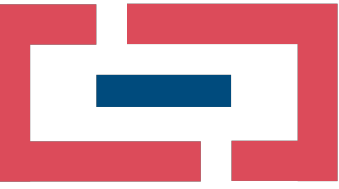


Blocking and Censoring the Italian Internet for Football Reasons

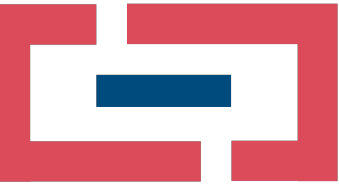
An Explanation and History

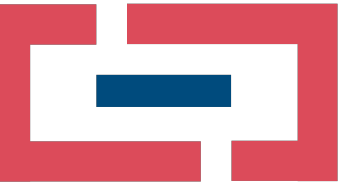
We all love football here, right?

This is a story

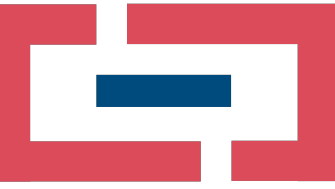


- Of how a small group of (influential) people can convince a country to implement draconian filtering rules
- And of how this can easily go wrong
- All in the name of football



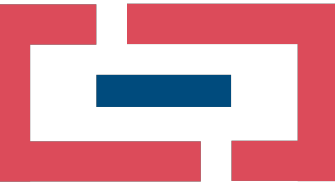


Hi! We have a problem! People are watching our SerieA matches illegally on the Internet! We must do something!



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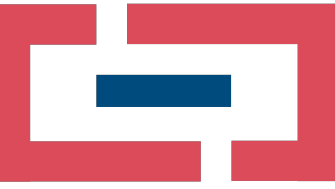
I have an idea. Give me 10 minutes...



Hi! We have a problem! People are watching our SerieA matches illegally on the Internet! We must do something!

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I talked to my IT expert here. We can force the ISPs to block those sites, and people won't be able to watch matches anymore!



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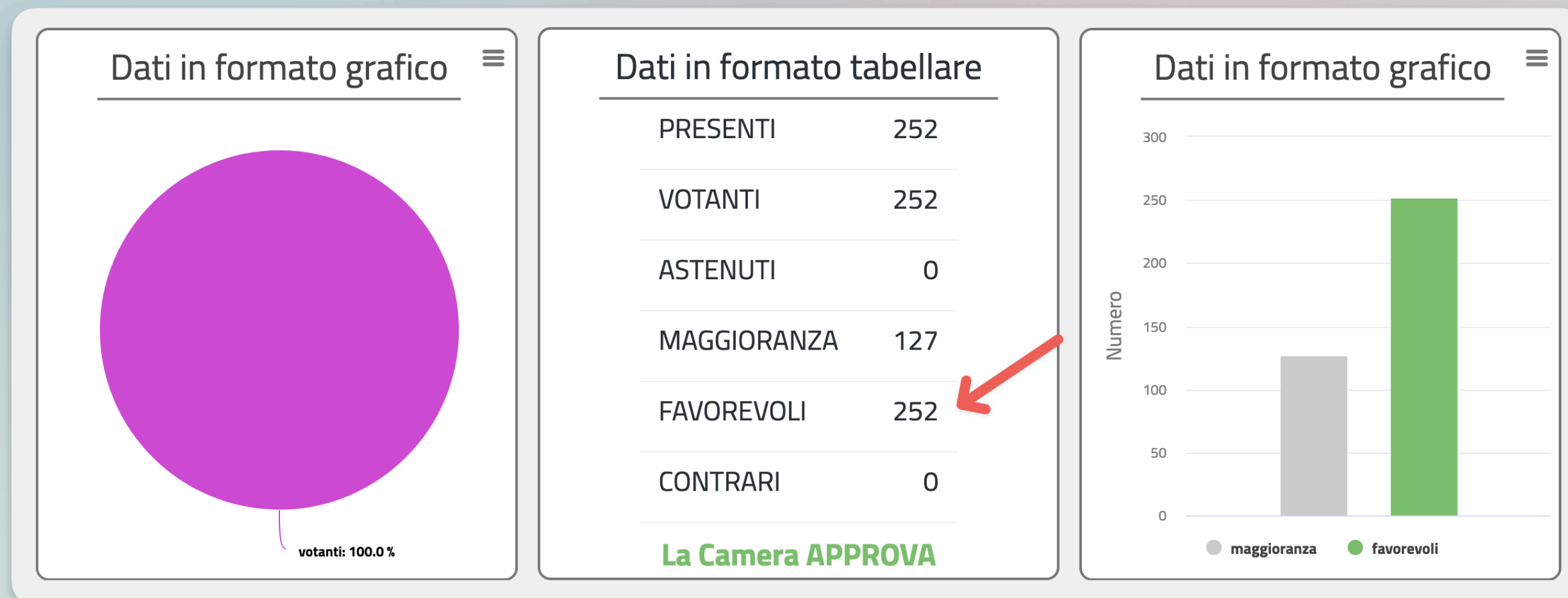
Excellent! I'm looking forward to recover our losses and create more jobs!

