



05 Oct 2017

Gold Coast Bulletin, Gold Coast QLD

Author: Kathleen Skene • Section: General News • Article type : News Item
Audience : 22,385 • Page: 22 • Printed Size: 557.00cm² • Market: QLD
Country: Australia • Words: 368 • Item ID: 854831517

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Classic's TV reboot to stomp on piracy

KATHLEEN SKENE

VILLAGE Roadshow has inked a 12-month deal to protect its lucrative new TV adaptation of cult 80s film *Romper Stomper* from pirates.

Tech firm Linius will use its video virtualisation system on the six-part mini-series, due to launch in Australia on streaming service Stan mid next year.

The technology has already been applied to the series in the pre-production process, ahead of expansion to the retail platform.

The system seeks to thwart pirates by splitting conventional video files to index the data inside, making it adaptable, searchable and otherwise usable on a more granular level than a standard video file. There will be no full video file for a pirate to steal, promising "an unprecedented level of security".

The technology may also be used to serve customised ads within video files. In an announcement on the ASX, Linius anti-piracy boss Peter

Cohen said reduction of video piracy was just the start of the technology's applications for film and television.

"This can have huge implications across all sectors of the industry," he said.

The implementation of the system is being done in partnership with IBM.

Village Roadshow co-executive chairman and co-CEO Robert Kirby said the company had already invest-

ed directly in Linius and were trialing the technology in distribution of its content to platforms like Stan.

The move is the latest shot fired in the war on piracy by Village Roadshow, who last month vowed to come after content thieves in the courts.

"We plan, later this year, to sue any individual that continues to download pirated content. If we find that someone is infringing our content, we'll send them a warning and we'll also be suing them

for damages," co-CEO Graham Burke said at the time.

Romper Stomper is being produced by John Edwards and Dan Edwards, with

investment from Stan and Screen Australia in association with Film Victoria, and international distribution by DCD Rights.

It will star Jacqueline McKenzie and Dan Wyllie, who also appeared in the original film, as well as Lachy Hulme, Sophie Lowe, David Wenham and Toby Wallace.



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David Wenham is just one of a host of Aussie stars appearing in the six-part Stan adaptation of cult film *Romper Stomper*.

Picture: BEN KING