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SAFEWEB BLOCKED BY SAUDI GOVERNMENT

Internet Privacy Technology Company Attracts International Attention Just Weeks After Launch

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (December 19, 2000) -- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia blocked access to SafeWeb (www.safeweb.com), a leading provider of online privacy solutions, as early as last week in an effort to prevent its citizens from accessing the Internet free of governmental controls.

SafeWeb's privacy technology enables Internet users to surf the Web anonymously, thereby protecting them from unauthorized intrusions into their online activities and communications. SafeWeb acts as an intermediary, encrypting all data transmitted between an individual's computer and the Web sites visited. Anyone with Internet access can use the free service by going to the SafeWeb home page at www.safeweb.com.

"When we set out to build the SafeWeb technology, we quickly realized the socially transformational effects it could have on closed societies like China, Iran and Saudi Arabia," said Stephen Hsu, co-founder and CEO of SafeWeb. "We have been working to develop technology to fight censorship and promote freedom of expression. A significant portion of our traffic is coming from highly regulated countries, and we are pleased to see that our efforts are beginning to make a difference in the international community."

Although the launch of the SafeWeb site has enabled users around the world to surf the Web privately and securely, it has also prompted the governments of highly restrictive countries, such as Saudi Arabia, to take countermeasures. According to Hsu, SafeWeb's effectiveness and growing popularity has caused an increasing number of corporations and governments to block access to its site.

The Oakland, California-based company has doubled its user base since launching its service in October, and company officials state that demand is on pace to double every six weeks. Before the government blocked access to the SafeWeb site, a significant and rapidly growing number of Saudi Arabia's 300,000 Internet users were using SafeWeb to surf to Internet privately.

"I have been able to use SafeWeb to access the many sites that have been blocked by my government, such as chat rooms and international news sites," wrote one concerned Saudi Arabian citizen in an e-mail correspondence. "I understand that SafeWeb is working on a new version of the technology that will be impossible to block, and I am thankful for their commitment to fighting censorship in my country."

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia began offering Internet services to the public in 1999, routing all the connections through a data center (Internet Service Provider), located in the King Abdul Aziz City for Science and Technology. Prior to this, the Saudi government spent two years developing the infrastructure necessary to block all forbidden information

from this medium of communication, such offensive rap music or discussions of opposition to the royal family.

"We expected that certain countries might someday prevent their citizens from accessing our service," said Jon Chun, co-founder and president of SafeWeb. "However, we did not expect it to happen so soon. It has certainly inspired us to complete and deploy the second phase of our technology, which will make it impossible for any government or company to block access to SafeWeb, or to censor the free flow of information online."

SafeWeb's patent-pending privacy technology enables Internet users to control their online privacy in an easy-to-use and effective manner, free of cost and free of downloads, simply by going to www.safeweb.com. This technology, dubbed PrivacyMatrix, employs the same encryption technology used by banks and financial institutions in secure transactions, but applies it to all online activities so that users receive the highest level of privacy protection available whenever they surf the Web.

About SafeWeb

Launched in 2000, SafeWeb (www.safwebinc.com) is a leading developer of online privacy solutions. SafeWeb was born out of the founders' needs to protect vital research documents from hacker attacks and security intrusions on their computer networks. They set out to build infrastructure-level technologies to protect the content stream of each and every user on the Internet. Two of SafeWeb's founders are of Chinese and Iranian descent and are seriously concerned about the heavy policing of Internet usage in those countries. Their mission through SafeWeb is to eliminate the abuse of Internet privacy that is rampant in the U.S. and around the world and enable people everywhere to enjoy a secure, private Internet.

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