receivers on the popular online trading platform, souq.com



In 2018, Colorado-based DISH Network LLC, filed a copyright infringement action in a US federal district court against the US distributors of Spider IPTV devices.<sup>1</sup> DISH Network was successful in obtaining damages from Spider’s US distributors, as well as a permanent injunction prohibiting the US distributors from distributing or otherwise infringing DISH Network’s exclusive rights in the United States.

In 2022 and 2023, the USTR added Spider to the Notorious Markets List. beIN and Miramax propose that it remain on the Notorious Markets List for 2024.

### ***Family Box***

Family Box is both a terrestrial pirate organization covering Kurdistan, and an IPTV pirate organization with global coverage. Its offices are in Erbil, Iraq.

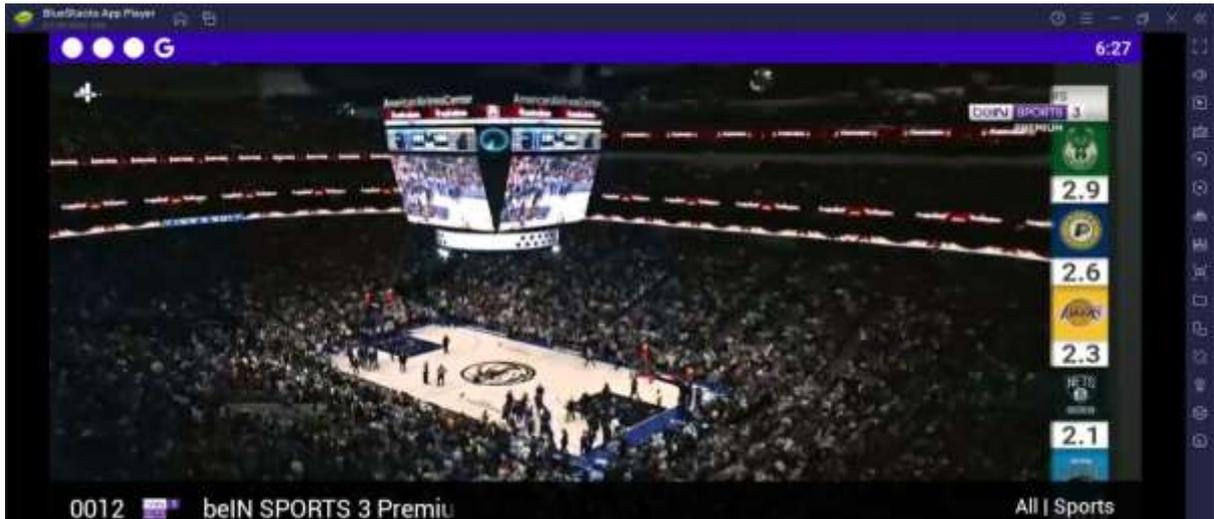
<sup>1</sup> <https://about.dish.com/news-releases?item=123321>

While the terrestrial network, which broadcasts 270 channels locally, including beIN channels, (which it broadcasts without authorization is of great concern to beIN), it is the Pirate IPTV operation which is causing huge damage to beIN across MENA.

In fact, beIN estimates that around 1/3 of all pirated beIN channels seen on pirate IPTV services have originated with the Family Box's operations.

beIN is able to draw this conclusion from the fact that Family Box uses a "Family" logo, which it applies to streams that originate from the operations. These have been seen on a very high proportion of pirated beIN channels on pirate IPTV services monitored by beIN throughout the region and internationally, and indicates that Family Box is likely the source of these pirated streams, which are either directly supplied to other pirate IPTV services, or subsequently re-streamed across the internet. The high quality and reliability of these streams, aided by the sophisticated nature of the Family's Box's operations (in circumventing antipiracy measures and distribution) is likely a contributing factor to the preponderance of the Family Box as a source.





Video-on-demand content on the Family Box’s IPTV network includes approximately 20,000 movies. Family Box makes available beIN channels, as well as other international and US rights holders’ content. A screenshot showing the promotion of FOX as being available on Family Box is provided below:



Family Box has promoted its services via a Telegram channel, in which it advertises the availability of several US and international channels, including National Geographic, Discovery, FOX, and BBC Earth, as well as content from Netflix.





beIN and Miramax propose that Family Box be added to the Notorious Markets List.

### ***Redline / Red IPTV***

Redline is a Turkish company (DTS Elektronik Sanayi Ticaret Limited), with offices in Istanbul, Turkey, and Shenzhen, China (see: <https://redline.com.tr/en/about-us>).

Redline manufactures and distributes various “Red” brands of receivers into markets across Turkey, MENA, and Europe.



beIN's investigations indicate that Redline is also likely to be involved in the manufacture, distribution and/or support of as many as 60 other well-known brands of receiver typically sold pre-loaded with pirate IPTV apps across MENA.

As such, beIN regards Redline as a very significant player in the markets for pirated beIN content across MENA.

Redline is linked to the operation of an IPTV service known as "Red IPTV", which makes available pirated content, including beIN and Miramax content, as well as huge libraries and number of channels from other US and international content owners.

Investigations show that the below website <https://iptvuser.com> is operated by Redline:



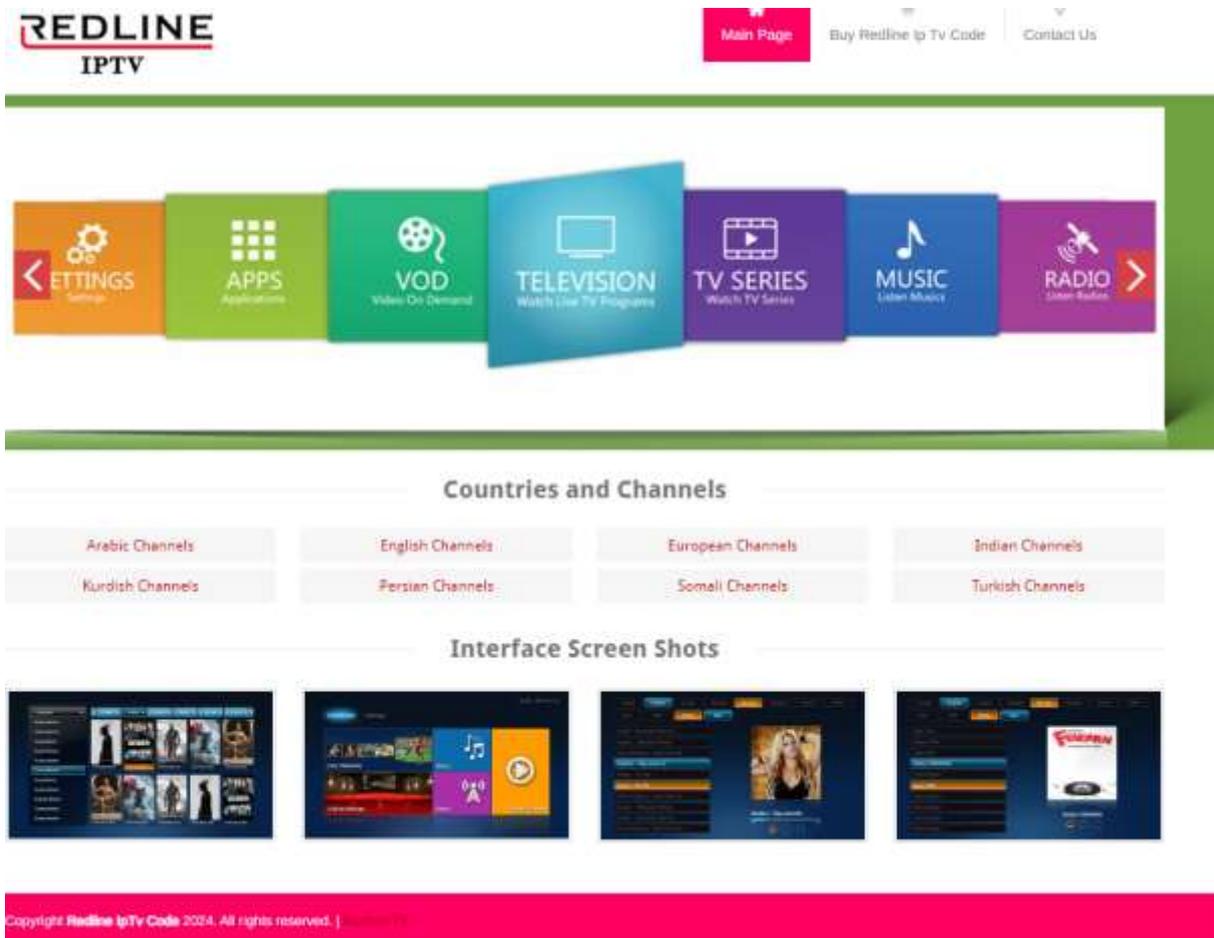
In 2018 Colorado-based DISH Network LLC, filed a copyright infringement action in a US federal district court against the US distributors of Tigerstar devices, on the basis that made available pirated Dish Content.<sup>2</sup> One of the pirate IPTV apps being made available on the Tigerstar receivers, and referred to in the judgment was RedIPTV.

DISH Network was successful in obtaining damages from Tigerstar’s US distributors, as well as a permanent injunction prohibiting the US distributors from distributing or otherwise infringing DISH Network’s exclusive rights in the United States.

Redline is also associated with other IPTV apps, which distribute pirated IPTV channels, including “IPTV Plus” app, and an OTT interface (which provides additional functionality and playlists for use with Smart TVs and other devices). Other brands and websites associated with Redline include Red360, 7line.tv, and Redlineteknik.com. See: <http://redlineiptv.com/> and <http://www.red360.tv/>

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<sup>2</sup> <https://about.dish.com/news-releases?item=123321>



Since 2023, “IPTV Plus” is the main pirate IPTV app pre-installed on this device. IPTV Plus provides access to pirated beIN channels and Miramax content, as well as other international and US rights holders’ channels, such as: Cartoon Network, CBS, Discovery, Disney, ESPN, FOX, HBO, MTV, National Geographic, NBA HD and NBC.





In addition, Redline manufactured devices have been supplied with other well-known piracy apps widely seen in the MENA region, including:

- Empire TV
- Elite TV
- Echoo TV

All of these apps make available pirated beIN channels, as well as content from Miramax, and many other US and international channels, including Cartoon Network, CNN, Discovery, FOX, MTV and NBC. Screenshots of Cartoon Network and CBS channels being made available on Echoo TV are provided below:





beIN and Miramax propose that Redline and Red IPTV be added to the Notorious Markets List.

## **Gazal**

The Gazal company, based in Amman, Jordan, distributes Gazal-branded devices across the MENA region and Europe, either via online sales (including at <https://gazalsat.com>) or from physical shops, the main shop located at Ad-Dustour Street, Amman, Jordan. Gazal receivers are typically sold at almost all satellite shops in Jordan, these function as resellers for Gazal.

Gazal is also a very popular brand of receiver in Jordan, as well as MENA more generally, and typically sold from physical outlets.

Gazal receivers are typically supplied so as to enable easy access to the following pirate IPTV apps:

- Golden IPTV
- MYHD IPTV
- Echoo IPTV
- Doom TV
- Ultra TV
- Forever TV
- Sam TV
- LionZ TV

All of these apps offer access to pirated beIN channels, as well as content from Miramax, and many other US and international content owners. For example, Golden IPTV provides access to, amongst others, the following US channels: Cartoon Network, CBS, Discovery, Disney,

ESPN, FOX, HBO, MTV, National Geographic, NBA HD and NBC. A screenshot of beIN channels available on a Gazal device is included below:

Below are images of pirated content available on a Gazal receiver, revealing significant US content.

beIN and Miramax propose that Gazal be added to the Notorious Markets List.





### *Icone / GoGo IPTV*

Icone distributes Icone branded receivers, which are manufactured by a South Korean company Aloys.

Icone is headquartered in the UAE, from which it exports and distributes receivers across MENA and Europe. It advertises offices in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Canada (see <http://www.icone-tech.com/>).