It all started...

- Law 93/2023, voted 12 July

- Unanimously approved by both Chamber and Senate

- <https://www.normattiva.it/uri-res/N2Ls?urn:nir:stato:legge:2023-07-14;93>



Seduta n. 86 del 12 luglio 2023 - votazione elettronica

Oggetto: votazione finale

L'Assemblea del Senato «vota normalmente per alzata di mano». È quanto detta l'articolo 113 (secondo comma) del [Regolamento del Senato](#).

Come specificato nel titolo, le votazioni elencate in questa pagina sono quelle avvenute mediante il dispositivo elettronico. Per tutte le informazioni sui sistemi di voto in vigore in Senato, vedi gli articoli del Regolamento dal 107 al 120 ([Capo XIII](#))

[<< Torna all'elenco delle votazioni](#)

Presidente: [Gian Marco CENTINAIO](#)

Presenti: 141

In congedo o in missione: 35

Numero legale: 87

Maggioranza: 71

Votanti: 140

Favorevoli: 140

Contrari: 0

Astenuti: 0

Esito: **Approvato**

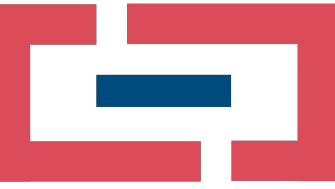
Hanno votato a favore:

[\(elenco\) >](#)

In congedo o in missione:

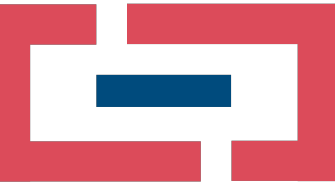
[\(elenco\) >](#)

Law 93/2023



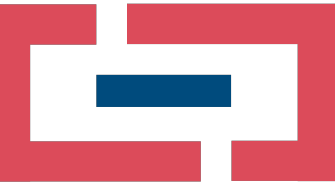
- ISPs are ordered to block FQDNs and IP Addresses as told by authorities
 - IP Addresses where the illegal activity is **the sole activity*** for which the IP is used
- The blocks need to happen in 30 minutes from the moment data is published
- Copyright holders are the ones in charge of communicating these addresses
- AGCOM is in charge of providing a platform to communicate these blocks

The platform



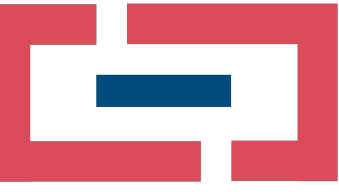
- Donated to AGCOM by SP Tech
 - A branch of Studio Previti, a legal counselling organisation
- Initially built to support 18k FQDN (law-imposed limit)
- ISPs needed to build their own solution to query the platform and create their own router configs
- Specifications changed many times, leading to initial chaos

The ticketing system

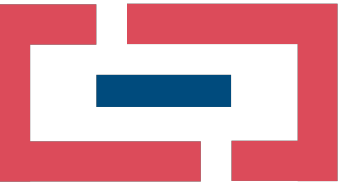


- Copyright holders have access to create “tickets”
 - They contain IP Addresses and/or FQDNs
- ISPs query the system, download the latest tickets and apply the filtering
 - This needs to be done in 30 minutes

Block removal

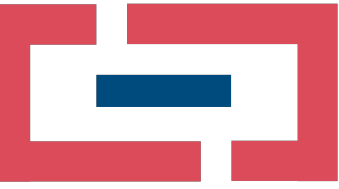


Block removal



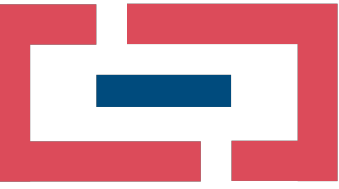
Not Possible*

Block removal



Not Possible*

With some exceptions

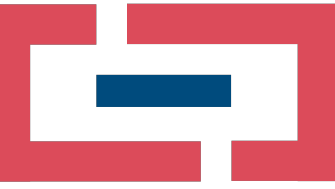


Not Possible*

With some exceptions

Very few.

