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[Home](#) | [Article List](#) | [Site Index](#)

Search

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News

National

[Politics](#)
[Business/Finance](#)
[Infotech](#)
[Culture](#)
[Sports](#)

Opinion

[Editorials](#)
[Columns](#)
[Letters to the Editor](#)

Features

[Special Report](#)
[NK Report](#)
[Cartoons](#)
[Today in Photos](#)
[Photo Services](#)

Resources

[Archives](#)
[Site Index](#)
[Useful Links](#)
[Community Board](#)
[Help/Feedback](#)
[About Us](#)

Edition

[Korean](#)
[Japanese](#)
[Chinese](#)
[U.S Edition](#)

Activists to Sue for Internet Snafu

by Choi Seung-hyun (vaidale@chosun.com)

A civic group, the People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy, filed a damage suit in connection with the Internet chaos that occurred Jan. 25. The defendants will be Internet service providers, the Information Ministry and Microsoft. The group is taking the action on behalf of at least 1,516 online users, 70 Internet salon owners, and Interpark, an Internet shopping mall.

In its petition the group claimed that the defendants did not examine the specific cause of the service breakdown or submit a concrete solution, even though the victims were unable to use the Internet for an extended period of time and many businesses lost money due to declining customers. It said the ministry should be held accountable for negligence in administrating and supervising Internet communication services, and KT and other ISPs should be liable for failing to meet the standards they promise in the user clause.

The activist group accused Microsoft of introducing servers with security defects and failing to inform clients sufficiently of the risks.

[E-Mail This Article](#) [Printer-Friendly Version](#) [Articles List](#)

[< Back](#) [↑ Top](#)

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