



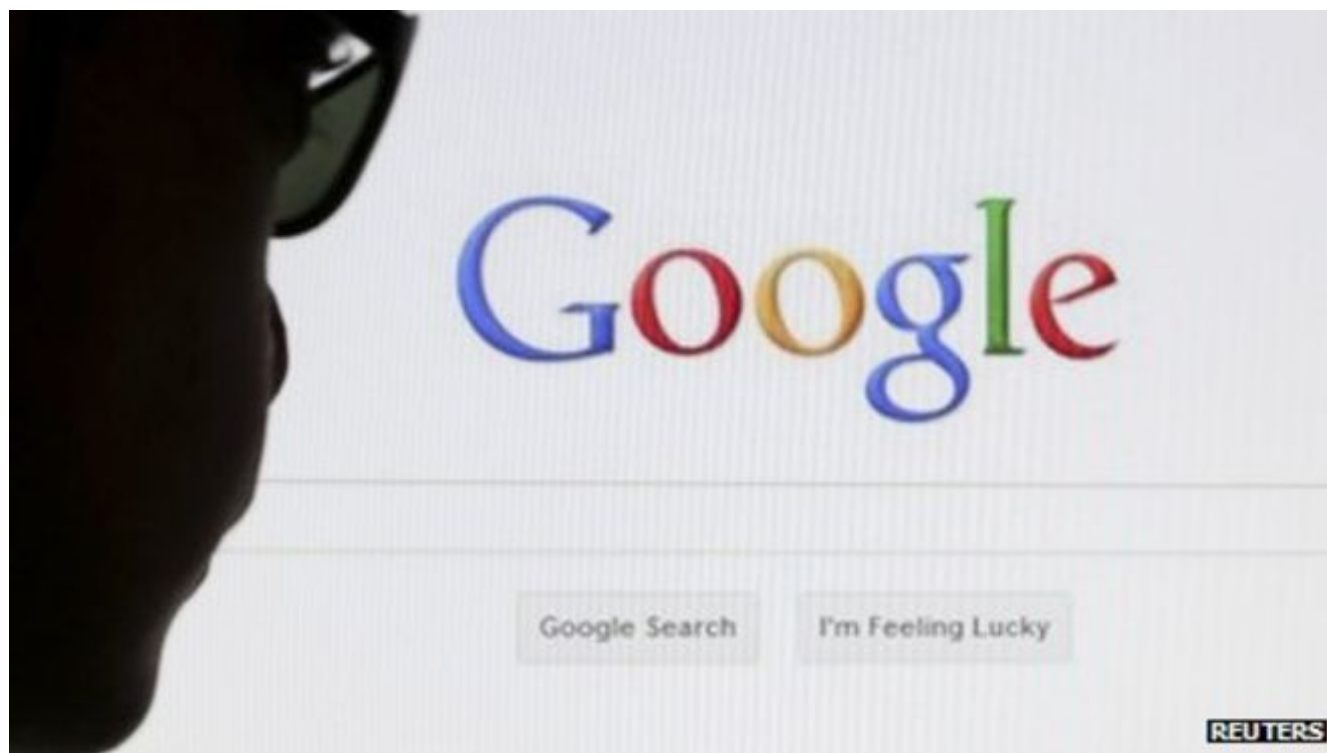
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Technology

Google removes 12 BBC News links in 'right to be forgotten'

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Google faces legal action from Safari users

Google has removed a total of 12 BBC News stories from some search results since controversial EU "right to be forgotten"

laws came into force in May.

The stories range from coverage of a **court case on bomb-making in Ireland** 13 years ago to a **dispute over a lost dog**.

Google notified the BBC of each of the removals, but it did not disclose who had made the removal requests.

The stories will no longer appear in the results of certain search terms.

Only searches made in Europe are affected under the law.

Previously Google said it had been inundated with requests from individuals to remove web pages since the ruling by the European Court of Justice three months ago.

Last month the search giant told regulators that it had received more than 91,000 requests to remove a total of 328,000 pages from its search results.

It said it had approved more than 50% of those processed, but did not say how many had been processed so far.

'Idiot' car thief

The "notices of removal" issued to the BBC by Google said the web pages would not appear in the results returned for "search queries for names or other personal identifiers".

"Please note that in many cases, the affected queries do not relate to the name of any person mentioned prominently on the page," the notices continued. "For example, in some cases, the name may appear only in a comment section."

Of the 12 BBC pages removed by Google, four include comments sections, including a **blog by the BBC's then-business editor Robert Peston**, which was removed in July.

Others typically feature court cases, including one dating from 2001 which involved three men accused of possessing bomb-making

equipment in Ireland.

Two stories relate to the high-profile case of a **British woman found guilty of running "one of Europe's biggest prostitution rings"** in 2003.

Other stories taken down covered a wide range of incidents. Google removed a 2002 story concerning a dispute between two Somerset families over the ownership of a wire-haired terrier called Wellie.

Another removed story concerns a **car thief branded an "idiot"** by his own barrister, while yet another features an **18-year-old Bristol student convicted of drink-driving** after crashing his Mini into the steps of his university campus.

Other stories removed include:

- A man **cleared of a stabbing in London** in 2010
- The jailing of a former Daily Mail employee who **threatened to hack the newspaper** in 2000
- A 2009 diary entry from the BBC's then-Jerusalem correspondent Tim Franks on **the merits of hummus**
- A 2005 page of appeals from those looking for **family members missing after the Asia tsunami**
- A **selection of readers' comments** on the terror threat posed by al-Qaeda in 2005

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