Some bumps in the road



- Less than a month after “getting into service” (1st February 2024)
- An IP address from Cloudflare made it into the list...
- Tens of thousands of websites unreachable for around 40 hours from Italy

Andrea Mennillo
@handymenny

Il mio sito web dietro cloudflare (IP 188.114.97.7) da qualche minuto ha problemi di raggiungibilità dall'Italia.

Ottimo lavoro!

@AGCOMunica @Digital_Day @Monitorapa @Cloudflare

rtphonecombo.it/view/multi/?id=96f4cd1d-ef80-43a5-b386-984

Visualizzatore certificati: localhost.localdomain

Generale | Dettagli

Rilasciato a

Nome comune (CN)	localhost.localdomain
Organizzazione (O)	MyCompany
Unità organizzativa	IT

Rilasciato da

Nome comune (CN)	localhost.localdomain
Organizzazione (O)	MyCompany
Unità organizzativa	IT

Periodo di validità

Rilasciato il	sabato 5 marzo 2022 alle ore 2
Scade il	martedì 2 marzo 2032 alle ore

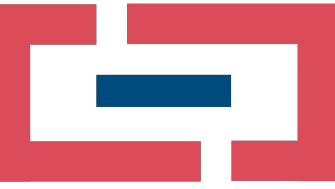
AVVISO

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vedimento dell'Autorità p
mento di cui alla delibera
ori informazioni visiti il sito w

5:01 PM · 24 feb 2024 · 28.864 visualizzazioni

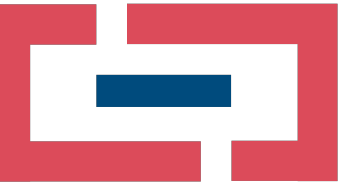
27 47 175 12

Some bumps in the road

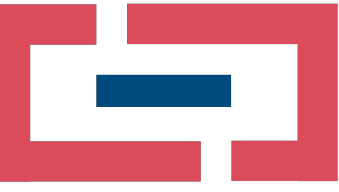


- Zenlayer also had some of its addresses make into the list...
- In a few months, about 17k other addresses had the same fate...

How can you complain?

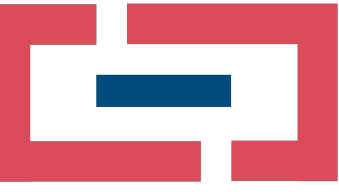


How can you complain?



You can't*

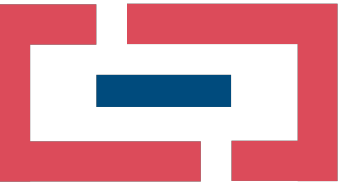
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Well, maybe.

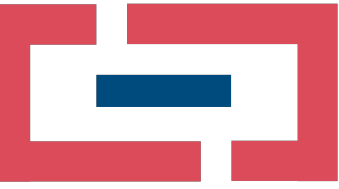
How can you complain?



You can't*

Well, maybe.
Yes.

How can you complain?



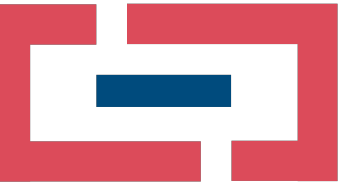
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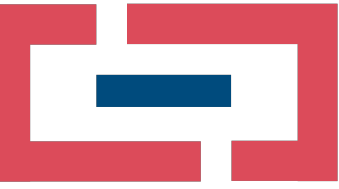
Yes.

But there's no formal way

Is the list public?

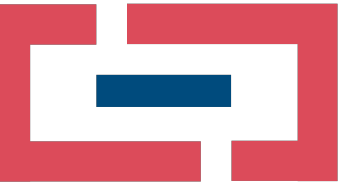


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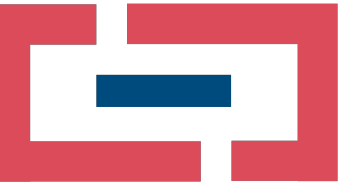
No.

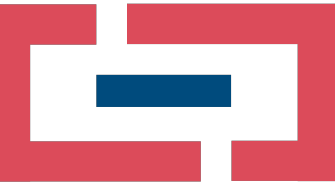
Is the list public?



No.

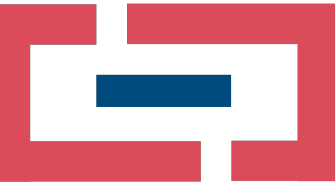
Even FOIA requests to access it have been denied





Hey! There are still too many people watching illegal streaming! What can we do now?

