

How To Handle Yourself If Your Website Has Been Stolen From Right Under Your Nose!

You are about to read an interesting story of how I handled a situation where a person had blatantly copied my entire site, and was planning to make money with my business model. *She infringed on too many copyrights to list here.*

Here's the entire "un-edited" scripts provided by many fellow online marketers who helped me get through this rather unusual situation. You will learn exactly where to go to find all the information you require in order to shut down any offending site, and you'll also get real world advice on how to handle such a situation.

I will first provide you with "all" the un-edited happenings, and near the end of the report, I have laid out a step-by-step plan for handling this type of situation in case this ever happens to you. Look out for ["What are the lessons learned?"](#)

I thank all you Blakers and Warriors for helping me in this matter.

You guys Rock!

Ler's get started shall we?

Here's the first post that I made at roughly 12:30 p.m.

Hello Blakers,

Normally this wouldn't bother me, at first I thought it was one of my members, but this guy (or girl) plagiarized my entire site, and is selling a subscription to a different newsletter using my site.

This is just morally wrong, this lady used my story, and my testimonials (while changing the names) that's just ridiculous!

Any advice you can give me would be greatly appreciated. In case you're not familiar with my site, please visit: <http://www.wealthysecrets.net>

Here's the offending site: <http://shoestring-budget.com>

I would've sent a seize & desist letter, but I can't find the whois records for this person, and there's no

contact info anywhere.

Look forward to hearing from you,

Your Partner,

Carlos Garcia

P.S. Thanks to my good buddy Karol Gajda for pointing it out
Otherwise I would've never known.

Be sure to visit his website:

<http://www.freeauctionprofits.com>

The only way to really do anything is to contact the hosting company the site is using. Any hosting company that host contact that they know is infringing on a copyright is held equally responsible in the eyes of the law. They must remove the copy righted material or they themselves could face a lawsuit if you were to proceed with any action. Therefore .. the hosting companies will remove the copyrighted web site to protect themselves. I had the same problem over and over and finally contacted a copyright attorney to handle it.

But, this does not prevent this person from just getting new hosting the very next day. So you have to keep doing this over and over .. and with hosting so cheap these days it's easy to just pick any company and be back online in 2 days. Or they can change the URL and then you would never know. Although a good way to test is picking a text string unique to your web site with " " and doing a search.

Hughman (Fellow Warrior)

Hi Carlos,

I also did whois search for that domain and found some contact infos. May be this will help you. Click below:

<http://www.betterwhois.com/bwhois.cgi?domain=shoestring-budget.com>

Pawan Agrawal

<http://www.MyMoneyMakingIdeas.com>

Carlos,

Here's some info to get you started

<http://whois.sc/shoestring-budget.com>

Contact her webhost and registrar. Hit her where it counts...

Jon D. Atwood – <http://www.AdTactics.com>

Thank you guys. But...

This contact info is fake.

P.O. Box 464.

Pine Level, N.C. 27568

Phone: 919-439-5852

Email: call911marketing@aol.com

The last 7 digits of her phone number are the last 7 digits of my phone number. This person just changed the area code.

The email address is also fake.

I called both numbers that were listed on the contact info for the domain, but they're both disconnected.

I'll try contacting the registrar and host next.

Thanks for your help.

Your Partner,

Carlos Garcia

Carlos,

I'm not that familiar with 2Checkout.com, however I'm sure you thought of this yourself of not only contacting them, but pursuing them legally, or can you?

If everything is that bogus, and they are using 2checkout.com as a payment site, don't they verify any of the info before they fire up that site??

I didn't realize that someone/anyone can go to a site of their choice and bastardized it as they choose!

To have a bogus name/number/testimonials, etc, I don't get it!!
Unless someone is playing a very bad joke on you.

If they/ that other site- collects any money that is fraud and because it is the net, the FTC and FBI /fraud divisions can get involved gangbusters!!.

That site would have to prove to them that everything stated on that site is true and can be verified.