Icone receivers provide access to pirate IPTV content by means of the **GoGo IPTV** app, which is preconfigured for easy download on the device. Authentication of the app is included in the purchase of the device. Instructions on how to activate the GoGo IPTV subscription on Icone devices are also included on the GoGo IPTV website (see: <https://gogoptv.tv/activation-gogo-in-icone/>)

The GoGo IPTV app makes available thousands of pirated television channels and on demand content, including beIN channels, Miramax content and content of other US and international rights holders. For example, GoGo IPTV provides access to US channels such as: Cartoon Network, CNN, Discovery, FOX, HBO, National Geographic, and NBA HD. A screenshot of a US Sports channel being made available on GoGo IPTV is provided below:



Screenshots of on an Icone receiver interface below:





GoGo IPTV also operates a reseller program, by which others can sell access to GoGo IPTV (see <https://gogoiptv.tv/>).

beIN and Miramax propose that Icone and GoGo IPTV be added to the Notorious Markets List.

### *iStar*

iStar Media (“iStar”) is a receiver brand also operating out of Erbil, Iraq. iStar receivers are typically enabled for satellite and IPTV piracy, and iStar also operates a localized network with pirated content. On its website: <https://istarinternational.com/about-us/> (screenshot immediately below), iStar claims to provide live TV streaming, movies, series and animations without the use of satellite dishes.



iStar sells iStar-branded receivers that come with a 12-month subscription to the pirate IPTV app “Online TV.”



This service provides access to pirated television channels, including beIN channels, as well as pirated VOD content, including Miramax content. iStar receivers also provide access to IPTV services such as ZeeD Gold, which in turn provide access to VOD content.<sup>3</sup>

The screenshot below shows a pirated beIN broadcast of a 2023 NBA game, made available through an iStar-branded receiver:



iStar-branded receivers have been seen being sold across Europe and the United States.

iStar websites include [www.iistar-korea.eu](http://www.iistar-korea.eu); [www.iistar-4k.com](http://www.iistar-4k.com) and [www.iistarinternational.com](http://www.iistarinternational.com). iStar also has a US-focused reseller website, [www.istar-us.com](http://www.istar-us.com), as well as a general reseller website, [online-tv.codes](http://online-tv.codes).

On September 21, 2021, Colorado-based DISH Network, supported by the International Broadcaster Coalition Against Piracy (“IBCAP”), launched a copyright infringement claim in US federal district court against iStar Company, the operator of the iStar IPTV service and its affiliated entities and individuals.<sup>4</sup> That action resulted in damages orders and broad injunctions in respect of iStar in the US.<sup>5</sup>

beIN and Miramax proposed that iStar be added to the Notorious Markets List.

## Majestic

Majestic is another popular Jordanian IPTV Receiver brand. The pirate brand sells receivers in offline marketplaces and online, for example on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/MAJESTIC837>.



<sup>4</sup> See <https://www.ibcap.org/ibcap-announces-24-million-lawsuit-against-istar-iptv-service/>; <https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.mied.357115/gov.uscourts.mied.357115.1.0.pdf> .

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.globenewswire.com/en/news-release/2022/11/07/2549948/0/en/IBCAP-Coordinated-Lawsuit-Results-in-Massive-Takedown-Ruling-Against-iStar-Pirate-Service-iStar-CEO-Ordered-to-Personally-Pay-15-7-Million.html>

Majestic receivers are typically supplied so as to enable easy access to the following pirate IPTV apps:

- Echoo TV
- SAM IPTV
- Matrix IPTV
- Ultra IPTV
- ECsecret IPTV



All of these apps offer access to pirated beIN channels, as well as content from Miramax, and many other US and international content owners. For example, Echoo TV provides access to, amongst others, the following US channels: Cartoon Network, CBS, Discovery, Disney, ESPN, FOX, HBO, MTV, National Geographic, NBA HD and NBC. A screenshot of beIN channels available on a Majestic device is included below:

Below are images of pirated content available on a Majestic receiver, revealing significant US content.

beIN and Miramax request that Majestic be added to the Notorious Markets List.







## Professorsat

Professorsat is another popular Jordanian IPTV Receiver brand. The pirate brand sells receivers online at [professorsat.com](http://professorsat.com) and on social media platforms such as Facebook, e.g.: <https://www.facebook.com/ShaiikhAlkarCompany/>; <https://www.facebook.com/ProfessorSatellite>. Investigations show that all these outlets belong to the same family in Amman, Jordan.

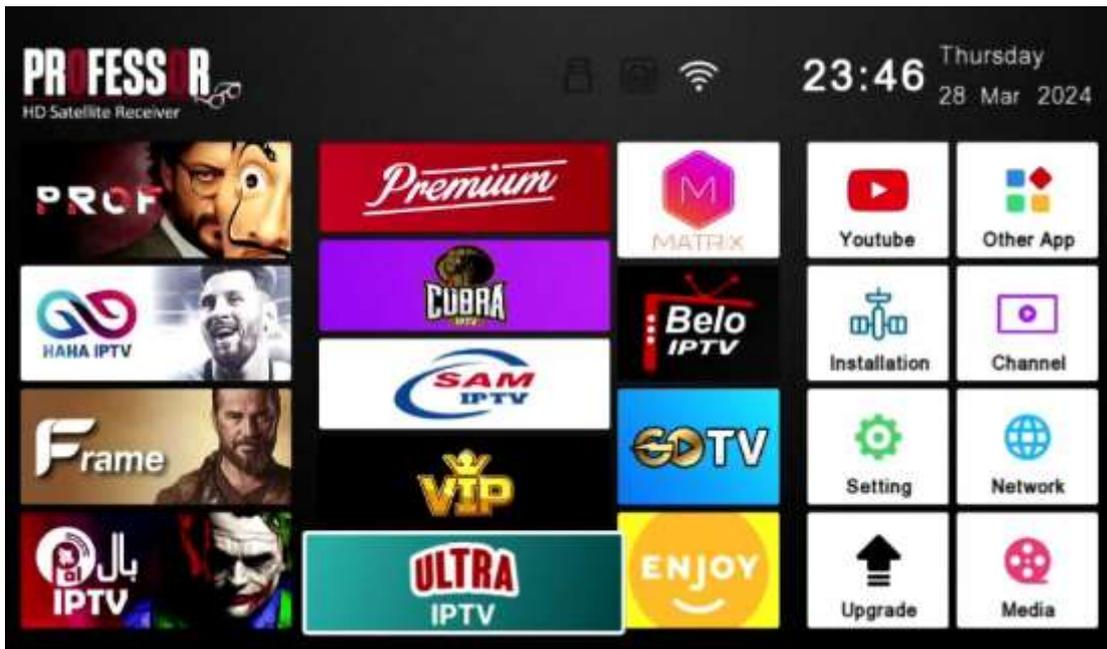
Professorsat receivers are typically supplied so as to enable easy access to the following pirate IPTV apps:

- Pal IPTV
- SAM IPTV
- Matrix IPTV
- Ultra IPTV

- Doctor IPTV
- Belo IPTV
- HaHa IPTV

All of these apps offer access to pirated beIN channels, as well as content from Miramax, and many other US and international content owners. For example, Echoo TV provides access to, amongst others, the following US channels: Cartoon Network, CBS, Discovery, Disney, ESPN, FOX, HBO, MTV, National Geographic, NBA HD and NBC. A screenshot of beIN channels available on a Professorsat device is included below.

Below are images of pirated content available on a Professorsat receiver, revealing significant US content.





beIN and Miramax propose that Professorsat be added to the Notorious Markets List.

## Starsat

The Starsat company (Star Sat Trading LLC) is headquartered in the UAE from where it exports and distributes “Starsat” branded receivers, across the MENA region. Starsat receivers are advertised on Starsat’s website: <https://starsat.com>.



Star Sat Trading LLC was established in 1999 in Dubai, UAE. The organisation is focused on the wholesale import and export of electronics.



The receivers are believed to be manufactured in China, by Zhuhai Gotech Intelligent Technology Co., Ltd (GoTech).

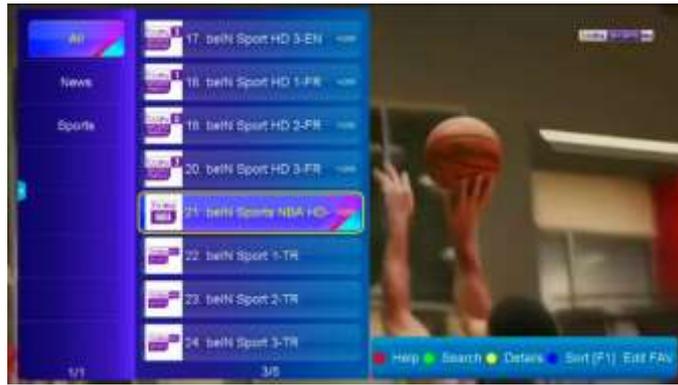
Various Starsat receiver models are supplied with the “Apollo 5” IPTV app, which enables access to pirated IPTV content. The logo for the app as commonly seen within the Starsat receiver is as below.



The Apollo 5 IPTV app provides access to beIN and Miramax channels, as well as other US and international rights holders' channels. For example, the following US channels are available on the Starsat receiver: CBS, Disney, HBO, MTV and National Geographic.

A screenshot of a beIN channel being made available on a Starsat receiver through the Apollo 5 IPTV app is provided below:





Screenshots of other pirated television content (CBS Sports and HBO) available from a Starsat receiver using the Apollo 5 IPTV app are included below:

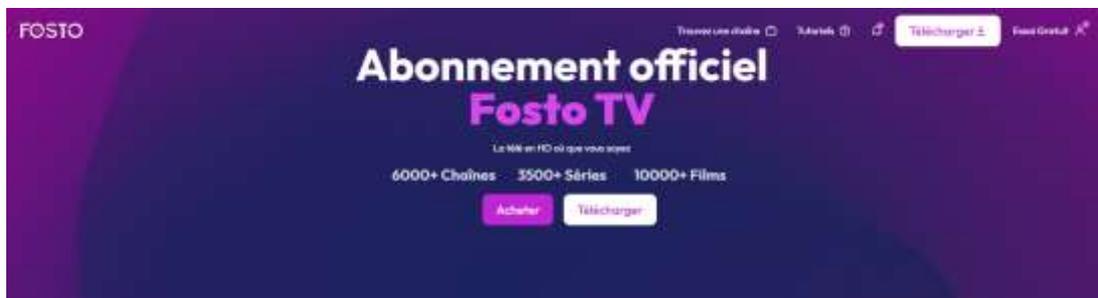




beIN and Miramax propose that Starsat and the Apollo 5 IPTV app be included in the Notorious Markets List.

### ***Volka IPTV / Fosto TV***

Volka IPTV was established in 2015 by a Tunisian national. They have recently rebranded to Fosto TV and operating from a website at <https://fosto.tv>.



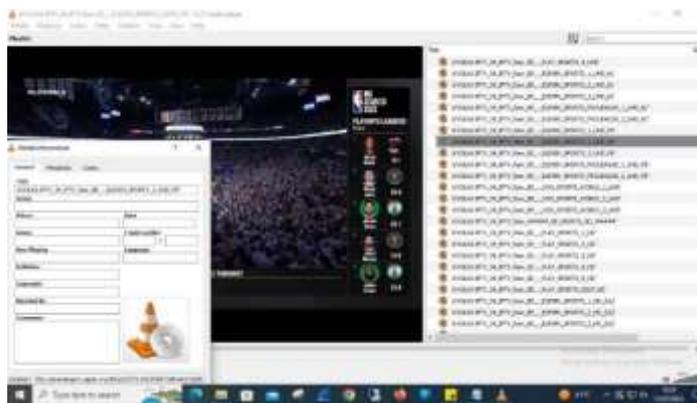
The nature of the pirated content being made available from the service is evident from the website, and includes well known US and MENA rights owners.

The service has used an effective reseller scheme, which has led to the creation of many offshoot websites which featured the Volka branding. Resellers are mostly located in Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria.

Volka IPTV / Fosto TV makes available beIN channels and Miramax content, as well as many other channels belonging to international and US rights holders, including ABC, Showtime, FOX, CBS, HBO, NBC, NBA HD, Fox Sport, and ESPN.

