

BREAKING

T411, France's Most-Visited Torrent Site, Has Been Shut Down

BY ANDY ON JUNE 27, 2017

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T411, France's most-visited torrent site, has been shut down by police in France and Sweden. With millions of users, the platform was a true giant and a top 50 site in France, period. Two Ukrainians have been arrested under suspicion of copyright infringement and money laundering offenses. Servers have been seized from a hosting company in Sweden.

As the number one torrent site among French speakers and one of the most popular sites in France, T411's rise to stardom is the product of more than a decade of twists and turns.



After a prolonged battle against 31 Canadian media organizations including the CRIA, the administrator of a torrent site known as QuebecTorrent [closed its doors](#) in 2008 after the handing down of a permanent injunction.

"I just wanna say thanks to all the people who supported the cause and me all along," admin Sebastian Doditz told TorrentFreak at the time.

Initially, it was believed that the 109,000 members of the site would be left homeless but shortly after another torrent site appeared. Called Torrent411 with the slogan The Torrent Yellow Pages ([411 is Canada's version](#)), it launched with around 109,000 members – the number that QuebecTorrent closed with.

No surprise then that all QuebecTorrent user accounts had been transferred to T411, including ratios and even some content categories that were previously excluded due to copyright holder disputes.

"Welcome to one and all!" a notice on the site read. "It is with great pleasure that we launch the Torrent411.com site today. All the team of Torrent411.com wishes you the most cordial of welcomes! Here you will find all the torrents imaginable which will be for you for thousands of hours to come! Filled with surprises that await you!"

Even following its resurrection, pressure on the site continued to build. In 2011, it was forced to move to T411.me, to avoid problems with its .com domain, but against the odds, it continued to grow.

As shown in the image to the right (courtesy [OpenTrackers](#)), in 2013 the site had more than 5.3 million members, 336,000 torrents, and 4.7m seeders. That made it a significant site indeed.

Nombre Total de Membres:	5,361,539
Nombre Total de Torrents:	336,286
Transferts Actifs:	4,797,646
Nombre de Seeders:	4,723,483
Nombre de Leechers:	74,163

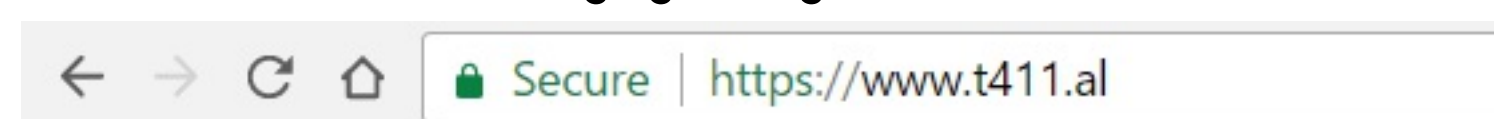
In early 2015, the site decided to [move again](#), from .me to .io, following action to have the site [blocked in France](#).

But later in the year, there was yet more trouble when the site found itself reported to the United States Trade Representative, identified as a "rogue site" [by the RIAA](#).

With a number of copyright holders on its back, it's clear that T411's troubles weren't going away anytime soon, but now there's a crisis from which the site is unlikely to recover.

On Sunday, T411 simply stopped responding on its latest T411.al domain. No warning and no useful messages have been forthcoming from its operators. For a site of this scale and resilience, that's not something one expects.

Message greeting site visitors



503 Service Unavailable

No server is available to handle this request.

Even though the site itself has been down, there have been some very basic signs of life. For example, the site's Wiki [remained operational](#) which indicates the T411.al domain is at least partially intact, at least for now. But for those hoping for good news, none will be forthcoming.

Moments ago, French journalist [Tristan Brossat](#) confirmed that T411 has been shut down in a joint operation between French and Swedish police.

He reports that "the brains" behind the site (reportedly two Ukrainians) have been arrested. Servers hosted at a Swedish company have been seized.

Anti-piracy activity against France-connected torrent sites has been high during recent months. Last November, torrent icon What.cd [shutdown](#) following action by French authorities.

Soon after, the cybercrime unit of the French military police targeted the country's largest pirate site, Zone-Telechargement ([1,2](#)).

Update: A source familiar with developments informs TF that a one of those arrested in Sweden was a developer. In France, he reports that moderators have been arrested.

Update2: The arrests in Sweden took place in the Huddinge Municipality in Stockholm County, east central Sweden. The men are said to be around 30-years-old and are suspected of copyright infringement and money laundering offenses.

Update3: Six people have been arrested so far, with more at large.

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