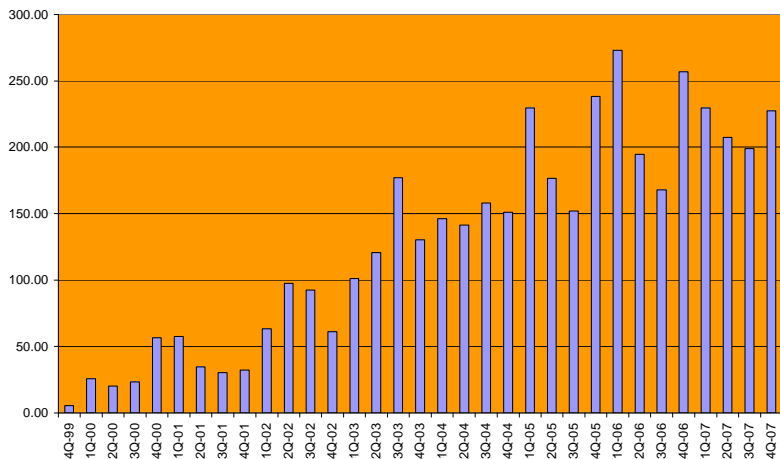


Introduction

This is the 5th report of the ISPai www.hotline.ie service, which was established in November 1999 to combat illegal content, especially child pornography, existing on the Internet. The full report covering the period from 1st January to 31st December 2007 is available online at <http://www.hotline.ie/5threport>.

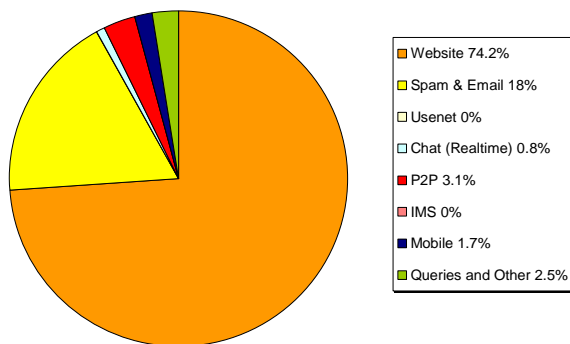
Reporting Level

In the period from 1st January 2007 to 31st December 2007 the Hotline processed 2,590 reports. This is a decrease of 3.25% on the 2,677 processed in 2006. The Hotline has now dealt with some 12,836 reports since it was established in November 1999.



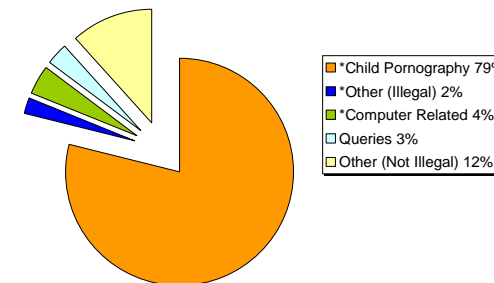
Internet Service to Which Reports Referred

The Hotline received 1912 reports in relation to websites, which represents an increase of 22% in comparison to 2006. At the same time, the number of the reports about unsolicited email (or spam) decreased from 950 to 466, or 51%. This represents the continued downward trend in the reporting of spam which began in 2006.



Suspicion and Determination

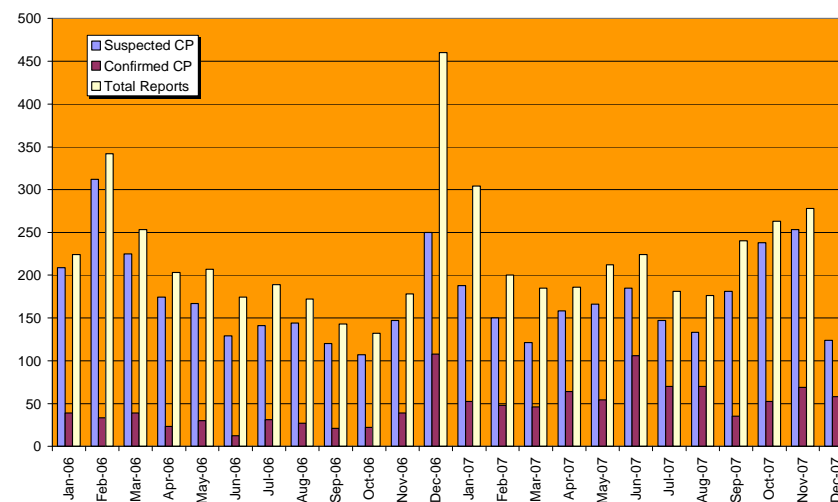
In 2007, the suspicion given or implied by reporters in 2,044 reports (79% of all reports submitted) was child pornography. Of these 2,044 reports, the Hotline analysts determined that 718, or 35%, were indeed child pornography.



*Child Pornography includes: Child Grooming, Child Erotica, Child Trafficking, and Child Sex Tourism
 *Other (Illegal) includes: Drugs related, Promoting Violence or Hatred, Racism, or Terrorist Activities
 *Computer Related includes: Financial Scams and Virus Attack

None of the reports assessed by the Hotline as illegal under the Irish Child Trafficking and Pornography Act (1998) was hosted in or distributed from the Republic of Ireland.