Examples of some of the US content available is shown below, including a screenshot of an MLB game on ESPN, and a list of the many Discovery channels readily available.





beIN and Miramax propose that Volka IPTV be added to the Notorious Markets List.

### Yacine TV

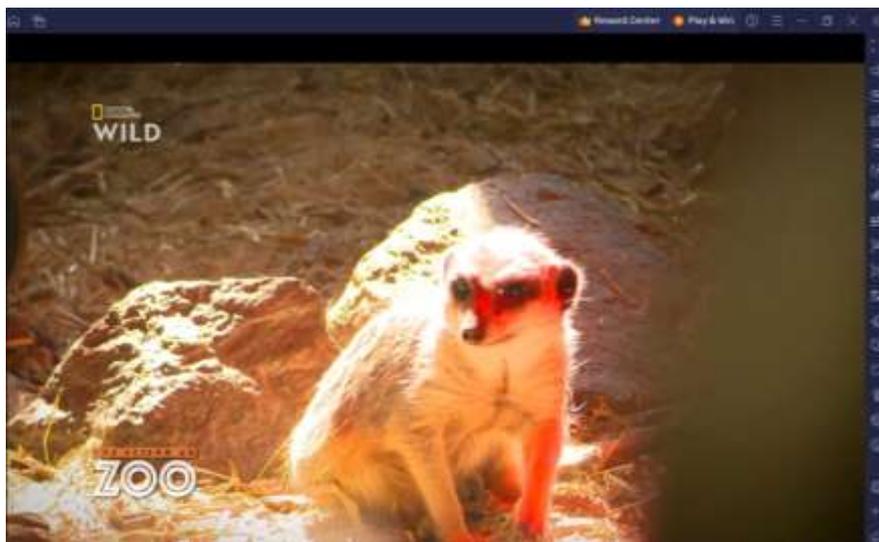
Yacine TV is a popular piracy app which is likely operated from Algeria. The “Yacine TV” brand appears to be very popular in North Africa. When searching the Internet for Yacine TV, many results appear, including for copycats of this piracy service. Investigations indicate that the “official” version of this app is available at: <http://download.yacineapp.tv/> A screenshot of the Yacine TV logo is provided below:





Yacine TV makes available beIN channels, as well as many other international channels. Screenshots showing beIN and US content available on Yacine TV are provided below:







beIN and Miramax propose that Yacine TV be added to the Notorious Markets List.

- *Atlas Pro IPTV*

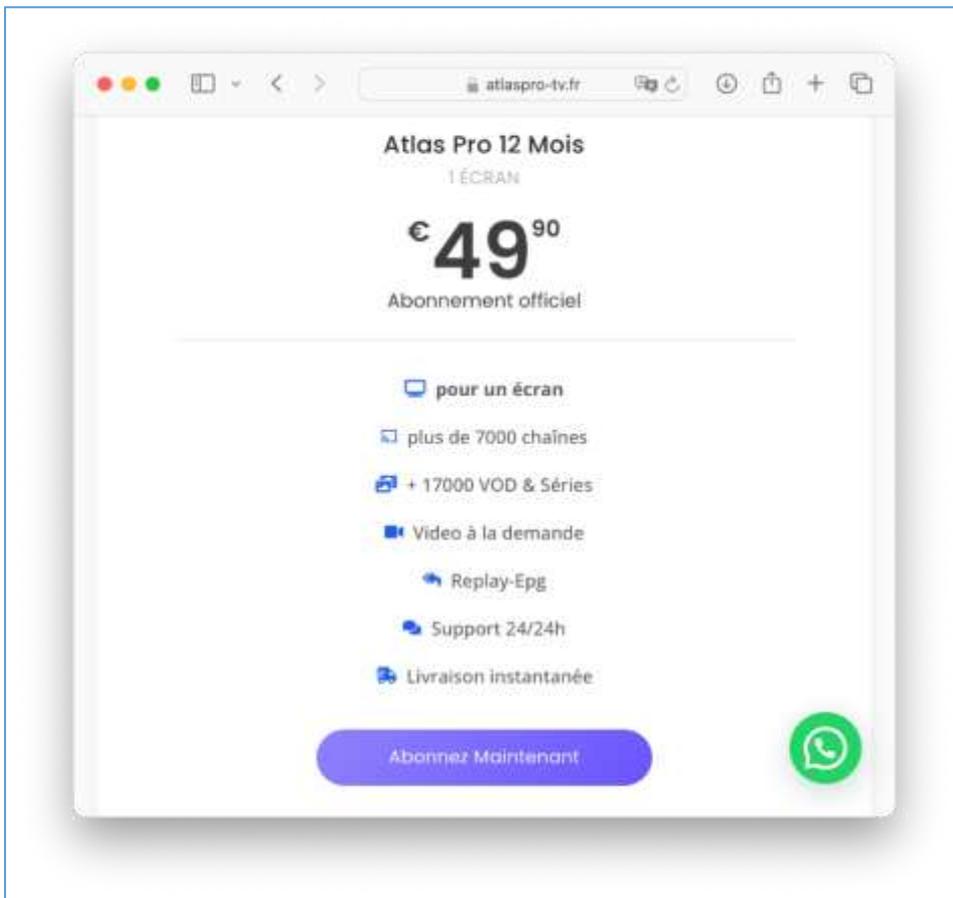


Figure 1 (Potential) selling website for Atlas Pro IPTV <https://atlaspro-tv.fr>



Figure 2 Example of an infringement by an Atlas Pro IPTV application showing a Wimbledon 2024 match. beIN Sports France channels (as well as others) are available continuously as can be seen on the channels list in the right hand side.

beIN and Miramax propose that Atlas Pro IPTV be added to the Notorious Markets List.

- **France IPTV**

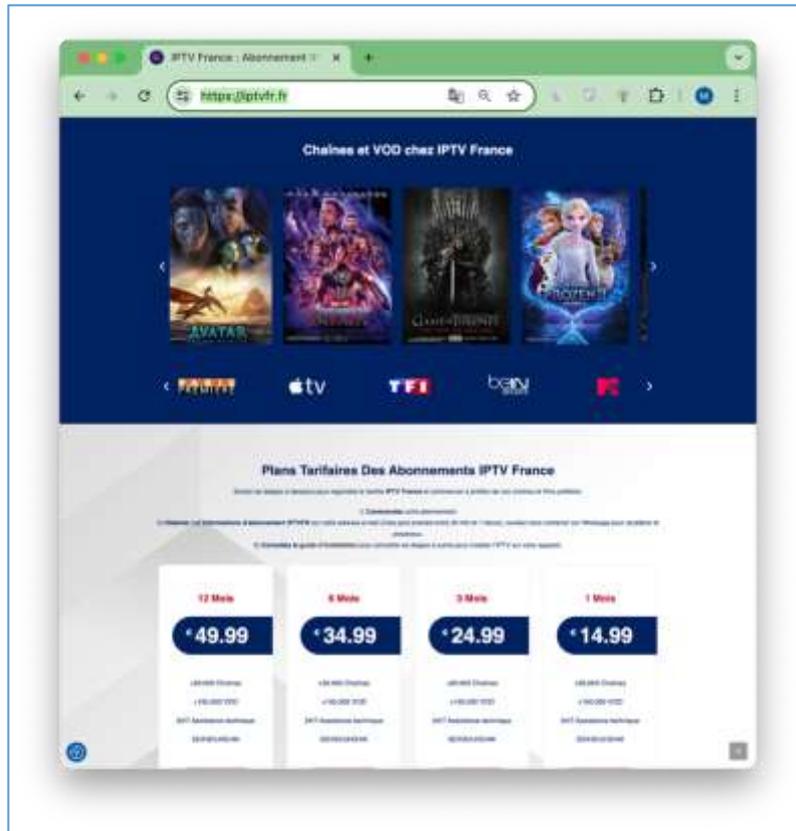


Figure 3 Selling website for France IPTV



Figure 4 Example of an infringement by an France IPTV application showing a Wimbledon 2024 match. beIN Sports France channels (as well as others) are available continuously as can be seen on the channels list in the right hand side.

beIN and Miramax propose that France IPTV be added to the Notorious Markets List.

## Aroma IPTV

Aroma IPTV is a popular pirate service in the Gulf region, distributed from websites, via social media and through local networks. It uses the following logo:



Websites associated with Aroma IPTV include <https://aroma-tv.online/>; <https://aroma-tv.store/ar>;

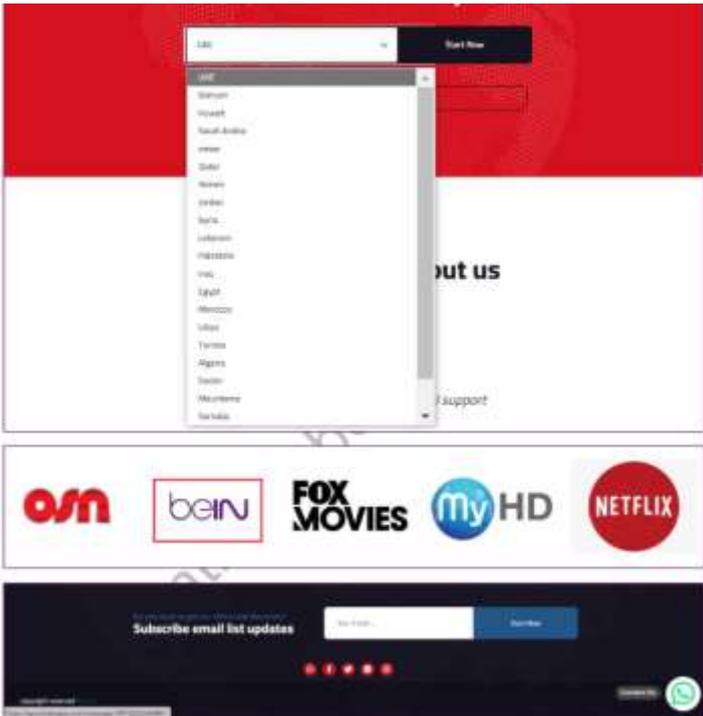
The Aroma service comprises various apps which can be used in conjunction with various media devices.

Subscriptions to the service are typically provided at around US\$18.00 for a three-month subscription to US\$70.00 for a 24-month subscription.

It provides access to an extensive range of up to 9,000 live TV channels and 16,000 video on demand titles.

It also offers a re-seller program, and offers the use of control panel for its resellers to add subscribers, manage the services, as well as providing technical support.

A screenshot from one of the websites indicating the regions targeted and the pirated content on offer including beIN and US content is below.



Screenshots showing the Aroma TV service pirating beIN content (including content licensed from US rights owners) are provided below.





Investigations indicate that Aroma TV is likely to be operated by person/s located in Saudi Arabia.

beIN and Miramax propose that Aroma TV be included in the Notorious Markets list.

#### **Falcon IPTV / Platinum IPTV**

Falcon IPTV and Platinum IPTV are further popular pirate IPTV services in the Gulf region, which uses the following logos.



The services are provided by various apps, distributed from websites, social media, app stores, and local networks, which can be used in conjunction with various media devices. The services offer thousands of live TV channels and huge libraries of pirated VOD entertainment content.

Investigations indicate that both services are closely linked, carrying the same pirated content, and likely to be operated by the same person/s who are likely to be located in Saudi Arabia. Platinum IPTV is also seen marketed by reference to IPTV KSA.

