The IP address is dead!

Long live the IP address!

66.171.248.170

2001:0db8:85a3:0000:0000:8a2e:0370:7334
Andrew Pitts, CEO, PSI Ltd

PSI is the publishing industry’s most trusted 3rd party partner company. PSI enables publishers, libraries and membership societies to work together, securely and confidentially, towards the common goals of facilitating legitimate access to scholarly content, eliminating subscription abuse, eradicating IP misuse, and combating cybercrime.

Guest Post: Think Sci-Hub is Just Downloading PDFs? Think Again

They’re phishing, hacking, and password-cracking to steal personal and research data from the world’s academic institutions. Andrew Pitts takes a hard look at Sci-Hub as, “Concept cybercriminals, not Robin Hood.”

By SCHOLARLY KIYUCHI | 3 SEP 2018 | 44 COMMENTS
“While developing PSI’s IP-Intrusion service I spent a lot of time investigating intrusions of University library systems. I can say categorically that these intrusions were not instigated through the libraries’ IP recognition gateways, but through password protected authentication systems like EZ Proxy. The IP recognition gateways are not the problem. They work well and the vast majority of libraries are resistant to the idea of changing this part of the system.”

N.B. I hope that RA21 have begun to recognise this; a recent press release contained a slight softening of the language to say they aim to “streamline the user experience ... OUTSIDE INSTITUTIONAL IP DOMAINS” (emphasis my own).
IPv4 and IPv6

“Now, six years after the World IPv6 launch there is a growing amount of IPv6 traffic on the Internet and in the next few years we might observe IPv6 internet traffic surpassing IPv4 traffic volumes for the first time.”

Many publishers and platforms are not yet ready for IPv6. They are not storing the IPv6 data that is sent to them.

ThelPregistry.org will be able to smooth the process when they are ready to accept IPv6.
IPs and OA

One issue that OA publishers are yet to tackle is how do they know who is reading their content? If they do not know this, how can they effectively target marketing, how can they identify potential authors, editors and reviewers?

One approach would be to collect data on the individuals accessing the content. This is fraught with danger in terms of data processing and legislation like the GDPR.

*Institutional IP addresses do not constitute personal data.* With the information held within theIPregistry.org publishers can identify who is reading their OA content, and where that readership is based, without collecting personal data.
**ThelPregistry.org in action**

- *ThelPregistry.org* has now been live for 18 months.
- 800 IP updates each month on average.
- Every update checked and verified by the IP registry team to maintain the integrity of the registry.
- Approximately 20% of the updates received initially contain some form of error.
- This shows how important the checking and verifying process is.

**Before we undertook our clean up of publisher data**

58% of the IP data publishers held for organisations was wrong!

Why is it important that the data is correct?

- To provide the right access to the right customers
- To ensure that usage is attributed correctly
- To ensure that usage statistics are reported accurately
- To eliminate fraudulent usage

*ThelPregistry.org* is the only registry that checks and verifies IP addresses to eliminate the errors that commonly occur.
All IP changes are vetted for:

• Correct country – this information is checked against IANA as well as the Registry itself

• Correct institution – only verified users are able to make changes for their institution. To be verified, users must access via an appropriate institutional email address or provide proof of their affiliation with the institution

• Supporting documentation and/or corroboration is required when creating associations between organisations

• Access to the Registry is by IP address validation and Username and Password to ensure it is secure

• If affiliations, foreign campuses or additional research sites for corporates are set up, an email notification will be sent to the publisher so adjustments to licenses can be made if necessary
Benefits for Publishers

• theIPregistry.org already contains over 2 billion verified IP addresses
• All new IPs are fully vetted and verified before dissemination to publishers
• IP changes can be pushed out to publisher systems automatically via API - this prevents the introduction of errors due to manual entry
• Integration of theIPregistry.org into publisher systems will save staff time and costs

*TheIPregistry.org is the only registry that checks and verifies IP addresses to eliminate the errors that commonly occur*
Benefits for Libraries

• Libraries can check the IPs that publishers use to provide access and attribute usage – the data in the registry was supplied by over 150 publishers so provides a valuable snapshot of how access is provided
• Dissemination of IP updates to multiple publishers at the click of a button
• Integration of theIPregistry.org into library work flows will save staff time and costs
For further information please contact:

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Other PSI products available include:

- **PSI IP-Intrusion Database** – join the publisher community driven fight against cybercrime
- **PSI Due Diligence Bureau** – with PSI Due Diligence Bureau publishers can demonstrate compliance
- **PSI Gap Analysis Tool** – access a databank of customers subscribing to the content of over 150 STM publishers
- **PSI OA Metrics Generator** – generating COUNTER compliant, open access usage metrics for OA publishers and university repositories
- **PSI LogFileLeads** – the log file analysis sales tool
- **PSI Naming Standards Tool** – convert meaningless data into actionable information