

## Is S'pore ready for online movie distribution wave?

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Letter from Colin Ong Tau Shien

It has been reported in AP that Hollywood studios will start selling digital versions of films such as Brokeback Mountain and King Kong on the Internet through a website, Movielink, which is owned by a number of large Western movie companies.

This move is a step towards full digital distribution of movies over the Internet and its rationale is to combat global movie piracy.

However, I have some issues about this move, especially in the context of Singapore which currently has among the world's highest Internet penetration rate and may eventually have the fastest land broadband speeds.

Firstly, there are a large number of Singaporeans who are working in the movie and movie rental industry here. So, will online distribution translate to job losses for them?

Another area of concern is the enforcement of our censorship laws.

How will the Media Development Authority mitigate the future problem of minors downloading full-length prohibited movies into their PCs or 3G phones?

Is it more effective to streamline our censorship laws with the rest of the world as this technology is an unstoppable leveller?

I hope the moral values that Singaporeans hold dear will not be eroded by this new wave of technology.

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