عرض خاص

**اشترك**

**PLATINUM IPTV**

مدة 12 شهر

\* يدعم اكثر من 4 الف قناة متنوعة و رياضية و عالية

\* مكتبة افلام و مسلسلات عربية و اجنبية مترجمة و متجددة دوما

\* يعمل الاشتراك علي جميع منصات التشغيل المختلفة

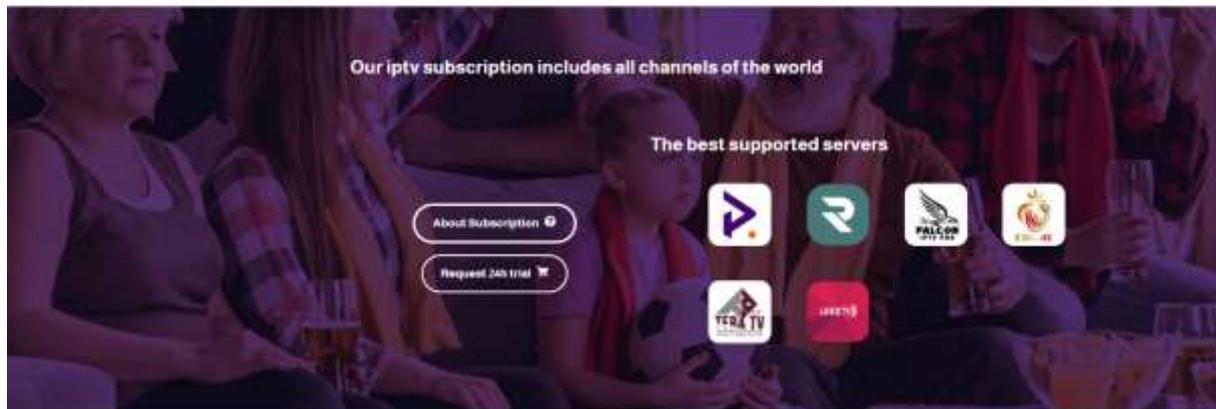
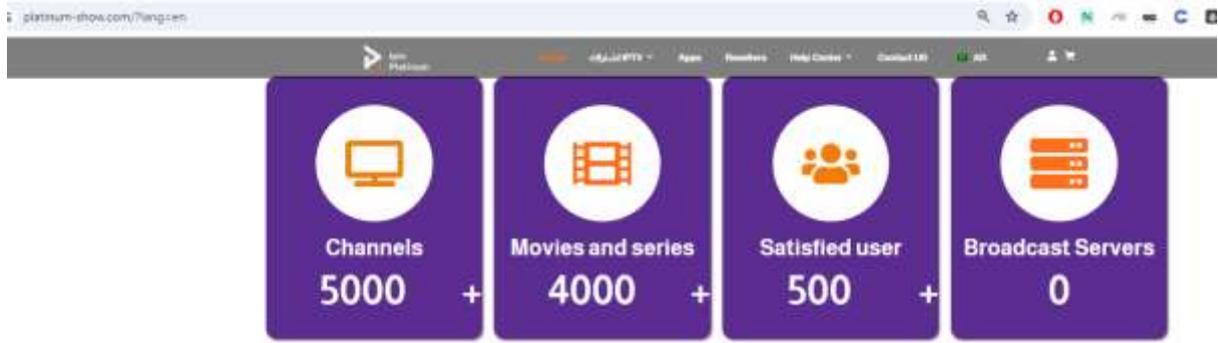
**الاجهزة الداعمة**

A screen shot from the Platinum IPTV website at indicating the pirated content available is shown below.

platinum-iptv.com

كل القنوات الرياضية المحلية والعالمية

NETFLIX egypt sports mbc PRO



Screenshots showing examples of the pirated content (including beIN content licensed from US rights owners) are below.





beIN and Miramax propose that Platinum IPTV and Falcon IPTV be included in the Notorious Markets list.

#### **4k/Strong 4k**

The IPTV service 4K and its subsidiaries, such as Strong 4K, Dlta 4K, and Zen 4K, are believed to be operated by an Egyptian national based in KSA. This network of pirate IPTV services is gaining popularity not only in Egypt and Saudi Arabia but across the entire MENA region. These services are illegally distributing content belonging to beIN Media Group, along with a wide array of US linear and VOD content.

The websites associated with these operations are <https://4kplayer.shop/> and <https://strong4k.com/>. The nature of the pirated content offered by 4K and its offshoots is evident from these websites, which feature channels from well-known US and MENA rights owners. They have implemented an effective reseller scheme, resulting in the creation of numerous offshoot websites that adopt similar branding. Resellers of these services are spread across the MENA region, with a significant presence in Egypt, KSA, Tunisia, Morocco, and Algeria.



These pirate IPTV services provide unauthorized access to beIN channels, as well as content from major US networks and studios, including ABC, Showtime, FOX, CBS, HBO, NBC,

NBA HD, Fox Sports, and ESPN. Additionally, they offer VOD content from popular US sources.



Given the widespread availability and extensive illegal distribution of beIN and other premium content, 4K and its subsidiaries represent a significant threat to legitimate broadcasters and content rights holders in the MENA region. Consequently, beIN Media Group proposes that these services be added to the Notorious Markets List.

### **Internet Key Sharing (Hacking of encrypted satellite broadcasts) piracy**

Internet Key Sharing (IKS) piracy involves pirates illegally obtaining the encryption keys (through hacking) for satellite television broadcasts and sharing them with their own subscribers. The encryption keys are also known as “Control Words”. The pirates charge a

subscription fee to access the control words, which are distributed over the internet to satellite receivers which are equipped to receive both the satellite broadcasts, and the control words (distributed in real time over the internet from the IKS service) necessary to decrypt and watch the broadcasts.

The IKS service charges their users a subscription fee which is substantially below the fees charged by the legitimate broadcaster, but enables their users to receive the same high quality satellite broadcast. The subscriptions are typically sold in MENA through local networks of electronics dealers, and can often also be renewed online. They are a very substantial part of the local piracy landscape in MENA, and have long been a popular way for viewers in North Africa to watch European pay television broadcasts, whose satellite footprints overspill into the territory.

Many of the popular brands of receivers referred to above, and used for IPTV piracy, are “hybrid”, and also enabled to receive satellite broadcasts, including by means of pirate IKS services.

Given the significance of this form of piracy within the MENA landscape, and the infringements occurring of beIN content (including US content licensed to beIN) and other rights owners content, beIN believes it is appropriate for these services to be added to the USTR Notorious Markets Lists for 2023.

### ***Forever IKS aka Apollo IKS***

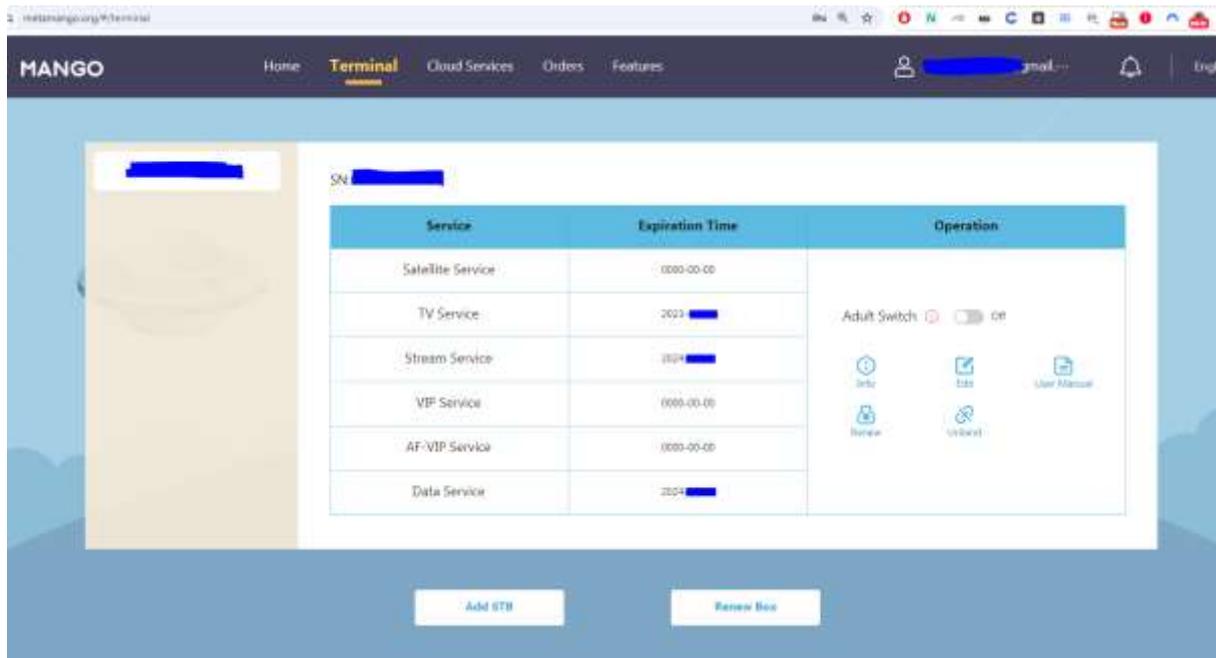
In late 2022, beIN became subject to piracy, from the Forever IKS service, with the control words to our broadcasts having been illegally obtained through hacking (by highly sophisticated pirates) and shared via the service. Although beIN has undertaken several technical operations intended to counter and disrupt this piracy, it has nevertheless continued.

The Forever IKS logo appears as below.



Forever IKS is preloaded on several models of receivers associated with piracy when they are purchased. These receivers often come with a yearly subscription for Forever IKS enabled.

Renewals are extensively sold on Facebook and websites by many resellers from all over MENA. Renewal codes can also be purchased in most physical satellite shops or on ecommerce platforms such as Alibaba. The company also directly maintains websites for online renewals of their service. For example: <https://www.metamango.org/#/terminal>:



The following screenshot shows are third-party reseller website for ILS services including Forever:



<https://storeiks.com/>:

Searching Facebook for “Forever IKS renewal” brings up hundreds of posts offering this service for sale, the following is an example:



Examples of hacked channels being made available on the Forever IKS service are provided below.





- VIP IKS

This relatively recent control word sharing group is operated by pirate group Gotech.



Figure 5 Starsat receiver preloaded with a VIP IKS Subscription.

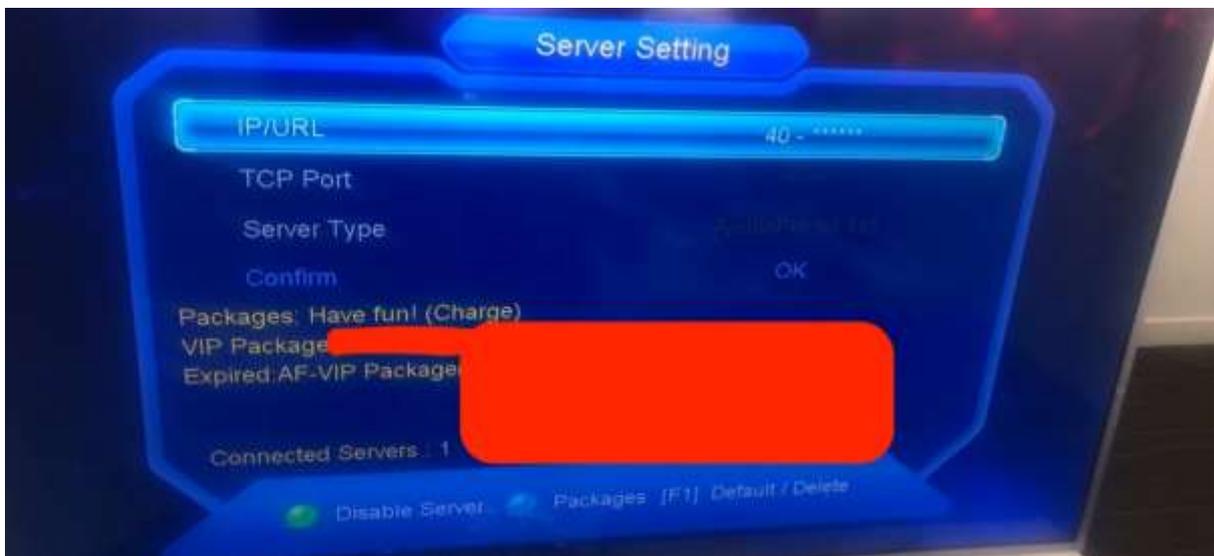


Figure 6 Starsat menu screen showing the "VIP Package" IKS enabled



Figure 7 Infringement on Paris 2024 Olympics media rights by the Starsat receiver and the VIP IKS.

### **Pirate streaming websites**

One of the most common, and long-standing, modes of internet based piracy concerns illegitimate free streaming websites that provide access to unauthorised audio-visual content that is consumed directly on a web page through the consumer's application of a web browser. The infringing content may be accessed utilising a variety of devices (mobile, tablet, smart television) and is not limited to the use of common household web browsers across desktop personal computers.