What I don't understand, and maybe you already done this- the hosting company hasn't pulled their bogus site, putting their credibility at risk?

I hope you are able to GABOSH these people/persons, someone out there had to help them put this site together! Maybe someone with gripe, it may be a one big misunderstanding, or someone is trying to come at you the only way they know?

Good Luck and good hunting.

William J

Update..

I've contacted the registrar.

Do you know how I can figure out the web host?

These are the name servers.
NS.3KSERVER3.COM 66.78.49.100

Look forward to hearing from you,

Your Partner,

Carlos Garcia

Maybe contact 2checkout? She'd have to give her real address to signup with them...
Michael Murray

Carlos,

As I was writing, you got a few updates. If you read my posting I agree with Michael, also it seems you have a lot of people pulling for you, and I am one of them!!

William J

She has registered her domain from here. You can find her webhost by contacting them:
Registration Service Provider:
TNS Group, Inc. dba NICForce.net
<http://www.nicforce.net/>

Pawan Agrawal
<http://www.MyMoneyMakingIdeas.com>

Carlos,

Here's the info on the Host or the registrant of the domain they're using as a Nameserver
<http://whois.sc/3KSERVER3.COM>

Jon D. Atwood – <http://www.AdTactics.com>

Carlos make a big example out of her, for EVERYONE to see so no one ever does this to ANYONE else again!!

If someone did this to me and I had the resources you can believe..
She would NEVER do business again on the web. Her reputation would be SHOT!

I repeat!!

Make a BIG example out of her so this NEVER happens to ANYONE of us in the future!
Let everyone know there WILL be a consequence for this type of FRAUD!

If there is ANYWAY I or anyone can help let us know!

Mr. D

Hey Carlos,

Hate to say it, but after looking at this website it looks like this person might have been (or still may be) one of your members.

The only thing they are offering is the resell rights that you offer (to me, this means they were at one time a member of WS, collecting a collection that big on their own would be too much work for someone this lazy) and a newsletter, and I'm willing to bet that they'll just copy your newsletters and send them to their members.

I found this, and I believe it may be her contact info:

To subscribe
[\[clougo@aol.com \]](mailto:clougo@aol.com)

To unsubscribe
[\[clougo_1@netzero.com?=-remove \]](mailto:clougo_1@netzero.com?=-remove)

Linda Strickland
clougo@aol.com
P.O. Box 464
Pine Level, N.C. 27568

Then I found this page, which makes me believe the above is her real email and name:
http://www.ezineblaze.com/showezine.php?ez_cat_id=56&ez_id=7210

She also gives this email: support@freeadvertising.tk
Using a free email and domain name provided by <http://dot.tk>, but going to the domain name only displays a non-working page.

Like I said earlier, my suspicion would be that one of these email addresses is (or was) in your member base. Might not hurt to check, it would at least give you a real phone number to call.

I hope you get this squared away, I don't see how anyone could think they'd get away with this. She obviously wants the website to be found so she can get business, but once the wrong person finds it, it's over, and she's in some kind of trouble.

Best of luck,

London
<http://www.paidlockpro.com>

Latest *Great* Update

Hello Blakers,

Ok, this is turning out to be a great lesson for everyone following this situation.

I will lay out step by step what I've done in order to resolve this issue, and I will let you know the outcome in the end.

The first action I took was to find where this website was hosted, who it was hosted by, and who registered the domain name to begin with.

Thanks to a lot of you here, I came up with the following information.

I found some key info at:

<http://www.betterwhois.com/bwhois.cgi?domain=shoestring-budget.com>

(Thanks Pawan (a fellow Wealthy Secrets member) for providing the info.

Other key sites were also:

<http://whois.sc/shoestring-budget.com>

Thanks Jon for that.

Now that I knew the host's info.

I emailed <http://www.nicforce.net> using the form on their website.

They didn't have a phone number, else I would've called them.

I then called the host PageMatic.com, thanks to Jon once again,

Who gave me this info <http://whois.sc/3KSERVER3.COM>

(A simple whois check on the name servers for the website.)

