HTTP Status Code 451 for Legally Withheld Content: Hackathon Overview and Human Rights Considerations



## Outline

451

- Last weekend's hackathon overview
  - Awarded Best New Work
- Introduction to HTTP 451 status code
- Hackathon implementations
- Implementation Report Draft
- HRC RFC7725 Draft
- Future Plans
- Discussion

# Hackathon overview

## Team

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# Brief introduction to HTTP 451

### **HTTP 451**



- Access to resource denied because of legal demand
- Blocking server might not be origin server
- Response should include details of legal demand

## Purpose



- Making Internet censorship more transparent
- Reporting and tracking censorship easier
- Previously used status code 403 was not applicable

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# Hackathon implementations

### Implementations



### Block Crawler

- Node-based asynchronous recursing web crawler
- Recognizes 451 status and metadata, reports to collector

### • WordPress Plugin

- Plugin for WordPress CMS
- Allows a site operator to block content using 451 for specific countries & context

### Block Collector

- Reporting endpoint
- Accepts 451 status reports from crawlers, browser plugin, and wp-plugin

### Browser Extension

- Chrome extension (portable)
- Recognizes 451 status, displays info, report to collector

### • Alternative Crawler

- Python desktop app
- Records status, 451 or otherwise

### Screenshot: Block Crawler



\$ node index.js ---mode reddit http://redditlist.com/nsfw

{"date":"2017-07-16T11:45:41.273Z","creator":"block-crawler","version":"0.1","u
rl":"<u>http://reddit.com/r/twinks</u>","status":451,"statusText":"Unavailable For
Legal Reasons","blockedBy":{"rel":"blocked-by","url":"<u>https://reddit.com</u>"}}

{"date":"2017-07-16T11:45:56.535Z","creator":"block-crawler","version":"0.1","u
rl":"<u>http://reddit.com/r/gaypornhunters</u>","status":451,"statusText":"Unavailable
For Legal
Reasons","blockedBy":{"rel":"blocked-by","url":"<u>https://reddit.com</u>"}}

{"date":"2017-07-16T11:46:25.706Z","creator":"block-crawler","version":"0.1","u
rl":"<u>http://reddit.com/r/gayporn</u>","status":451,"statusText":"Unavailable For
Legal Reasons","blockedBy":{"rel":"blocked-by","url":"<u>https://reddit.com</u>"}}

## Screenshot: WordPress plugin

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#### Configure blocking / Error 451

✓ If you have to enable blocking of this content, please check the box.

Add comma-separated list of country codes where this page shall be blocked. When left empty, the content shall be blocked from all locations.

#### AU, DE, FR, CZ, US

Please specify the URL of the authority has requested the block.

http://example.com

You may optionally specify a description so that visitors know why the page is blocked. This is blocked because we are the gov

#### Settings Error Code 451

#### **Reporting Settings**

If you wish to report censorship instances to a public collector please add the URL here.

#### Example: https://registry.wirecdn.com/report

Enabling this will send the following information to the collector:

- Site Home URL

- Date and time
- Blocked URL
- Description of blocking (If provided)
- URL of Authority requesting the blocking (If provided)
- List of Countries where Content is Blocked

Reporting URL

https://registry.wirecdn.com/report

Enable client side verification. (Allow users to self-report ves over-censorship.)