The free and ubiquitous nature of these illegal websites also makes them a very significant and harmful part of the audiovisual piracy landscape. Often these services source and restream their pirated content from pirate IPTV services.

There are several very well-known international pirate websites of this type, which have long been making available pirated beIN, US and other international rights owners content available.

As such, beIN and Miramax propose that the following websites be added to the Notorious Markets List for 2024.

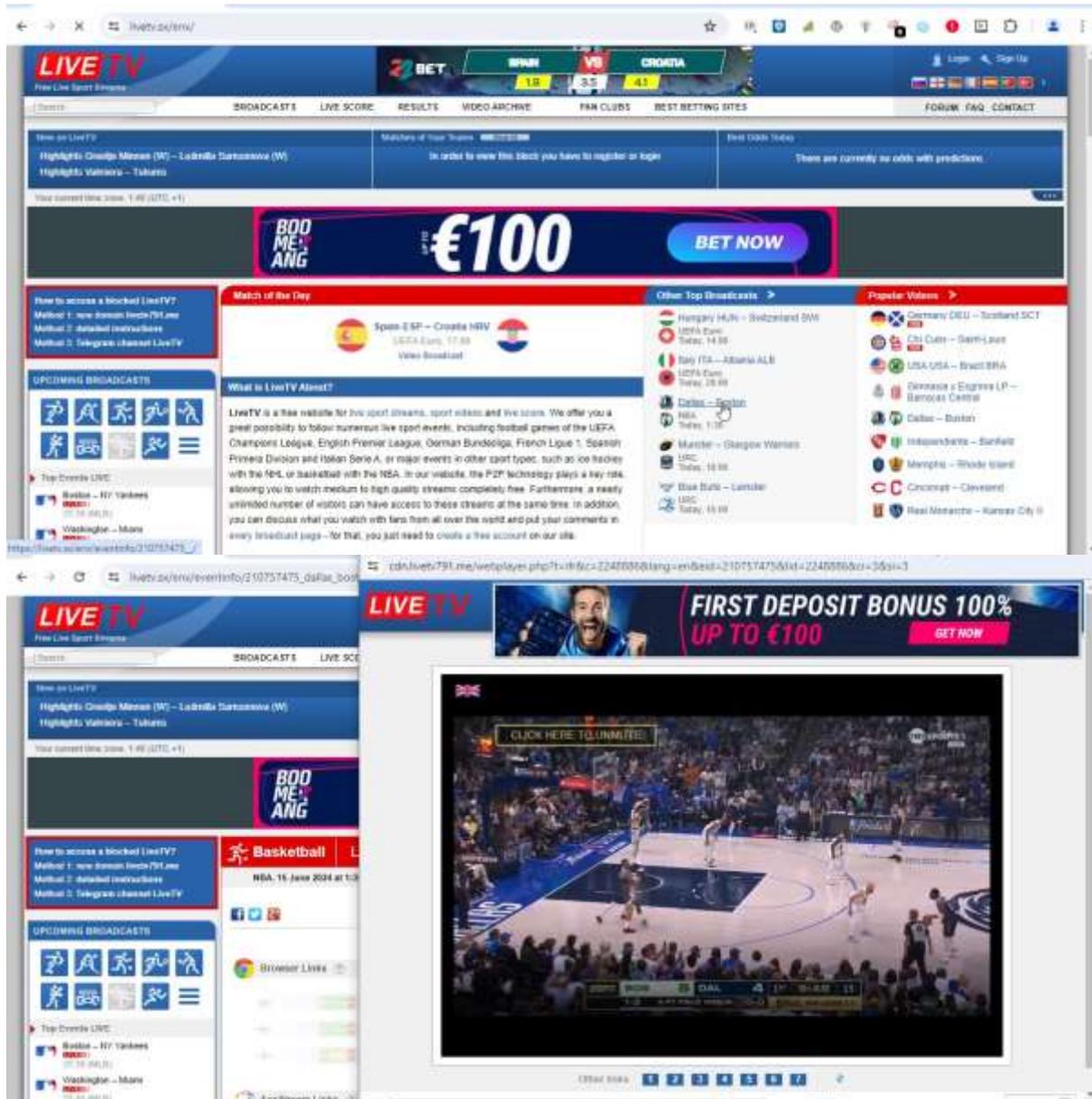
### **Livetv.sx**

The very well-known pirate streaming site "livetv.sx" has been operational for over a decade<sup>6</sup> and provides users with access to illegal streaming content from numerous sporting events and tournaments including, but not limited to, soccer, tennis, basketball and motorsport.

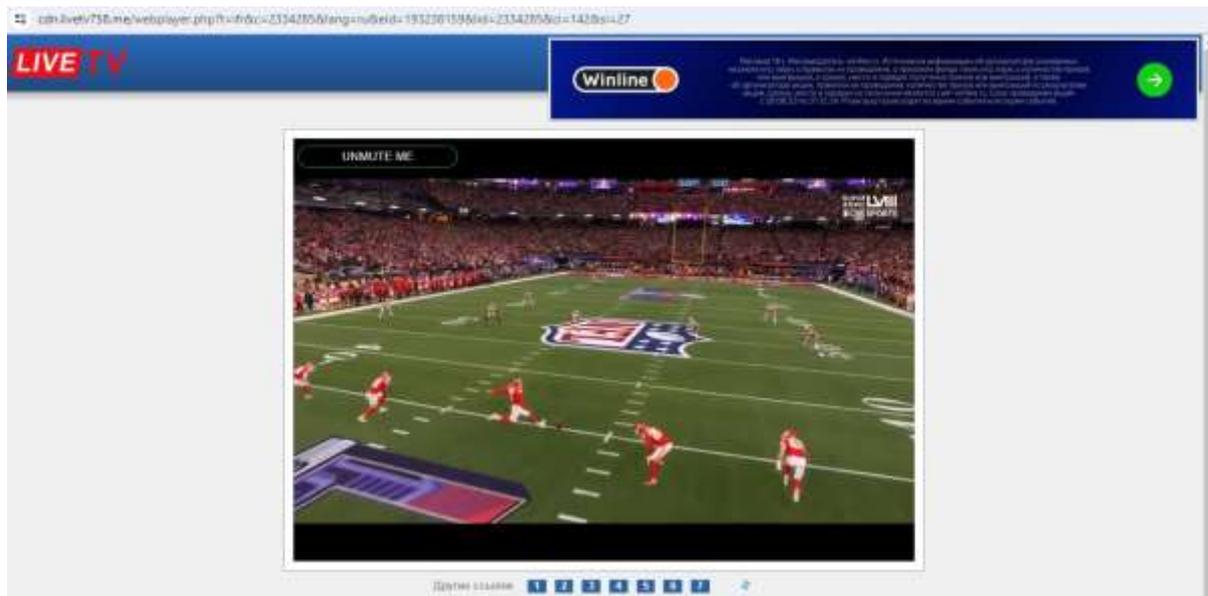
<sup>6</sup> <https://www.whois.com/whois/livetv.sx> (Registered On: 2013-07-30)

“Livetv.sx” operates a site index where content may be identified for consumption, before directing the pirate user to a related domain (“cdn.livetvxxx.me”) where the infringing audio-visual content may be consumed.

Remaining a popular outlet for the consumption of illegal material, the website “livetv.sx” generated 9.1 million global total traffic visits in August 2024<sup>7</sup>



<sup>7</sup> <https://www.similarweb.com/website/livetv.sx/#ranking>



## Freestreams-live

Originally operating via the URL “freestreams-live1.com,” this domain was successfully seized by Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) pursuant to a warrant issued by the United States District Court for the District of Maryland during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 tournament.<sup>8</sup>

The “freestreams-live” illegal streaming websites have operated via multiple top-level domain names (TLDs) including “freestreams-live.ga,” “freestreams-live.me,” “freestreams-live1.com,” “freestreams-live1.im,” “freestreams-live1.se,” “freestreams-live1.top,” “freestreams-live1.tv” and “freestreams-live1se.nu.”<sup>9</sup>

“Freestreams-live.my” is the current, active domain of the pirate streaming network which continues to heavily infringe upon numerous sporting events, organisations and broadcasters’ rights through presenting on-site access to infringing live streaming content.

The illicit streaming website provides pirate consumers with access to event-specific live streams, but also links to 24/7 live streaming channels. All of the infringing live content is embedded directly across “freestreams-live.my” illicit webpages.

Despite the domain name “freestreams-live.my” only being registered in April 2024,<sup>10</sup> the platform generated 11.8 million illicit global total traffic visits in August 2024<sup>11</sup>

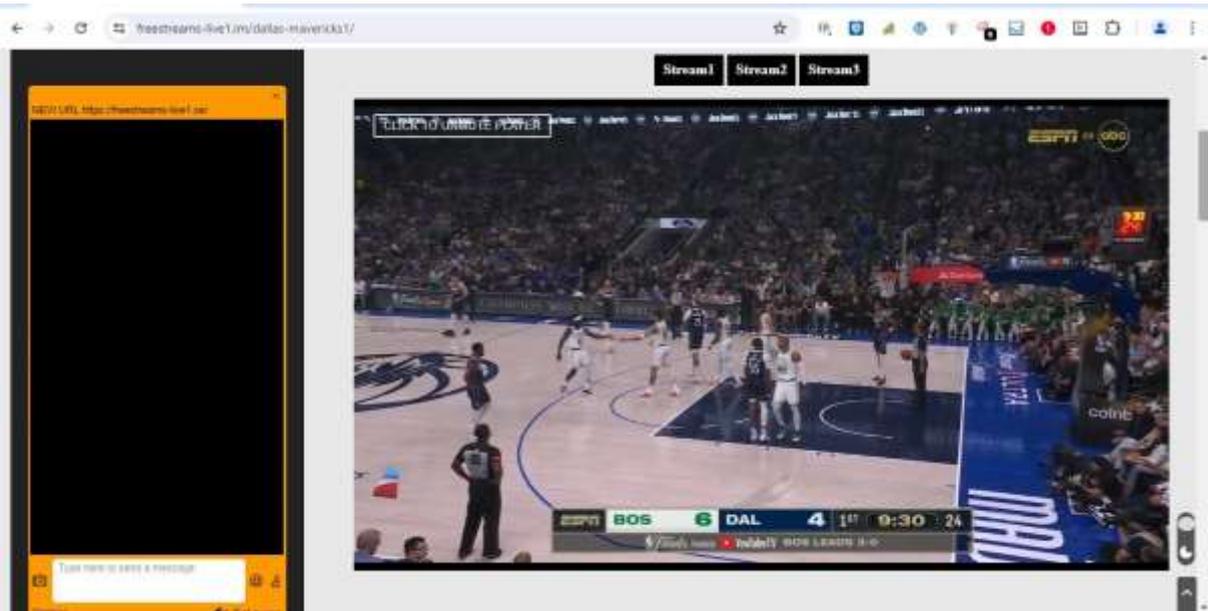
<sup>8</sup> <https://www.justice.gov/usao-md/pr/maryland-us-attorney-s-office-announces-seizure-55-domain-names-violated-copyrights>

<sup>9</sup> “freestreams-live.ga,” “freestreams-live.me,” “freestreams-live1.im” and “freestreams-live1.se” currently redirect to the active pirate website domain “freestreams-live.my” (information verified on the 26/09/2024)

<sup>10</sup> <https://mynic.my/whois> (Domain Registration Date: 04 April 2024 10:33:40 (Malaysia Time))

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.similarweb.com/website/freestreams-live.my/#overview>





