

Thursday, June 21, 2007

### Anti-Domain Parking "Petition" an anti-free market nightmare

I think much of my initial reaction to the petition to "Stop Domain Name Parking and Cybersquatting" has already been said in my Attack of the TechnoPinkos post of a couple weeks ago. This is a typical example of leftist angst stemming from the fact that people actually earn a living and gasp generate profits from monetizing domain names.

As somebody in the domain industry (we aren't a big domain parking player and as a registrar we have exactly 0% of the domainer market, and most people know how I feel about the aftermarket and how overheated it is), there are a few issues with this "petition" that I feel duty bound to point out.

Domain Parking is not the same thing as Cybersquatting. Anybody who equates the two removes any doubt to their utter cluelessness about the entire domain industry. Cybersquatting involves registering a domain that is somebody else's trademark

Domain parking is a legitimate use for a domain. If you advocate rules or laws against domain parking then you are making rules for how other people can or can not use their domains. You are regulating content, which is indeed, one slippery slope.

Trying to outlaw domain parking and cybersquatting in the same petition is like trying to outlaw toxic waste and MacDonald's Happy Meals at the same time.

The petition calls for ICANN to "ensure that a domain names that are parked would be available for sale at a price tag that would not be considered extortion". This advocates price fixing and completely revokes domain registrants rights to their own domains. The request is outlandish. Check out [wealth.net](http://wealth.net). Egad! It's parked. So I'm to understand if one of these pinkos thought they had a legitimate "claim" to this domain, under their rules ICANN would force me to sell it to them at a "reasonable" price because they don't think I'm using it? I paid an enormous sum for that name in the aftermarket. It's mine, it's parked, get over it, screw you.

Somebody else parking a domain doesn't prevent anybody from doing anything. Yes, domain names in themselves can be built into powerful brands, and many of them earn substantial income from type-in traffic and PPC, but at the end of the day, the map is not the territory. Owning a generic keyword domain doesn't bar the rest of the world concerned with that keyword from carrying on about their business. I own [ravingpinkos.com](http://ravingpinkos.com), I just snagged it moments ago and now I'm monetizing it via parked.com. That doesn't prevent any of the saps who signed this petition from starting their own raving pinko website, circulate their raving pinko petitions, and try to build their raving pinko utopia. They just can't call it [ravingpinkos.com](http://ravingpinkos.com).

The text of the "petition" was changed mid-stream. One of the reasons I keep using the word "petition" in quotes. After one very shrewd and well said comment on the message boards (written by Johnny B) about this initiative, they subsequently posted that they changed the text of the petition (!). Which means that the people who signed their names before the edit then had what they were petitioning arbitrarily changed.

Having said all this, anybody who knows the difference between Twisted Sister and twisted pair can tell you this "petition" is a joke.

Posted by Mark Jeftovic in Nutjob Watch at 21:04

Perhaps "Cybersquatting" is a term now too narrowly defined as well...In this case limited to trademark infringements only....rather than all forms of "squatting"

(ie. typo, trademark, keyword, etc...)  
Anonymous on Jun 28 2007, 23:05