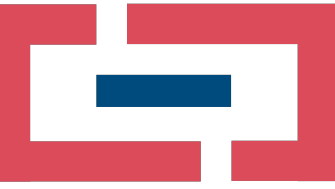
We promised 9400 new jobs and 1.7 billion euros more to the broadcasters...



Hey! There are still too many people watching illegal streaming! What can we do now?

We promised 9400 new jobs and 1.7 billion euros more to the broadcasters...

We can be more aggressive!
I have a great proposal coming up!



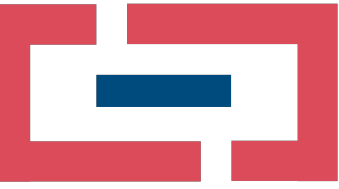
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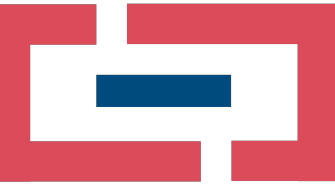
Excellent!

New law/regulation (October 2024)



- IP addresses need to be used predominantly for illegal activities
 - Not the sole activity...
 - There is an official unblock concept now
- VPN and DNS providers are also subject to applying filtering
 - Independently of where they are located
 - If located outside the EU, every org providing service to Italians need to have a representative
- If an ISP has any suspicion or indication of illegal activity from a user, they need to contact the police
 - Otherwise they risk 1 year in jail

Then, on October 19th...



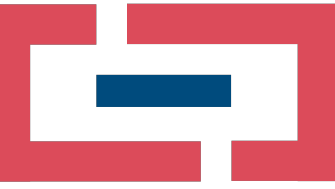
The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar containing "drive.usercontent.google.com". The page content is centered and reads:

AVVISO

L'accesso al presente sito, che diffondeva illecitamente contenuti protetti dal diritto d'autore, è stato disabilitato in esecuzione di un provvedimento dell'Autorità per le garanzie nelle comunicazioni ai sensi del Regolamento di cui alla delibera n. 680/13/CONS

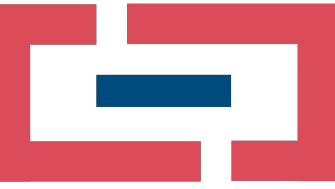
Per maggiori informazioni visiti il sito www.agcom.it

Google Drive!



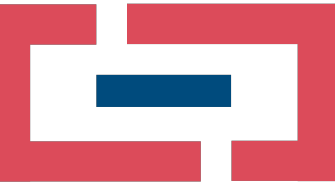
- At 18:56 on 19th of October, a copyright holder decided that google drive needed to be put on the list
 - As a FQDN (drive.usercontent.google.com)
- Speculation is that some lists of streaming sites were hosted there
- Block was removed at about 00:20 on 20th of October
- This of course caused plenty of discussions

The situation now...



- Imperva incapsula IP addresses made it to the list...
- List is now about 17k FQDNs long (25k total counting the unblocked ones)
- And 6k IP addresses (8k total including the unblocked)

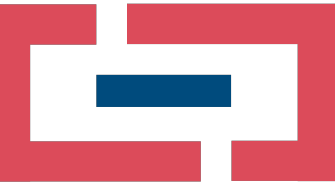
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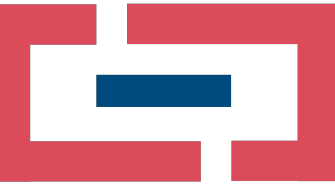
NO IPv6!

Other small bumps in the road...



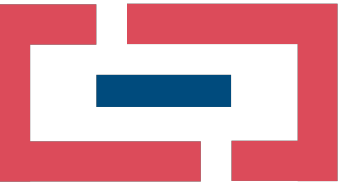
- An ISP's block notification page has also made it to the list of blocked entities
 - We like to call it "inception blocking"
- A commissary from AGCOM (General Agency for Communication) claimed that Google didn't participate in any meeting, so they can't be "put on a whitelist"
- The government is now trying to force them to join a working group

A shiny future ahead...

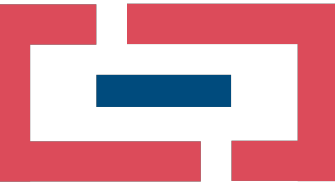


- There is apparently a new platform in the works...
- The number of RIPE Atlas probes has been declining
 - If your probe is used to test accessibility of blocked resources, you might be charged...
- Operators are now left with more and more questions

This talk was possible thanks to



- Matteo Contrini (matteosonoio.it)
- Flavio Luciani
- Stefano Quintarelli (<https://blog.quintarelli.it>)
- Giorgio Bonfiglio
- Antonio Prado
- The ITNOG Community



Questions?

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@stucchimax@social.secret-wg.org