## Streameast.app

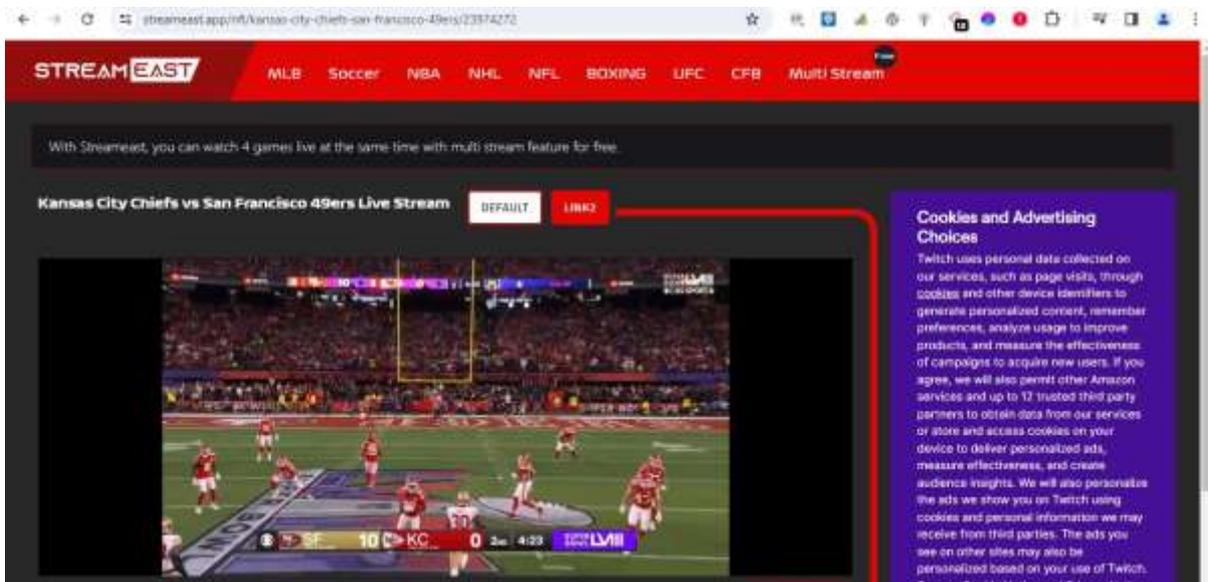
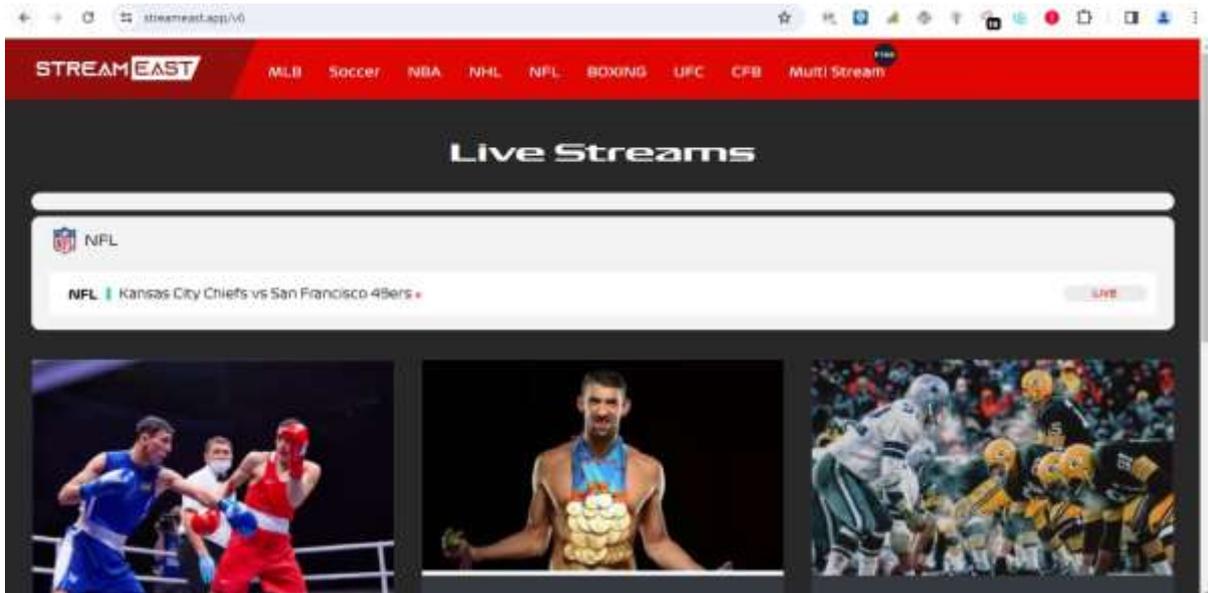
The “streameast.app” infringing domain was registered in November 2021<sup>12</sup> and has grown to become a significant and highly illicit part of the illegal pirate website live streaming ecosystem.

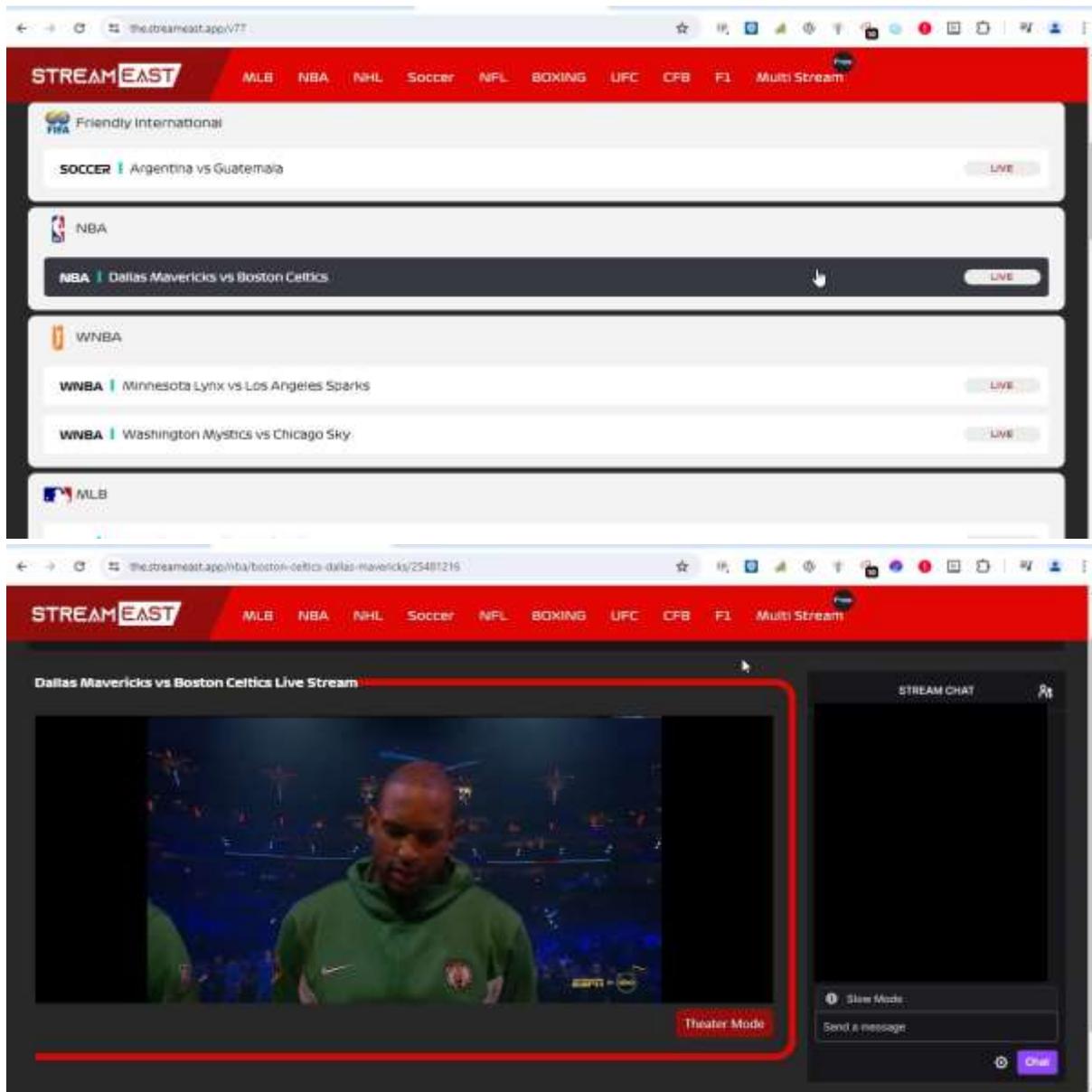
“Streameast.app” website operates a site index displaying events, including, but not limited to, sports such as baseball, basketball, football, soccer and mixed martial arts, before directing users to a specific pages where illicit live streaming content may be consumed directly on-site.

In August 2024, the “streameast.app” domain generated 28.1 million illicit global traffic visits.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.namecheap.com/domains/whois/result?domain=streameast.app>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.similarweb.com/website/streameast.app/#overview>





### **Volkalive.ru / elitegol.lat**

These websites belong to a long-standing family of pirate streaming websites, also known as *volkastream* and *streamonsport*.

