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Mar 27, 2014 [GOOGLE](#)

After Twitter Ban, Turkey's Netizens Find YouTube Blockage a Breeze

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TURKEY TWITTER BAN YOUTUBE

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By [FERCAN YALINKILIC](#)

A person uses a laptop showing Youtube's logo on March 27, 2014 in Istanbul. — Agence France-Presse/Getty Images

As with the Turkish government's [ban on Twitter](#) TWTR +2.12% last week, Thursday's [blocking of YouTube](#) spawned a race by people in Turkey to outflank the ban through other sites and apps.

Internet users, already armed with a host of applications they downloaded and used after last week's Twitter blockage, rushed to video-sharing web sites to watch an allegedly leaked recording of a Turkish government security meeting. The government of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan blocked YouTube shortly after the video—its provenance still unclear—appeared on the service.

The leaked recording purports to show a conversation where Turkey's foreign minister, spy chief and a top general appear to discuss scenarios which could lead to a Turkish attack against Jihadist militants in Syria.

The two-part video had been watched more than 170,000 times on YouTube world-wide as of early evening in Istanbul.

The two videos were the most-shared videos on Turkey's YouTube on Thursday, according to the video site's [own trends monitor](#).

Internet users in Turkey were still able to use virtual private networks, or VPNs, to circumvent the ban, as the government started blocking YouTube-related Internet addresses. Turks could also use free-to-download proxies, like vtunnel and hidemyass, which mask a user's location, to go indirectly to YouTube and watch the videos.

The video was quickly uploaded to Vimeo, another video-sharing site that Turkey hadn't yet moved against.

With all the ways to circumvent the ban, Zeynep Tufekci, an assistant professor at the School of Information at the University of North Carolina, said that it is likely the Turkish government knows it can do little to block access but is acting to taint social media.

"Circumventing these blocks is easy and legal and they know it will happen," she said.

The block was announced on the telecommunications authority's website, which said

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it had taken an "administrative measure" against YouTube "after technical analysis and legal consideration." Erdoğan and other government officials denounced the leak in comments Thursday.

Other avenues around the ban include Tor, the anonymous web browser freely available on the Internet, and Google GOOG +0.53%'s public Domain Name System, or DNS.

However, Turkey is trying to limit these alternatives too. Andrew Lewman, executive director of the Tor Project, said the government blocked access to its main website, torproject.org, via TTNET, the largest Internet service provider in the country.

Turkey also blocked Google DNS in recent days, Lewman added. Google did not respond to a request for comment about the status of its DNS service in Turkey.

"It's an escalation of censorship efforts," said Andrew McLaughlin, who was a policy director at Google from 2003 to 2009 and worked on Turkish issues.

New websites were created in Turkey on Thursday to duplicate YouTube content. These are relatively easy to set up, but are also vulnerable to being blocked by the government, according to Sedat Kapanoglu, founder of Ekşi Sözlük, Turkey's first social network.

Kapanoglu cited mivitr.com as one of these YouTube duplication websites, but noted that this had already been blocked. A message on the site said it had been closed soon after opening.

Alistair Barr and Sam Schechner contributed to this article.

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4:08 am March 28, 2014

Micheal wrote:

Thank you yahoo for reporting that the government banned youtube because they were caught planning a false flag attack on Syria to start a war. No other western media that I've seen have mentioned that crucial point which reeks of deliberate manipulation to misinform

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kafantaris wrote:

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