

SWISS CONTENT PIRATES SHUT DOWN IN MULTI-AGENCY RAID

Large-scale piracy of copyrighted works were flourishing in Switzerland, to the detriment of legitimate content providers.

Overview: When Canal+ Group realized that 77,000 TV episodes and 7,000 movies from their catalog were being syphoned off by KBoxServ and streamed to tens of thousands of KBoxServ subscribers there was not a lot of strong recourse available due to the Swiss media laws of the time.

The Service: By 2020, KBox was operating in the open, hosting servers in multiple countries: France, Germany, Monaco, The Netherlands, and Switzerland, and actively promoting their services via social media, retail outlets, and their website. Subscribers paid a one-time fee of 160 USD for a preconfigured KBox device, some likely believing the service was legitimate, and others knowing it was too good to be true, but willing to take a chance. By November 2020, KBox was streaming content to approximately 20,000 IPTV devices, for an estimated revenue of 3 million USD.

New Laws Introduced: Suddenly, all that changed. Switzerland passed strict new anti-piracy laws, enabling Canal+ Group to take legal action. One of their first steps was to enlist NAGRA's Anti-Piracy Litigation and Investigation team, composed of lawyers and former police officers, armed with decades of field operations and online investigation experience, to build their case.

Winning Combination: NAGRA's Anti-Piracy Intelligence and Investigations team, with their worldwide presence and their technological, investigative expertise, fully supports law enforcement in the fight to successfully restore and protect the rights of content owners.

NAGRA KUDELSKI PORTFOLIO SPOTLIGHT:

CLIENT



COUNTRY



SOLUTION

ANTI-PIRACY SERVICES:
INTELLIGENCE &
INVESTIGATIONS



The Kudelski Group has been a valuable partner in the fight against piracy on a global level to help us not only protect content owner rights but ensure we can continue to deliver high-quality content to our subscribers. Together we are sending a clear sign that piracy of protected content is theft.”

- **Celine Boyer**,
Head of Content Protection,
Canal+ Group



VALUE DELIVERED

ECOSYSTEM EXPLORER

Using NAGRA's Ecosystem Explorer, part of the world's most effective anti-piracy intelligence platform, the team traced connections to each illegal server to identify connected devices and followed them back to their sources. They also used the OSINT (Open Source Intelligence methodology) to review search engine data, social networks, websites, pirate forums, and the deep and dark webs for details they could use to pinpoint assets and perpetrators.

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

NAGRA uncovered the full scope of the KBox operation, and helped create a compelling dossier, providing key evidence to support the criminal complaint. On November 10, 2020, a joint effort by local police, Europol, and Eurojust, blocked KBoxServe's website, shut down 11 servers, seized eight Swiss bank accounts, and arrested three perpetrators.

RESULTS

KBoxServ pirating stopped, and full control over the content was restored to the Canal+ Group. The perpetrators who had eight bank accounts in Switzerland face a potentially long custodial sentence, plus a significant monetary penalty. This example of fine-tuned collaboration between stakeholders and international law enforcement demonstrates that the battle against piracy is winnable, when key entities work together.