Save Changes

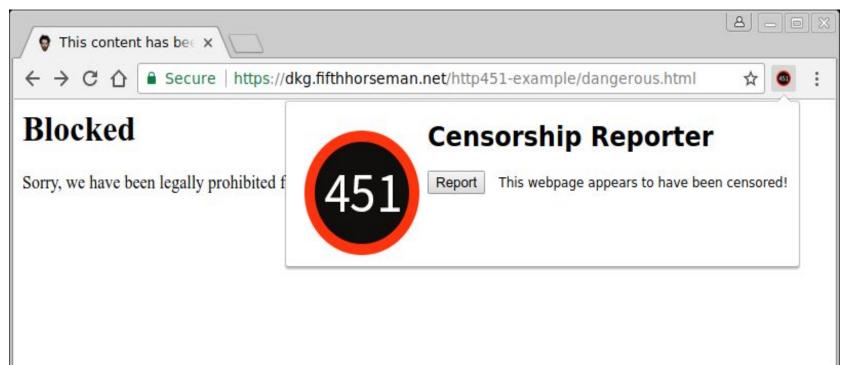
### Screenshot: Block Collector



2017-07-16T11:08:09.169Z	Q		Report ID
	O http://reddit.com/r/gayporn	[object Object]	clW95tn6AkElad5Y 🕑
a 2017-07-16T11:07:38.598Z	Http://reddit.com/r/gaypornhunters	[object Object]	WknrP52HbXMghfyM 🕑
2017-07-16T11:07:23.781Z	O http://reddit.com/r/twinks	[object Object]	u117w5QcXomvjRbM 🖸
2017-07-16T11:02:38.491Z	http://httpstat.us/451	undefined	p03lkKcldqQm0hyD 🕑
🖬 2017-07-16T11:02:32.387Z	Ittp://httpstat.us/451	undefined	zbaC8zOiqLx7Erz3 🕑
2017-07-16T11:02:26.401Z	Http://httpstat.us/451	undefined	RxkPYO70NHgo6Brw
2017-07-16T08:21:12.419Z	O https://dkg.fifthhorseman.net/http451-example/dangerous.html	undefined	eNMPe5GaDqyj83f6 🕑
2017-07-16T08:20:14.239Z	Https://dkg.fifthhorseman.net/http451-example/dangerous.html	undefined	AqlW12yGs7TTxIUW 🕑
Sites impleme	-	Papart ID	
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Date URI	Blocked in	Report ID	
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Date URI	Blocked in	Report ID	
Sites impleme	nting 451		

## Screenshot: Browser Plugin





### Screenshot: Alternative Crawler



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2017-07-16 07:33:17 [451] DEBUG: Got link: https://www.reddit.com/r/ea2k cbb/comments/60752w/future ncaacollege hoops games/?ref=readnext 2017-07-16 07:33:17 [451] DEBUG: Got link: https://www.reddit.com/r/ea2k cbb/comments/5zfh5x/college hoops 2k7 rosters/?ref=readnext 2017-07-16 07:33:17 [451] DEBUG: Got link: https://www.reddit.com/r/ea2k cbb/comments/5yvftg/i\_glitched\_the\_game\_today/?ref=readnext 2017-07-16 07:33:17 [451] DEBUG: Got link: https://www.reddit.com/r/ea2k cbb/comments/5visen/open menu dadada dun dun/?ref=readnext 2017-07-16 07:33:17 [451] DEBUG: Got link: https://www.reddit.com/r/ea2k cbb/comments/5v972p/occasionally i like to play an open legacy where/?re f=readnext 2017-07-16 07:33:17 [451] DEBUG: Got link: https://www.reddit.com/user/j oetunnev03 2017-07-16 07:33:17 [451] DEBUG: Got link: https://www.reddit.com/r/ea2k cbb/comments/5plb47/ncaa 10 or 2k8/?sort=top

# Implementation Report Draft

## Implementation Report



- Stakeholders concerned with HTTP status code 451
- Current usage
- Potential impact
- Useful features of a reporting mechanism
- Current features of 451 and suggestions
- Case studies of blocking frameworks in different countries
  - Russia, Chile, India, Iran, USA

# HRC RFC 7725 Draft

## Human rights considerations for protocols

Connectivity Visibility in a browser Privacy **Content Agnosticism** Security Internationalization Censorship Resistance **Open Standards** Heterogeneity Support Anonymity Accessibility Localization Reliability Confidentiality Integrity Authenticity Adaptability Outcome transparency



## Biggest HRC concerns



- Privacy?
- Anonymity?
- Censorship resistance?
- Security?
- Reliability?

# Future Plans

### Future Plans



- Submit implementation report draft
- Findings
- RFC7725bis
  - HRC component

## Links



- Implementation Report draft
  - https://www.ietf.org/archive/id/draft-451-imp-report-00.txt
- HRC RFC 7725 draft
  - https://www.ietf.org/archive/id/draft-manyfolks-hrcrfc7725-00.txt
- GitHub repository for hackathon
  - https://github.com/451hackathon/
- Live demonstration and dashboard
  - https://netblocks.org/dashboard/

# Discussion