

BBC NEWS

You are in: World: **Europe**

Wednesday, 3 January, 2001, 04:27 GMT

Yahoo! bans Nazi sales



Yahoo had argued that a ban was unworkable

Yahoo!, the Internet portal, says it will ban the sale of Nazi memorabilia from its auction sites, beginning from next week.

A Yahoo! spokesman said the company had decided that it did not want to profit from items that promote or glorify hatred.

He denied that the move was in response to a court ruling in France that Yahoo! must prevent Internet users there from accessing its websites that sell such material.

The sale of Nazi memorabilia is illegal in France.

Yahoo! said it would also ban the sale of items that promote hate groups. such as the white supremacist Ku Klux Klan.

Software

From 10 January, Yahoo! will screen items before they are listed for sale in its online auctions.

“
It's one thing to do something voluntarily, but it's another to be ordered to be ordered to do something
”
Yahoo! lawyer

Search BBC News Online

Advanced search options

Launch console for latest audio/video

- BBC RADIO NEWS**
- BBC ONE TV NEWS**
- WORLD NEWS SUMMARY**
- BBC NEWS 24 BULLETIN**
- PROGRAMMES GUIDE**

See also:

- 22 Dec 00 | Europe Germany struggles with neo-Nazi websites
- 11 Aug 00 | Europe Analysis: Yahoo!'s showdown in Paris
- 29 Nov 00 | Sci/Tech Experts question Yahoo auction ruling
- 24 Jul 00 | Europe Judge orders tests on internet screening
- 13 Apr 00 | UK Gagging the net in 3 easy steps
- 03 Mar 00 | UK Selling a dark past
- 20 Nov 00 | Europe Yahoo! ruling: Easier said than done

Internet links:

- eBay
- Yahoo!

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external internet sites

Front Page

World



Africa

Americas

Asia-Pacific

Europe

Middle East

South Asia

From Our Own Correspondent

Letter From America

UK

UK Politics

Business

Sci/Tech

Health

Education

Entertainment

Talking Point

In Depth

AudioVideo

Software programmes will weed out any item that appears to violate the new policy, but users will be able to appeal against bans.

Although there would be some grey areas under the new policy, a Yahoo! spokesman said that items sold recently - such a watercolour painted by Adolf Hitler, or a recruiting poster for the SS - would now be banned.

The list of banned items at Yahoo! auctions includes cigarettes, live animals and used underwear.

French ban

Last year, two French groups sued Yahoo!, accusing it of breaking French laws which forbid the display or sale of racist material.

In November, a French judge ruled in November that Yahoo must prevent French users from taking part in auctions of such items, or face fines of \$13,000 a day.

Yahoo! then appealed to a US court against the decision, saying that France did not have jurisdiction in the case.

The company says it will continue its legal appeals against the French ruling, despite its latest move.

Yahoo! said that the ruling would have a "significant chilling effect on the freedom of expression for users of Yahoo! and other US-based ISPs".

"The case continues because there's an important issue at stake," said Michael Traynor, one of Yahoo!'s lawyers.

"It's one thing to do something voluntarily, but it's another to be ordered to be ordered to do something."

Top Europe stories now:

- ▶ Mass resignations rock Turkey
 - ▶ Crash pilots given conflicting orders
 - ▶ Serbia jails first war criminal
 - ▶ New hope for Aids vaccine
 - ▶ Ukraine mine death toll rises
 - ▶ Russian anti-Jewish sign explodes
 - ▶ Sicilians dish up anti-Mafia pasta
 - ▶ Finland and Sweden plan 'Eurocity'
-

Links to more Europe stories are at the foot of the page.

He added that Yahoo! barred the Nazi sales because "the company shared a general concern about hate speech."

"But the company also is concerned about freedom of speech, which is why we will continue to fight the French court's order," said Mr Traynor.

Technical issue

Yahoo! have also argued that it was technically impossible for it to prevent users from one country accessing material on its site.

eBay, another online auction service, bans hate materials only countries where their sale is illegal, such as France, Germany, Austria and Italy.

Sellers may not deliver such items there, and buyers from those countries may not bid for them.

On Dec. 21, the company asked a U.S. court to block the order, saying France doesn't have jurisdiction.

 [E-mail this story to a friend](#)

Links to more Europe stories



[^^ Back to top](#)

[News Front Page](#) | [World](#) | [UK](#) | [UK Politics](#) | [Business](#) | [Sci/Tech](#) | [Health](#) | [Education](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Talking Point](#) | [In Depth](#) | [AudioVideo](#)

[To BBC Sport>>](#) | [To BBC Weather>>](#)

[© MMIII](#) | [News Sources](#) | [Privacy](#)