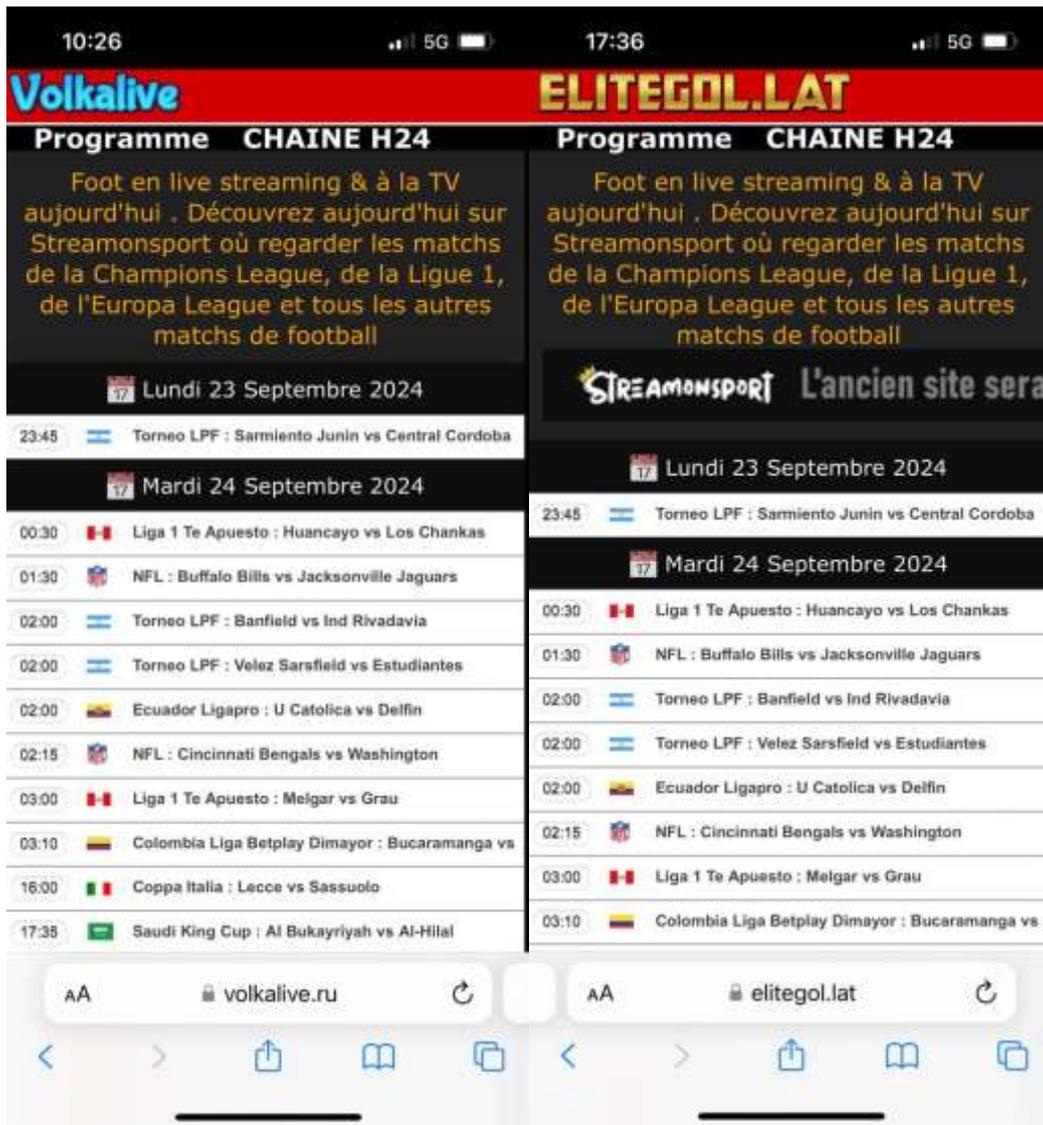


Figure 8 volkalive.ru and elitegol.lat landing pages

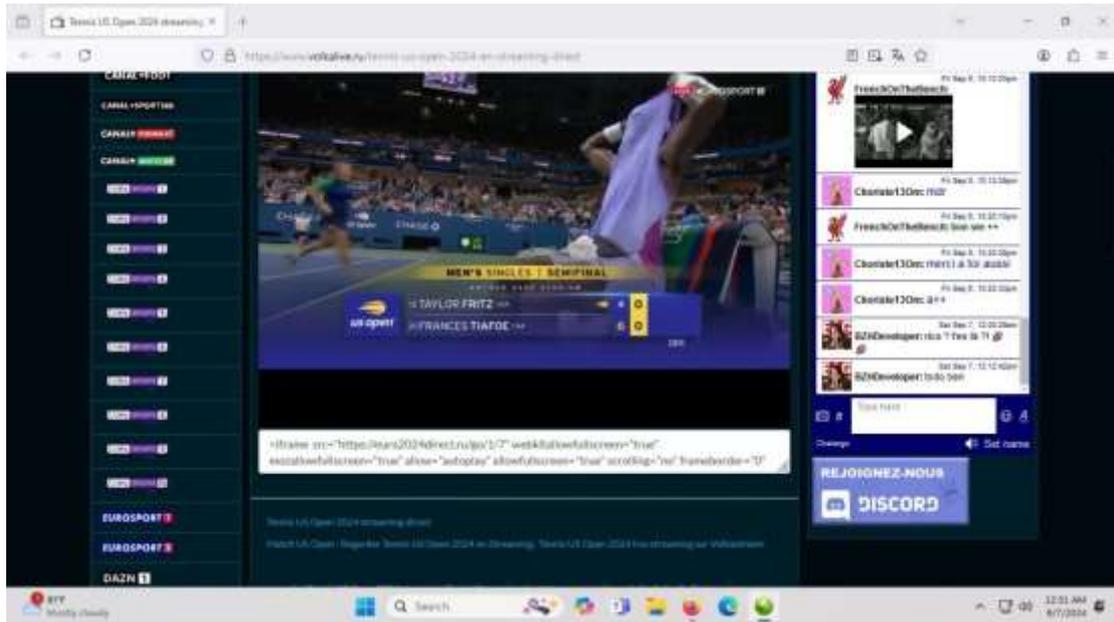


Figure 9 Us Open tennis tournament on the website.

## LAROZA

Larozza is one of the oldest and most popular pirate websites in the Middle East and has a vast library of Arabic and international movies and series. The website typically receives more than 7 million visits in a month. Larozza's operators have implemented an effective URL redirection strategy with redirections to multiple subdomains and TLD extensions applied daily or every other day. Some of their numerous domains used by the Larozza website are larozza.one, larozza.vip, larozza.net, larozza.cam, larozza.tv, larozza.sbs among others. This strategy appears designed to circumvent enforcement and other disruption action taken by rights owners. Despite Larozza was reportedly taken down by actions taken by rightsowners in September 2024, new copycat domains have appeared online with the most significant being [www.larozaa.net](http://www.larozaa.net)

In 2022, beIN launched a OTT service named TOD, which includes original drama productions. All of this content has been pirated and made available from the Larozza website.

Examples of the Larozza website making available pirated Miramax and other US content are included below.

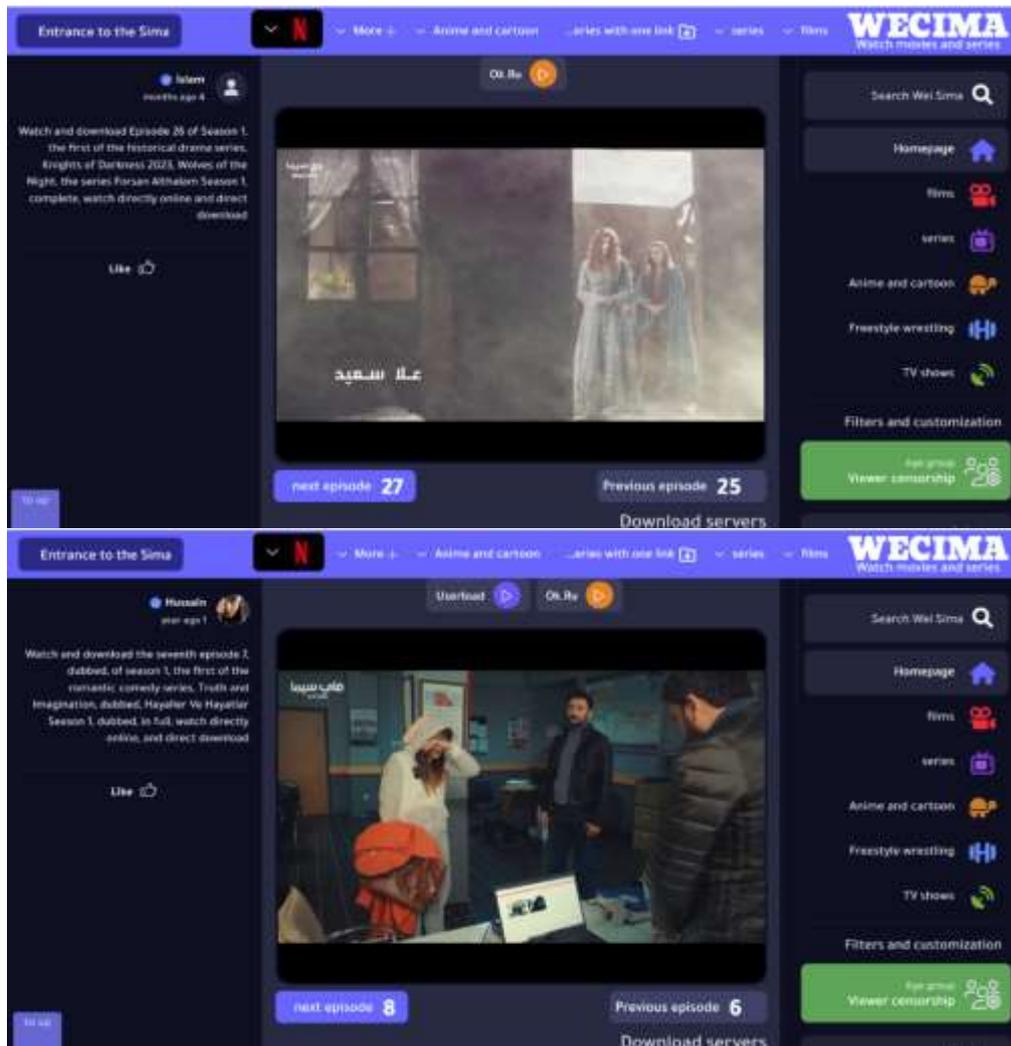
## WeCima

WeCima appears to be the new version (new domain and name) of a notorious pirate website in the MENA region known as MyCima. MyCima was one of the largest piracy websites in the Middle East reporting an estimated 50 million visitors monthly. It offered a vast library of international and Arabic series and movies. Although MyCima was reportedly taken down by actions initiated by the Alliance for Creativity and Entertainment (ACE) in February 2023,

WeCima, a mirror version of MyCima with same content offered, was set up shortly after. It is already recording more than 18 million monthly visits.

Apparently as a strategy to evade further enforcement actions, several WeCima domains and subdomains (wecima.click, wecima.co, mycima.wecima.watch, wecima.icu and many more) are continuously registered pointing at WeCima.cam.

Examples of pirated content, including Miramax content, are provided below.



## Fasel

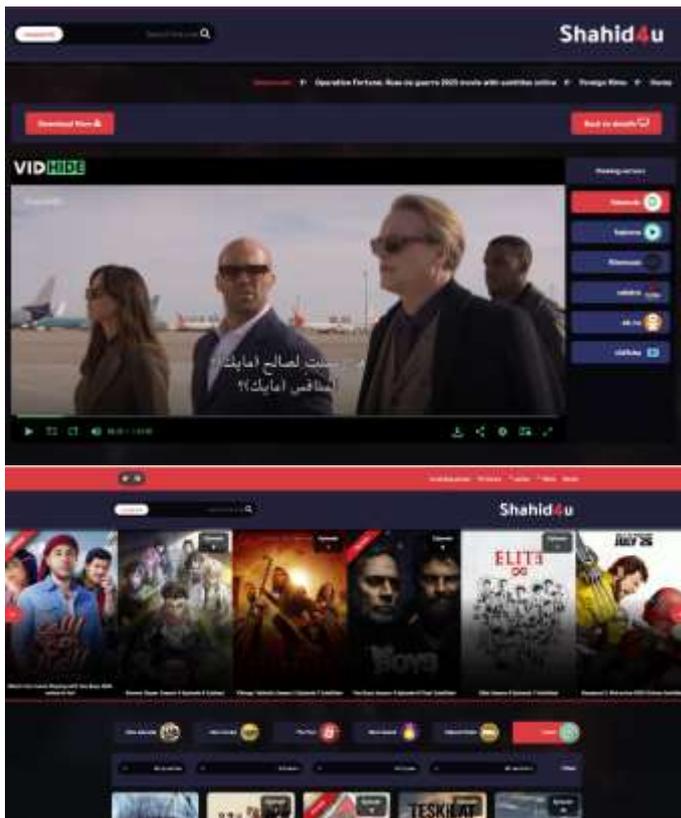
Fasel is another of the most popular pirate websites in the Middle East for streaming international movies and series. Faselplus was launched in 2023 as the premium version of FaselHD. Users can pay a monthly fee to enjoy ad-free content and features like smooth transitions between episodes. Currently the main domains involved are faselhds.care and faselplus.com. Between them these domains are recording more than 30 million monthly visits.

Examples of Miramax content being pirated on the website are provided below.



## Shahid4u

The original Shahid4u website was taken down by ACE in collaboration with Egyptian authorities in February 2023. Operating since 2015, Shahid4u offered an enormous catalog of 68,000 pirated TV series and 18,700 films, making it one of the largest piracy platforms in the MENA region. The site operated through several related domains. Despite its closure, many copycat websites quickly surfaced. As of this writing, one of the prominent replacements is the domain [www.shahid4u.my](http://www.shahid4u.my), which continues to operate alongside other similar domains such as [shahid4u.watch](http://shahid4u.watch), [shahid4u.to](http://shahid4u.to), [shahid4u.cam](http://shahid4u.cam), and [shahid4u.diy](http://shahid4u.diy). These sites collectively attract around 4 million monthly visits, primarily from users in Egypt, Algeria, and Morocco, and offer a wide array of Arabic, U.S., and international content. Examples of pirated content, including Miramax content, are provided below.



### **Hosting Providers (DSPs)**

As the USTR will no doubt be aware, internet-based pirates cannot operate without obtaining the services of companies which provide them with access to the internet – often described as hosting providers or dedicated servers providers (DSPs).

As such, these companies are key players in the internet piracy landscape and are key facilitators of piracy.

Through monitoring, which is routinely undertaken by beIN, it is quite easy to identify these hosting providers (unlike the pirates themselves, which usually take numerous steps to mask their identity), and once identified, “take down” requests, are sent, asking these companies to cease providing service for pirates. The legal framework that applies in many countries (including in the US through the Digital Millennium Copyright Act) exempts these entities from legal liability for the infringements that they facilitate so long as they respond expeditiously to the take down request. Companies that do not respond, or otherwise are implicated more directly in the piracy, may be liable.

While many legitimate companies comply with these requests, the internet piracy landscape has evolved in such a way that pirates have tended to cluster around hosting providers that do not comply. Increasingly, beIN is seeing the pirates cluster around certain hosting providers which have been established in “offshore” jurisdictions or mask their identities and locations, in such a way as to avoid legal liability for content infringements happening on their infrastructure. In fact, some of the most significant of these hosting providers promote themselves as not complying with takedown requests. These are sometimes also described as “bulletproof” hosting companies.