This is how we found out who was hosting it.

They gave me an email address to contact them to, and here's the email that I sent them. I will wait and see what happens from here but I'm sure once they see the evidence they will "hopefully" shut down the site.

=====
Subject = Fraudulent Site...

Hello Pagematic,

I just spoke to one of your representatives on the phone, and they gave me this email address to contact you on. He also assured me that the following matter would be handled seriously, and you would take any action required against the person in question.

It has come to my attention that a website that you are hosting has completely plagiarized my business model, including:

- * Plagiarizing my "entire" sales letter
- * Plagiarizing my "testimonials"
- * Plagiarizing my personal life story.

Here's the website in question:

<http://www.shoestring-budget.com>

You will notice that this site has copied everything from my website:

<http://www.wealthysecrets.net>

I have tried contacting the administrator for this website, but the information listed on the website is fake and non-existent.

Here's what's listed near the bottom of <http://www.shoestring-budget.com>

P.O. Box 464.
Pine Level, N.C. 27568
Phone: 919-439-5852
Email: call911marketing@aol.com

This person changed "1" number distinguishing that from my website. My personal phone number is 519-439-5852, noticed he/she replaced the very first number only.

I tried emailing the given address listed above, and it bounced back.

A simple search in Google for "Wealthy Secrets" will prove that my website has been around for nearly 2 years.

You will also noticed by my Alexa rankings, that my site is listed among the top 8,000 most visited sites on the web. The shoe string budget ranking is at 2,000,000 + (2 million plus)

Here's the direct Shoe String Budget ranking:

http://www.alexa.com/data/details/traffic_details?q=&url=http://www.shoestring-budget.com

Here's the "Wealthy Secrets" ranking:

http://www.alexa.com/data/details/traffic_details?q=&url=http://www.wealthysecrets.net

If you have any questions regarding the information provided herein, do not hesitate to contact me at 519-439-5852, you can also call me on my cell phone at 519-870-1370.

Required Action?

Since this person has clearly infringed on an endless amount of copyrights involved. I would suggest that you *immediately* shut down this account.

Or you can attempt to contact the administrator, and have them provide you an appropriate explanation as to why this website is live on the web.

I trust that you will take this matter seriously and do the right thing.

Thanks in advance.

Sincerely,

Carlos Garcia

"Wealthy Secrets" Founder

<http://www.wealthysecrets.net>

P.S. I will be posting this letter online at one of the most popular forums on the web. Where I've been talking about this case most of the day today.

I'm sure they will be eager to know how PageMatic.Com will handle this type of situation.

You can follow the thread at:

<http://ablake.net/forum/index.cgi?read=172738>

=====

Now, the next step I took was to contact one of my buddies at 2checkout.com (Well, he became my buddy over time after helping me out with numerous things on the 2checkout end of things. :-)

I sent them the same email listed above, as well as the person's 2checkout ID Number, and they're now checking to see what actions they will take.

He has just informed me that he sent the above email to the risk department, and that they do not tolerate this kind of behavior.

He has also confirmed (Like London pointed out) that this person is in fact Linda Strickland, and no she's not one of my members.

Thanks for all of you who have helped me through this. This is a great lesson for everyone to learn, since we can't allow this sort of thing to go on.

Will keep you posted soon.

Your Partner,

Carlos Garcia
<http://www.wealthysecrets.net>

Hello Carlos,

Great reaction, you always handle things like this very well.

Now I'm interested if Pagematic will handle this just as well. I've never had any luck reporting anything to a hosting provider, I was just complaining about that yesterday on a different forum actually.

I'm glad that it wasn't one of your members, it really was just a shot in the dark based on what I saw.

London
<http://www.paidlockpro.com>

Carlos,

With the help of others, you're doing all the right stuff!. Take that Linda Strickland, compliments of the Blaker Bunch!!

Pagematic/2checkout, the ball is in your court and we are all watching your shot.

