



grouping of businesses that rely on a vibrant internet (which includes the ISPs, equipment manufacturers, retail distributors and a growing number of start-ups in a variety of fields).

Now with the Obama Administration statement expressing concern about the bill, it is likely that substantial amendments will be introduced. The fall-out from yesterday's blackout will in no small part help determine how extensive these amendments will be.

All in all, the protest was a huge success [see WSJ and CNN clips]. Back online this morning, Wikipedia reports that during the blackout:

- "More than 12,000 people commented on the Wikimedia Foundation's blog post announcing the blackout. A breathtaking majority supported the blackout.
- More than 162 million saw the Wikipedia blackout page.
- More than eight million looked up their elected representatives' contact information via the Wikipedia tool.
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Anti-SOPA and PIPA topics began trending globally on Twitter immediately after the blackout began. Hashtags included #factswithoutwikipedia, #SOPAstrike, and #wikipediablackout. At one point, #wikipediablackout constituted 1% of all tweets, and SOPA accounted for a quarter-million tweets hourly during the blackout.

A quick search of "SOPA blackout" on Google News produced more than 8,000 links as of this writing."

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Whether yesterday's protest and the heightened awareness it has generated was a one-time phenomena, or will it stand as a turning point in the ongoing debate remains to be seen. But SOPA/PIPA aside, there are certainly no shortages of other over-reaching measures on the table or in the works.

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