



With support from Vrio Corp.

Historic: international criminal cooperation blocks more than 600 websites and 19 audiovisual piracy apps

Logistically based in Brasilia, there was coordination with Argentina, Peru, the United States and the United Kingdom. It was the sixth phase of the so-called operation 404. There were dozens of raids and blockades of pirate services affecting the audiovisual, music and gaming industries.

Brasilia, November 30, 2023. An estimated 606 websites and 19 applications for mobile devices and Smart TV that were illegally retransmitting audiovisual content and violating intellectual property rights were shut down by the courts in Brazil, Argentina, Peru, the United States and the United Kingdom, in an unprecedented operation on the same day and at the same time.

In addition, 24 simultaneous raids were carried out in 12 Brazilian states and 1 in Argentina to dismantle services and criminal organizations linked to audiovisual piracy and money laundering, among other crimes.

The data corresponds to the sixth phase of Operation 404, a long-running operation in Brazil. In the raids technological equipment was seized with which the criminally accused developed audiovisual piracy activities, an illegal action that puts millions of users at risk, affects the creation of jobs in the industry and harms tax collection.

The action, which had its monitoring center in Brasilia, was part of an international penal mobilization coordinated by the Brazilian Ministry of Justice and Public Security, the Brazilian Civil Police and security forces from the United Kingdom, Peru, the United States and, for the first time, Argentina.

It was the first time that Argentina joined in an international criminal coordination against the crime of audiovisual piracy. The representative in Brasilia was Alejandro Musso, head of the Specialized Prosecutor's Unit for the Investigation of Cybercrime (UFEIC, by its acronym in Spanish) of Buenos Aires, who has been investigating cases for these crimes with successful results in the country.

Jorge Bacaloni, president of the Alliance Against Audiovisual Piracy (Alianza) and regional Anti-Piracy manager of Vrio Corp. (parent company of DIRECTV Latin America and SKY), along with Luciana Muller, director of Institutional Relations of SKY, were at the Monitoring Center in Brasilia following the international operation in detail.

Since its inception in 2019, Operation 404 has accumulated 2,580 sites and 747 blocked applications considering pirated retransmissions of audiovisual content, music and also from the gaming industry, with 152 raids to disrupt criminal organizations related to audiovisual piracy. All this with the participation of 5 countries and 20 Brazilian federative units.

Bacaloni commented: "Our companies cooperate very actively with Justice and governments to detect, investigate and denounce piracy, considering that it is a transversal crime that not only discourages investment and finances other reprehensible criminal activities, but also



affects companies that generate jobs, the States that see their revenue diminished to meet the demands of society and users, compromising their personal data and putting them at high risk of different types of fraud and scams".

In this sense, Musso pointed out that digital piracy "is not a minor crime" since it affects hundreds of thousands of people, either directly because users often consume these sites or applications without knowing that they are illegal; and also the authors, since their intellectual property rights are violated. "The prosecution is very important", commented Musso, who agreed with Bacaloni that the articulated action of the public and private sectors is key to fight this crime.

Vrio Corp. has been promoting investigations and complaints in all the countries where it operates its satellite TV services and live and on-demand content transmission through its live TV and streaming platform DGO.

The operation carried out in Argentina this week as part of operation 404 was thanks to an investigation developed by DIRECTV's Anti-Piracy and Asset Protection areas, within the framework of a project developed in collaboration with Tigo Sports Paraguay, against a supplier of signals for illegal Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) services that called itself "Prisma TV" and was, in turn, a reseller of accounts for such services. There was one arrest and seizure of crypto-assets.

In addition, Vrio Corp. is a founding member of Alianza together with other companies and associations operating in the Latin American market and, through SKY, also of the Brazilian Association of Pay TV (ABTA, by its acronym in Portuguese), which recently was key for the National Telecommunications Agency (Anatel, by its acronym in Portuguese) to inaugurate in Brasilia its Anti-Piracy Laboratory, specialized in the analysis of clandestine TV Box equipment.

About VRIO CORP

Vrio is the leading media and technology company in Latin America and the Caribbean in digital entertainment services, content production, information and connectivity with subscribers in 11 countries. It offers high-quality live and on demand content through DIRECTV Latin America, SKY Brasil and DGO, with sporting events, international events and exclusive programming in Brazil through the SKY brand and in Argentina, Barbados, Chile, Colombia, Curaçao, Ecuador, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay through the DIRECTV brand. DGO is its subscription service (OTT) via the Internet that provides access to a variety of live and on demand programming in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay. The company also offers fiber optic internet through DFIBRA in Argentina and Peru and SKY Fibra in Brazil; and has state-of-the-art satellites and transmission centers, thanks to which it is able to deliver a wide variety of content to homes in 4k format. The company also controls Torneos y Competencias in Argentina and Colombia. For more information, please visit: www.vriocorp.com