The following hosting providers have been identified by beIN as being non-compliant to take down requests and are associated with very high volumes of infringing content.

- **IPv4SuperHub** – ASN 209178 – Hong Kong

The corporate structure of [IPv4Superhub](https://www.ipv4superhub.com/)<sup>14</sup> is typical of an off-shore/bullet-proof hosting provider. Registered with the European Regional Internet Registrar, RIPE NCC (<https://www.ripe.net/>) and a Hong Kong business address, this hosting company provides access to a large proportion of infringing content and ignores legitimate takedown requests. In addition, IPv4SuperHub acts as a broker of IP services and has registered another off-shore company called Haoxiangyun (AS141718) with APNIC (African RIR). The IPs leased to Haoxiangyun also provide access to significant volumes of infringing content. Both share the same company website <https://ipv4superhub.com/> (**Error! Reference source not found.**), and abuse email address [abuse@ipv4superhub.com](mailto:abuse@ipv4superhub.com) (Figure 11).

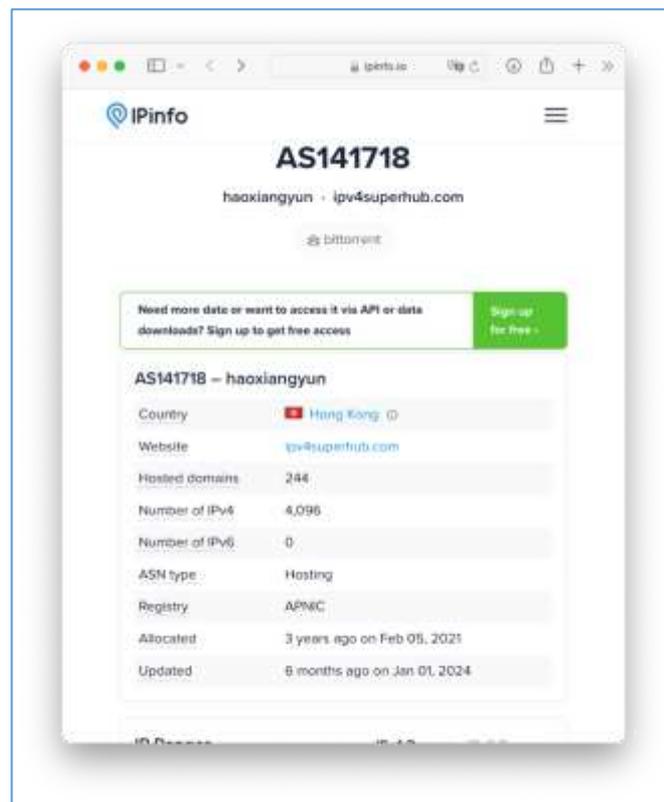


Figure 10 <https://ipinfo.io/AS141718>

<sup>14</sup> <https://ipv4superhub.com>

```
% Abuse contact for 'AS141718' is 'abuse@ipv4superhub.com'

aut-num:          AS141718
as-name:          HHXYTC-AS-AP
descr:           haoxiangyun
country:          HK
org:              ORG-HA59-AP
admin-c:          HHXY1-AP
tech-c:           HHXY1-AP
abuse-c:          AH1268-AP
mnt-lower:        MAINT-HHXYTC-HK
mnt-routes:       MAINT-HHXYTC-HK
mnt-by:           APNIC-HM
mnt-irt:          IRT-HHXYTC-HK
last-modified:    2024-01-01T03:09:43Z
import:           from AS211826 accept ANY
export:           to AS211826 announce AS141718
source:           APNIC

To get more information visit NetOX (Network Operators' toolbox)
```

Figure 11 Abuse contact for Haoxiangyun in <https://ipinfo/AS11718>

beIN and Miramax propose that IPv4SuperHub be included in the Notorious Markets list.

- **Virtual Systems – AS30860 - Ukraine**

This Ukraine-based company hosts many infringing websites and illicit IPTV services. Virtual Systems, unlike off-shore hosting providers, do not attempt to hide their location. Registered with RIPE NCC, details of the company address and ownership are easily available. However, Virtual Systems advertises as an offshore company and offers to provide services for streaming of infringing content. The company website (<https://vsys.host/offshore-vps-hosting>, **Error! Reference source not found.**) states “Due to different local regulations, both locations stand out with their relatively lax content policies. Alike, these are pretty mint for hosting movie sites & streaming, adult, gambling & everything that doesn't engage in illegal activities like spam, phishing, etc.” Virtual Systems has been sent thousands of take-down notices by beIN, the notices are not answered, and Virtual Systems does not cooperate with rightsholders.

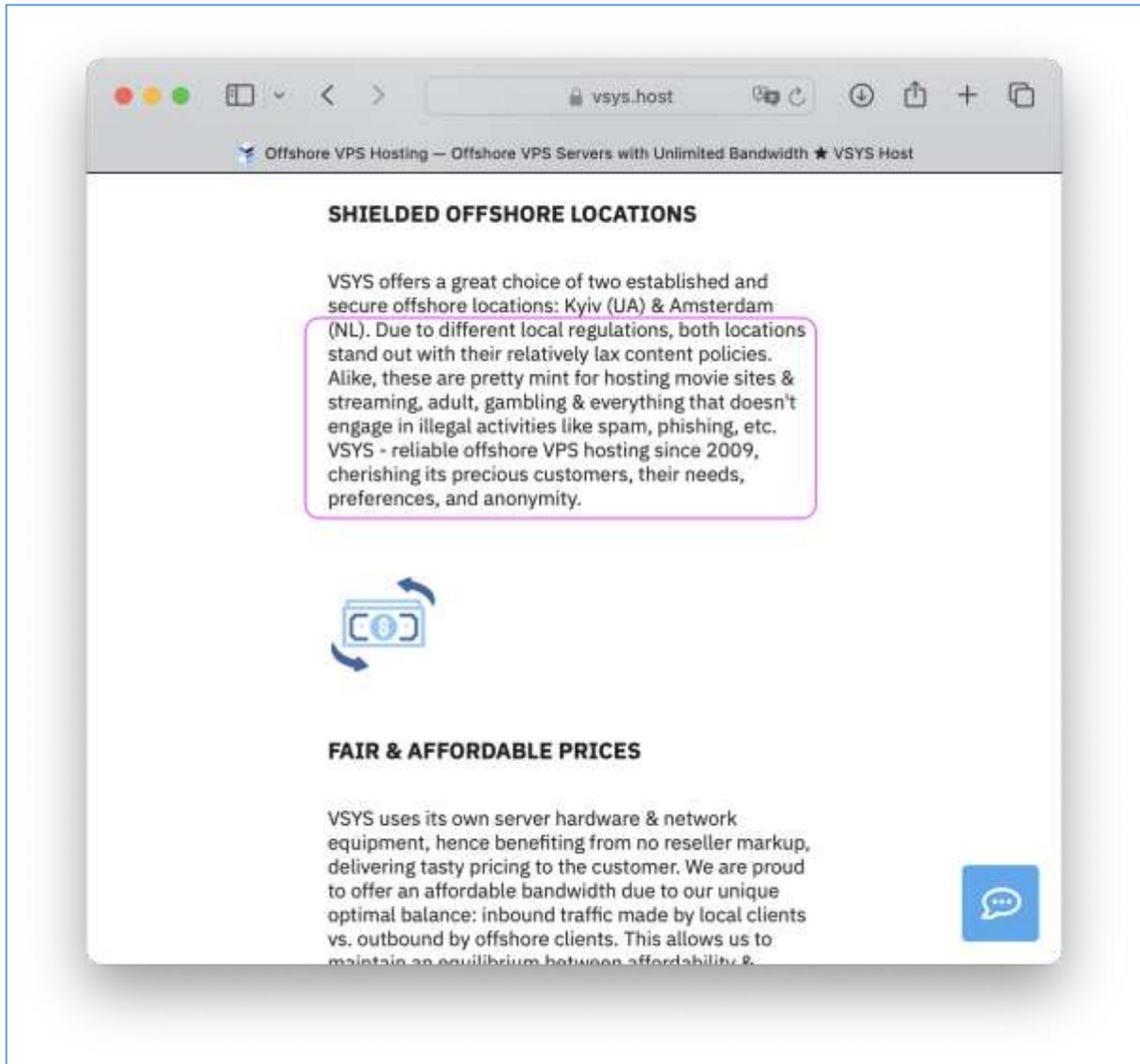


Figure 12 Excerpt from Virtual Systems website

beIN and Miramax propose that Virtual Systems be included in the Notorious Markets list.

- **BestDC Ltd (AS216014)**

The corporate structure of Best DC Ltd. is typical of a hosting provider claiming to be offshore. The company is registered with RIPE NCC and has a London address (figure 13), which is a domestic dwelling (figure 14) but with a website domain name using a Swiss TLD (bestdc.ch). It is unclear how customers can purchase services from BestDC as the website is defunct (figure 15)

Best DC Ltd. is responsible for providing access to a significant amount of infringing content and ignores legitimate takedown requests.

Highlight RIPE NCC managed values

```

organisation: ORG-BA1599-RIPE
org-name: BestDC Limited
country: GB
org-type: OTHER
address: 35 Firs Avenue, Lonon N11 3NE
remarks: send all abuse reports to abuse@bestdc.ch
abuse-c: AA42213-RIPE
mnt-ref: BestDc__12-MNT
mnt-ref: MNT-NETERRA
mnt-ref: MY-WEB-MNT
mnt-by: BestDc__12-MNT
created: 2023-11-03T16:33:02Z
last-modified: 2023-11-22T13:29:52Z
source: RIPE# Filtered
  
```

RIPE Database Software Version 1.113.2

Figure 13 RIPE Database record excerpts for BestDC

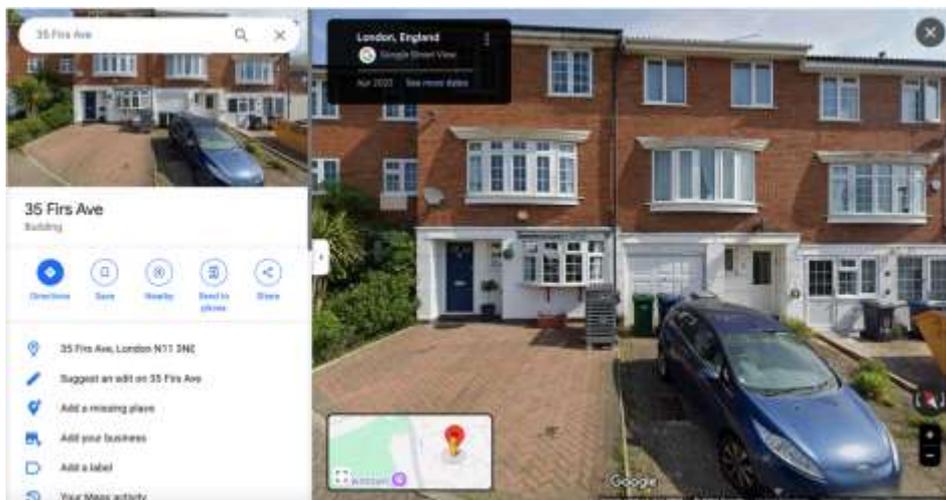


Figure 14



### This site can't be reached

Check if there is a typo in bestdc.ch.

DNS\_PROBE\_FINISHED\_NXDOMAIN

Reload

Figure 15

beIN and Miramax propose that Best DC be included in the Notorious Markets list.

- **Private Layer (AS 51852)**

The corporate structure of Private Layer is typical of a hosting provider claiming to be off-shore. The company provides an outward impression of operating from Switzerland (website: [privatelayer.com](http://privatelayer.com), figure 15). However, RIPE registration details state the company, and its owners are located in Panama City (Edificio Don Tin, Office 306, Ave Cuba, Calidonia, figure16).

Private Layer and Swiss Global are responsible for hosting large amounts of infringing content and ignoring legitimate takedown requests.



Figure 15



Figure 16

beIN and Miramax propose that Best DC be included in the Notorious Markets list.

Should USTR have any questions or require any further information, beIN and Miramax remain at your disposal.