William J

Carlos,

There seems to be some blatant misrepresentations that the FTC may enjoy.....
Copy the site as is and send it along with you findings...

Also, most Domain registrars have language buried in their terms and conditions which would allow them to cancel their domain name altogether and turn over any registration/contact information to authorities if requested.

If you can expose them, then get a lawyer and bury them.
Chances are they many have many of these copycat sites and deep pockets from them.

Good Luck,

Jerry

Another great update. :-)

The host has suspended the account, and likely closed it down for good.

Now, I have to wait and see if the domain registrar will also suspend them, and if 2checkout.com will also shut her down.

Thanks all of you for your help.

Now you'll know what to do if this ever happens to you, feel FREE to use the email I wrote for your own benefit (as a template :) if this ever happens to you.

Thanks again.

Your Partner,

Carlos Garcia

<http://www.wealthysecrets.net>

The account was suspended and now is terminated from our servers. If anyone ever has a problem with an account on any of our servers please let us know at support@pagematic.com and we will take any action needed.

I noticed some listed other domains on the server, please people we are a web host there are 350 domains on that server and none of the others are involved.

BTW the real name is Linda Strickland , the owner of the domain that is.

Jim systems Admin
<http://www.pagematic.com>

Hi Jim,

I thank you for your quick and speedy response to this matter.

You guys are setting a good example on how good web hosts should be run, I'm glad you helped to serve justice where justice was due.

You're right, there were no other accounts involved (as far as I know), Linda was the only culprit in this case.

2checkout.com will likely follow suit and shut down her account as well. One of their representatives saw the website when it was still live, and forwarded the message to their risk department.

Thanks again, your help in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Carlos Garcia
<http://www.wealthysecrets.net>

P.S. I will definitely check out PageMatic.Com for my future hosting needs. :-)

There are two "Linda Strickland"s who show up in North Carolina.

One is the assistance vice president of marketing for Farm Credit. Based on the (lack of) marketing saavy displayed by the PIQ (person in question), I'd say its not her.

The other is a clerk for the Johnston county school board. It just so happens that Pine Level, NC and Four Oaks NC are both in.... Johnston County, NC...

Based on that, I'd say it's a good guess that the person in question could in fact be the clerk of the school board of Johnston County, NC... and her husband, Larry, is a member of the school board.

Carlos... do what you will with this information. The above Google query will provide you with her address and home phone number, and the Johnston county schools website will provide you with her work number.

Of course, it could be a totally different Linda Strickland... one that is not in Google at all.

Marc

Don't mess with my boys from Canada!

She seems pretty intelligent!

<http://pub7.bravenet.com/forum/594710964/fetch/115047/>

Drop her a line and say hi! clougo@aol.com

A long history of her trying get rich quick stuff too!

<http://groups.google.ca/groups?q=clougo%40aol.com&hl=en&lr=&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&sa=N&tab=wg>

Wowza

Scott Stratten
Un-Marketing: Bringing Customers to You
<http://www.un-marketing.com>

I guess it is kind of flattering.

But, it is also an obvious disregard for one's hard work.

So many people look to shortcut their way to success. Sadly, there are no shortcuts.

Everything requires hard work, determination, persistence, action, need I go on? :-)

I'm glad justice was served today, now if it ever happens to you, you know there's hope.

Just gotta remember not to contact the host and start whining and screaming (not you, but other people are known to do so.) When I contacted them I was very respectful, and was enquiring about their client, and asked what they would do in such a situation, and emailed them everything they required in order to make an informed decision as to why they would shut someone's account.

Once I provided them everything they required in order to shut the account down, the rest is as they say, history. Hopefully, this won't happen again.

Thanks again for all your help.

Carlos Garcia

<http://www.wealthysecrets.net>

Hi Carlos,

I'm glad to see their web host is taking action. I was going to suggest having an attorney fax over a statement to both the payment processor and web hosting company. That will normally get you some quick relief. If you see the problem on ebay, you can join ebay's VERO program to kill auctions.

