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Google Loses Copyright Lawsuit

Belgian newspapers accused Google of using information without authorization

Google News is an attracting service provided by the search giant that allows users to read the latest information and headlines from multiple categories using a single website. Google News receives titles from sources located in the entire world and organizes them on multiple categories available on the official page of the service. Although the product displays only the title of the news and links to the original source, Google was often criticized for receiving praises for the content that is offered by numerous publishers. The most important action taken against Google and the News product concerns several Belgian newspapers that sued the search giant for using their content without authorization. The publications claimed that Google News published their news without their approval and filed a complaint to sue the company. Google is not the only firm sued by the Belgian newspapers because the publications filed a complaint against the giant portal Yahoo also, sustaining the company used their headlines without authorization. Today, Search Engine Land reported that a Belgian court ordered Google infringed copyrights when the company published news on the official news service, the search giant having to pay a \$32.000 fine. "A Belgium court has found that Google did violate copyright when including material from several Belgian newspapers in its search index. Google may have to pay a fine, but the ruling is far more positive for the company. Google can continue to index content without explicit permission, while content owners in Belgium must now ask for removal via email rather than using the long established mechanisms of robots.txt and meta robots tags," Search Engine Land reported. Although the search giant is free to publish any content they want on the news service while companies must send an e-mail to Google to remove the content, the same publication reported that the company is going to appeal the ruling to a higher court.