

# **Steal this Research Paper:**

## **A case study of The Pirate Bay as a political entity.**

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### **Abstract**

Since the case between Napster and A&M Records Inc. brought Peer-to-Peer filesharing into the public consciousness the use of torrents by internet users to acquire all kinds of media has grown exponentially. This research paper is concerned with the motivations of the creators of torrent indexing sites like Napster and The Pirate Bay and also with the motivations of the people that use them. What is of particular interest is the investigation into whether these motivations have any political basis or not.

The chapter on copyright law gives a brief account of copyright history as it pertains to 'piracy' in particular. This is followed by a summary of current copyright law and focuses on the main rights and civil remedies available to the creators of works.

The relevant protocols and networks involved in Peer-to-Peer filesharing are then addressed. Following on from this, is a history of The Pirate Bay, from its humble beginnings, to its court battles and up to the present day. The second half of the chapter on The Pirate Bay is concerned specifically with the politics of its founders and those that use the site.

The final chapter draws on the theories of Karl Marx in an attempt to ascertain some of the broader political implications of filesharing on the Internet.