# Understanding & Combating Global Censorship with WordPress

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# What you'll learn from me

- Why and how WordPress and non-WordPress sites get blocked
- Which plugins are blocked and how they affect performance

- What to do when your site is blocked
- How to work around the censored Web

# Censorship

Government

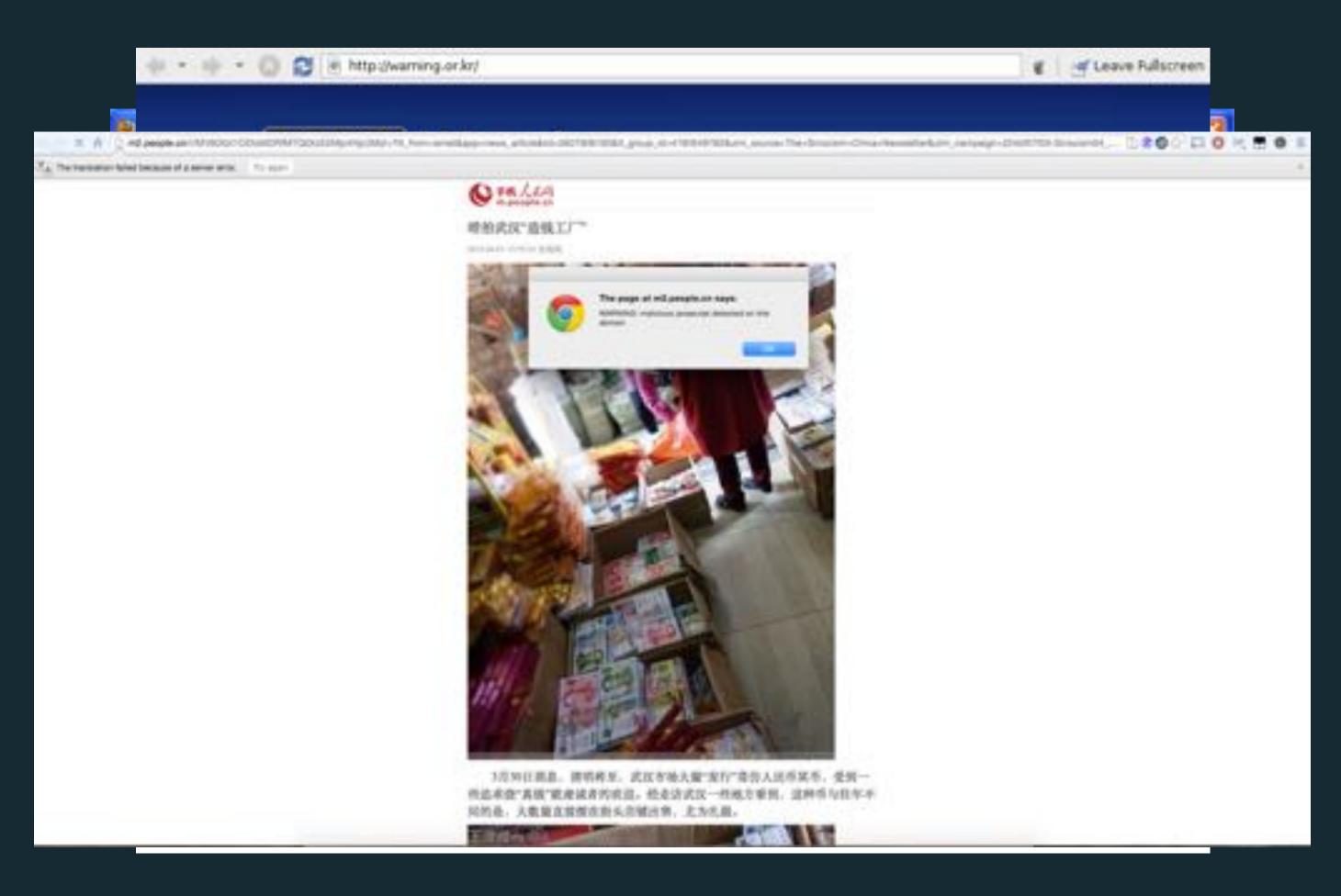
Religious

Self-Censorship

Moral

# What is Web Censorship

- Domain and IP-level timeout, connection resets, removed content
- Man-in-the-middle attacks,
   State sponsored DDOS



#### Howi

- WordPress is now
- More non-English
- "Internet Sovereig
- Democratization of

#### Wuzhen Declaration

November 21, 2014

The First World Internet Conference was successfully held in Wuzhen, Zhejiang Province from November 19 to 21, 2014. Participants in the Conference acknowledge that the Internet is increasingly becoming a leading force of innovation-driven development and is powering economic and social progress. The Internet has turned the world into a global village and made the international community a highly interdependent community of common destiny. While enjoying rapid development, the Internet has posed new challenges to national sovereignty, security and development interests, which requires the international community to meet urgently and seriously, expand consensus and strengthen cooperation.

We call on the international community to work together to build an international Internet governance system of multilateralism, democracy and transparency and a cyberspace of peace, security, openness and cooperation.

First, enhance cyberspace connectivity. We should accelerate efforts to build Internet infrastructure, increase bandwidth, break information barriers and remove the information gap, so as to ensure that more developing countries will benefit from an interconnected information expressway.

Second, respect Internet sovereignty of all countries. We should respect each country's rights to the development, use and governance of the Internet, refrain from abusing resource and technological strengths to violate other countries' Internet sovereignty, and build an Internet order of equality and mutual benefit.

