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Ananova :

Worldwide internet paedophile suspects arrested

Two men suspected of being part of a worldwide internet paedophile ring have been arrested in Britain.

A 29-year-old man was arrested in Bicester near Oxford and a 34-year-old man was held in Kingston-upon-Thames.

Both worked in the computer industry and had computers seized from their homes in early morning raids by officers from the National Hi-Tech Crime Unit.

A total of 12 people were arrested in 10 countries in the operation, codenamed Artus, which was co-ordinated by Interpol in Lyon, France.

The men are all alleged to have been heavily involved in the production and distribution of child pornography through internet chat rooms.

Computers seized in the 10 countries are each understood to have had thousands of paedophiliac images on them.

Interpol Secretary General Ronald Noble said: "This is the latest in a series of successful operations to combat the production and

distribution of child pornography over the Internet.

"Interpol has worked with national police agencies to ensure that the Internet is not available for the selling or distribution of such vile and degrading criminal activity."

The paedophile network was uncovered by Germany's National Criminal Police Agency.

A secret briefing was held recently at Interpol headquarters, involving police from Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States and Europol, the European Union's police agency.

Story filed: 14:29 Wednesday 20th March 2002

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