Then, as others have stated, you could seek civil damages and report to the appropriate state attorney general's office for possible criminal prosecution.

Fortunately, my father in law is the former Deputy Attorney General for Virginia. It's always great to have free legal aid...but if I was ever to divorce his daughter, I'd be doomed! Fortunately, I don't see that ever happening :-)

By the way,

Carlos handled the situation perfectly. Maybe it's worth putting the steps into an ebook ;-)

Dennis

Dennis Hardy

SoftwarePak.com

<http://www.softwarepak.com>

Earn \$20 Monthly Per Referral!

Carlos,

Wow, that was fast! Congrats .. finally some justice. Like I said .. I have had this happen to me at least 10+ times. I can drive you crazy so I try and look at it like a compliment .. I think .. wow .. I must be a great writer for so many people to want to steal my wording!

If your site stunk no one would want to copy it .. so just think .. imitation is the highest form of flattery.

Hughman (Fellow Warrior)

And if you have deep pockets you can hire an internet attorney to move forward in a litigation that will seize the offending person's assets and work to put them out of business permanently.

Depends on how po'd you are at them. I speak from experience here.

Ken

Hey Ken,

That's a good point. To tell you the truth, I haven't been p'od at all about this situation, I just wanted it to end.

It was caught early, as it was a "work in progress" so no profits were gained from this incident. Under other circumstances I'd definitely go all the way on it.

Just remember the name "Linda Strickland" and beware of her, as she doesn't seem to have any ethics when it comes to this sort of thing.

Hopefully this taught her a lesson, and proved to her that no matter how hard you try to hide your identity, with persistence we can trace almost anyone, and luckily the host shut down the site.

Will it prevent her from doing it again? Let's hope so.

If it happens again, I'll be sure to contact you for some advice, or a referral to a good lawyer.

Thanks again.

Your Partner,

Carlos Garcia

<http://www.wealthysecrets.net>

What Are The Lessons Learned?

Here's a step-by-step roadmap in case this ever happens to you.

Before I begin to summarize the steps, I want to remind you to remain calm during this situation, I didn't once panic today, heck I even took a break right in the middle of this to go pick up our bride's maids dresses. J

Step 1 - Attempt to find the contact information of the person who did this to you.

Step 2 – Attempt to send a seize & desist letter to get them to take the site down.

If either of the above do not work, for what ever reason. Move on to Step 3.

Step 3 – Try to contact the following personnel:

- The Web Host
- The Domain Registrar
- The Credit Card provider

How do you find this information?

To find the web host information, as well as the Domain registrar, I recommend the 2 most useful resources for me today:

<http://www.betterwhois.com>

<http://whois.sc>

To find the credit card provider.

I noticed that this person was using 2checkout.com, so I looked at the source code in order to find the company ID.

Step 4 – Call the Domain Registrar, Web Host, and Credit Card provider.

When I spoke to the web host, I was very polite and explained my situation To them, and I also asked what information they required, and what type Of actions they would likely take in this particular situation.

Here's the information they wanted:

- URL of offending site.
- URL of defending site.
- Proof that they did in fact infringe on copyrights

Step 5 – If you can't get through to the domain registrar, or web host.

Simply email them with the contact info you gathered in Step 3.

[Click Here for the email I used.](#)

Notice the very important step I used at the end of the email?

P.S. I will be posting this letter online at one of the most popular forums on the web. Where I've been talking about this case most of the day today.

I'm sure they will be eager to know how PageMatic.Com will handle this type of situation.

You can follow the thread at:

<http://ablake.net/forum/index.cgi?read=172738>

I gave them a reason to take immediate action, since they don't want their name associated with someone who is illegally using their hosting service. I also gave them the opportunity to look great publicly.

Within hours the site was shut down!

Next time someone copies your site, or infringes on any of your copyrights, You'll have a basic roadmap to follow.

Enjoy!

Your Partner,

Carlos Garcia

“Wealthy Secrets” Founder

<http://www.wealthysecrets.net>