Third, jointly safeguard cyber security. We should actively cope with challenges to cyberspace security and reject all forms of cyber attacks and Internet theft. We should work together to fight cyber crimes, protect individual privacy and information security, and safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of citizens.

Fourth, jointly fight cyber terrorism. We should work for the establishment of an international cooperation mechanism against cyber

#### ected?

S

Declaration

# Web & WordPress Censorship

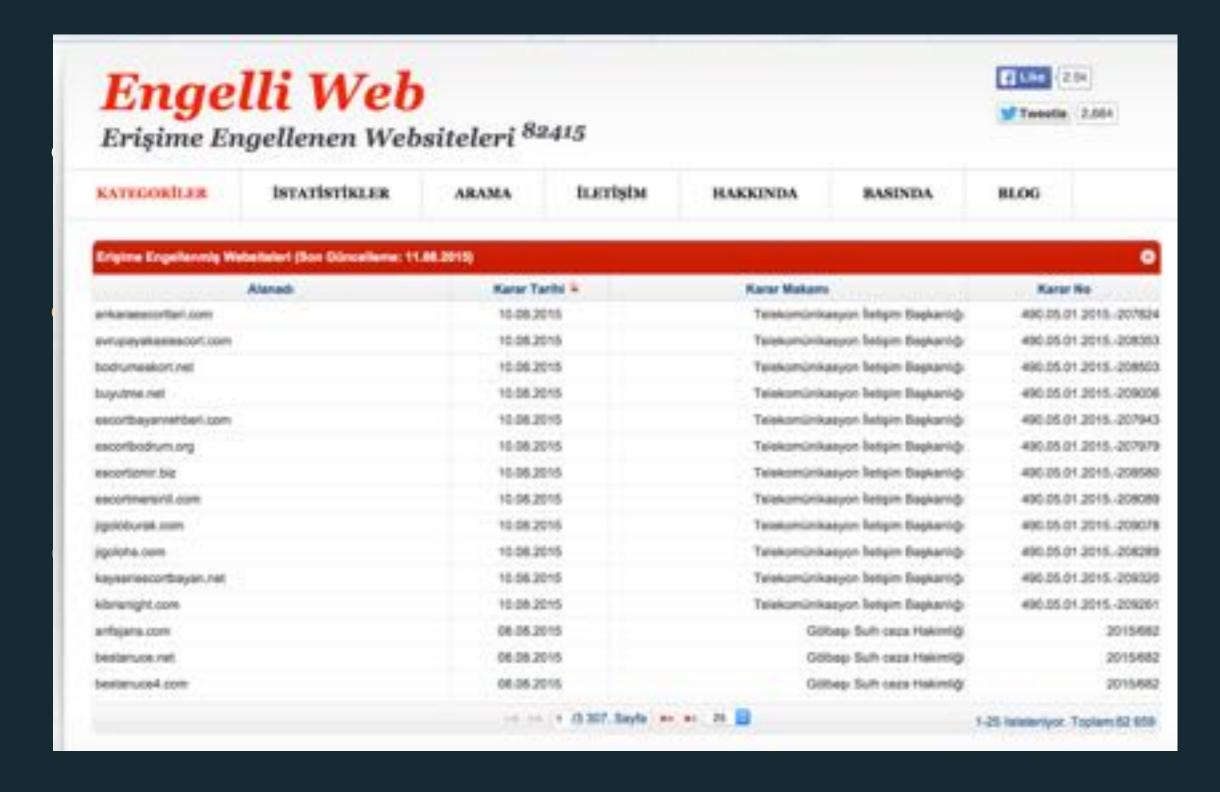




# Turkey



### Russia



#### India

#### Vietnam

- Fluctuating censorship protocols
- Public discourse & discussion of the web
- Targeted WordPress sites

- Communist state
- Targeted blogs
- Social media sites
- Savviest users

#### Middle East

- SmartFilter by Secure
   Computing of San Jose, CA, USA
- Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, UAE
- Lots of individual blogs
- Facebook, Twitter, etc.





#### China

- Most pervasive form of Internet censorship
- Great Firewall of China promotes harmony
- Causes the most trouble with WordPress











# Blocked Plugins & Functionality

- API/External WordPress calls
- Politically-sensitive discussions
- Blocked IPs and domains on shared hosts

- Jetpack, WordPress.com, Gravatar
- Google (Plus, Fonts, Photos)
- Be Mindful: BBPress, Yoast SEO, Social Media

# Developing Around Censorship

- Know your blocked plugins
- Limiting reliance on outside sources
- Reconsider SSL
- Government hosting "registration"

- Avoid sensitive discussion
- You are responsible for your users
- Hong Kong hosting

# If you get blocked



# What Can The Community Do?

- Continue to Support Non-English WordPress
- Follow and Understand OpenNet Initiative
- Polyglots: Contribute to Core and Plugin Translations
- Talk About it
- Publish, Publish, Publish

#### What Did We Learn?

- Why and How of Censorship:
  - Government directive
  - Signal Secondary (No. 1988) ISPs, DNS, Social Media
- Blocked Sites & Plugins:
  - Jetpack, Social Sign On & Discussion
  - S Free discourse, large databases

- If you're blocked:
- Greafire.org, Blocked in Iran
- Talk to your host, change domain/IP
- Working with Censorship

  - Second Second

Q&A

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