As can be seen from the next graph, averaged over 2007, 28% of reports received were assessed as probably illegal child pornography. The average for 2006, on the other hand, was much lower, at 15.8% of all reports.

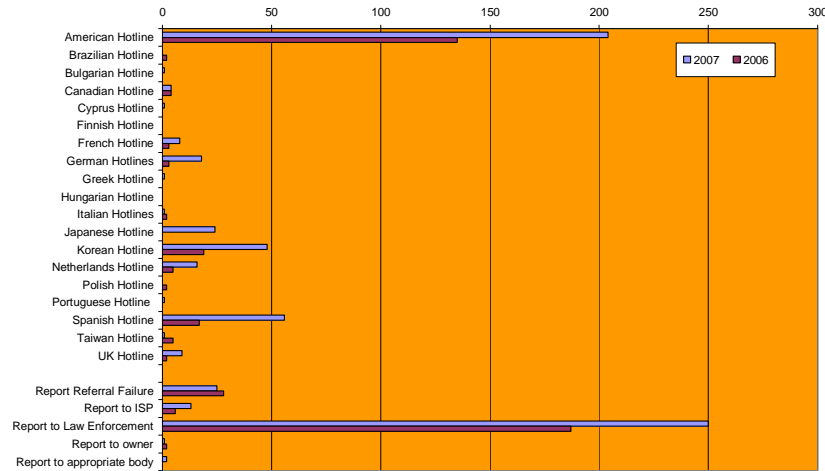


ISPai Members (not in any particular order)



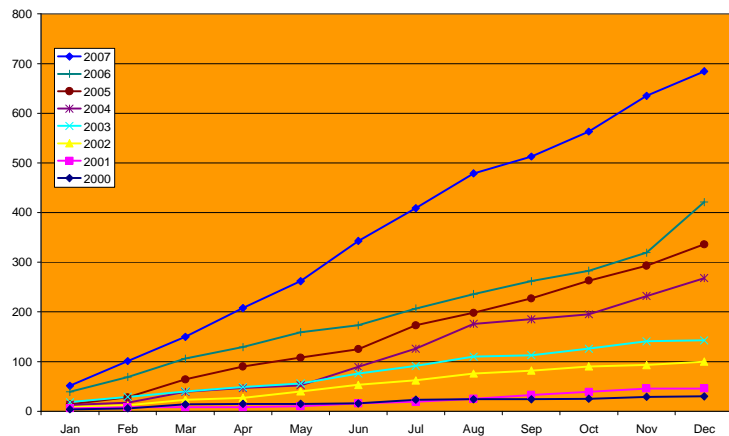
Forwarding of Reports

Most of the reports determined as probably illegal under Irish Law were traced as apparently located in either the USA (222 reports) or Russia (207 reports). As there is no INHOPE member hotline currently in Russia, these reports were passed on to An Garda Síochána, who in turn liaise with international police organisations, such as Interpol and Europol, to forward information about illegal content to the appropriate jurisdiction.



Trend Analysis

Of the 828 reports determined to be illegal by Hotline in 2007, 718 of these were confirmed as child pornography or other illegal child content. This proportion is a massive increase on previous years as the graph below demonstrates. It is clear that in every single year since its inception, Hotline.ie has received proportionately more reports of confirmed child pornography and other illegal child content.



Conclusions

At the end of 2007, the Hotline had received 12,836 reports since its establishment in November 1999. Although the level of reporting was slightly down on 2007, a relatively consistent upward trend of reporting has been achieved over the eight years of the Hotline's operation. Most importantly in 2007, accurate public reporting to the Hotline has resulted in 62% more illegal content than in 2006 being forwarded on to appropriate authorities for action. While all were found to be from outside Ireland, we have contributed very strongly to the disruption of paedophile and other criminal activity on the Internet.

Anecdotal observations made by the Hotline analysts reveal that much of the content being determined as illegal, particularly for child pornography, is of an increasing level of severity. It is important to note, however, that illegal material of this nature still makes up only a miniscule percentage of all material available on the Internet, and the likelihood of users, especially children, coming across it accidentally is extremely low. This sort of material is nearly always hidden at the "deep web" level.

Analysts are still concerned about the lack of reporting from the public regarding Peer to Peer (P2P) services. It is via P2P sites that Analysts have seen some of the most disturbing and abusive images of children, and, when they have searched for a file that has been reported, it is clear that many files on P2P services are, if nothing else, very suspiciously named.

It is extremely heartening to see that for the eighth year running Ireland has maintained its clean record with no reported material to either the Irish hotline or any international hotline being found as originating from or being hosted in Ireland. This suggests that measures being taken by the ISPAI and its members are proving successful in making it too difficult or risky for people to conduct this sort of illegal activity from Ireland. To assist keeping up the attack on illegal content and, in the case of child pornography, helping to prevent the sexual exploitation of innocent children, it is vital that the public do not ignore suspected illegal content they encounter but report it to the Hotline.

Summary 2007 Data

- 2590** Total reports of suspected illegal content including derived reports
- 1912** Reports in relation to web sites
- 2044** Reports citing Child Pornography as the suspicion
- 828** Determined as referring to illegal content
- 718** Assessed as probably illegal Child Pornography
- 393** Forwarded to INHOPE Hotlines
- 250** Forwarded to Law Enforcement

ISPAI Members (not in any particular order)

