

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [How to Start a Forum](#)

Omniscient - January 17, 2014, 10:25 am

Because I get asked fairly often how I got HF so big or I'm asked for advice on how to start a forum. I wrote up the most point blank steps I could think of.

1. Find a topic you can discuss everyday that you're passionate about and knowledgeable.
2. Make sure the niche has potential to grow. Review any existing sites in the space only to observe their size.
3. Begin creating the most unique site you can.
4. Officially launch site and promote it where you're allowed and is appropriate. DO NOT ADVERTISE ON COMPETING SITES...that almost never works and usually pisses people off. Look for places where a potential member might be.
5. Work on SEO. This means find and then targeting your keywords, optimizing your html code and images, and making sure you have quality in-bound links.
6. Be patient and steadfast. It can take a lot of time to feel successful and in the end your project will very likely fail anyways. If so then go back to step 1 and try again.

HF for example was probably my 50th forum..maybe more actually. I had at one point over 200 websites. No exaggeration. I had my hands in everything. The chance of success was increased because I had so many projects. Most projects fail. That's just how it is. So my approach was simple. Work work work and put my fingers into as many pies as possible.

I gained a ton of experience over the years in just about every aspect of being a webmaster and often the master part of that word is ignored and not properly appreciated. I am a webMASTER. There is almost nothing I can't do myself or deal with. So my personal approach was to just keep working, gaining knowledge, and growing. At the moment HF is my most successful project but that's the result of me being a successful webmaster.

The road to success is not a quick 5 step process. It's a cross country highway that you're jogging. If you work hard and stick with it eventually you'll find you've made it.

Also be aware that while HF is my current and most successful site it's not my first internet success. I'm not a one-trick pony and if I didn't have HF tomorrow it wouldn't take me long to have a couple dozen new projects. HF takes up all my time and I've become very frugal when it comes to extra projects now.

bandors - January 17, 2014, 10:29 am

Ignore previous post, I was on a mobile >_>

This is actually REALLY cool. You're one of, if not THE best forum administrator. You're extremely successful, and I'm hoping to be able to use this guide to help out my forum.

SEO is a lot bigger part then I expected.

Kioshi - January 17, 2014, 10:30 am

Nice share, Hopefully It will help a lot here. I've started a forum but can't seem to get any activity too it ?

(Jan 17, 2014 11:29 AM)Bandors Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Oh may gosh great guide omni. Thanks for this. Hey, I think you should know you put "may" instead of "my"

Omniscient - January 17, 2014, 10:32 am

(Jan 17, 2014 11:30 AM)Trophix Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Nice share, Hopefully It will help a lot here. I've started a forum but can't seem to get any activity too it ?

That's very common. That's why step 1 is finding a subject you can post about all day long. Because you should be #1 poster and it could be like that for a long time.

I didn't post anything about a domain either. That's imho an important step too but buying the right domain is a thread all by itself.

Pink. - January 17, 2014, 10:33 am

This is a very nice guide of you to make, thanks you for this Omni.

Damdomy - January 17, 2014, 10:34 am

I think you should emphasize more about the success part. It doesn't happen over night. If you give up very quickly then i doubt any of your forums/projects will ever succeed.

Stick with it until the last squeeze of faith you have for the project, i can't stress this enough.

Great share btw.

Kosmos - January 17, 2014, 10:36 am

I'm surprised to see how many websites/forums you've gone through before HF. This goes to show how rare a chance is that a forum similar to HackForums would show up. No, not the same topics or anything, but the member-base and the way the staff works. This thread makes me appreciate HF even more for what it is. Thank you for posting this Omni. When the time comes, I'll refer back to this.

B0\$\$ - January 17, 2014, 10:37 am

As usual Omni a great thread to see from you.

bandors - January 17, 2014, 10:38 am

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Hey, I think you should know you put "may" instead of "my"

I was on a mobile, don't kill me. I fixed it.

Kioshi - January 17, 2014, 10:38 am

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My domain is AnonymousForums, I thought it would be nice because there is always someone looking up "Anonymous" for some reason. I know CpaElites got big very quickly and I was hoping my site could do the same... I suppose I just need better effort, resources, and advertisement.

Nille - January 17, 2014, 10:39 am

Could be nice to start a forum.

When you saw the first 100 members register, how did you feel?

Kosmos - January 17, 2014, 10:40 am

Oh, I have a question.

Does being a webmaster become a compulsive addiction after a certain period of time? For example, after you make 5-10 websites/forums, you'd like to try more and more niches and subjects for each and you just can't find enough space on one or two websites, so you make more and more and more websites? It seems like it'd become an easy addiction.

Haza?d - January 17, 2014, 11:12 am

You know as stupid as this may sound, a good way to promote your website is to print out flyers and hang them up around your area.

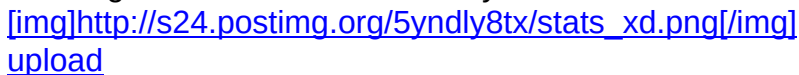
For example I have a movie streaming service, and what I did was I print out a page that shows my website with a QR code that leads to my website, and I hung it up around schools.

Something like this:

[img]http://s12.postimg.org/yi19ahc2x/vidcloud_template_page.jpg[/img]

Almost every kid nowadays has an iphone and they might scan the QR code, even if they don't they may visit the website because who doesn't love free movies right?

It's been working pretty well. Most of my visitors are direct type ins. And 50% of the visitors are returning visitors which means they must've liked the website.

[img]http://s24.postimg.org/5yndly8tx/stats_xd.png[/img]
[upload](#)

Although what's interesting is the average visitors duration on my movie site is 3:00 and most movies last at least 1 hour. Which tells me they visit the site and end up leaving.

[img]http://s23.postimg.org/i9dkya0ij/avg_visits.png[/img]
[online photo sharing](#)

I would guess this is because of the the pre post ads I set up which require the user to wait before they can watch.

[img]http://s15.postimg.org/9k8pj9rc7/pre_post_ad.jpg[/img]

I'm willing to bet if I removed it the average visitor duration would fly up.

So I guess what i'm trying to say is make sure to watch your analytics very carefully, and advertise your website properly. Most people would probably never think to print out papers and hang them up at schools and stop lights. You wouldn't believe how well it's worked for me though.

System[X] - January 17, 2014, 11:26 am

Thanks for the info, it will help a lot of users that have forums, many sites out there to help but a word from a top dog on a massive forum like HF is the best advice.

Thanks for the share :)

0_0_ - January 17, 2014, 11:30 am

Good advice. The problem is how do you get your first few members if you don't know many people online? It's a big issue many forum owners face.

I'm going to be starting up a new forum some time soon hopefully.

Quote:put my fingers into as many pies as possible. Lol.

Glubz - January 17, 2014, 11:34 am

Thanks for tips Omniscient, great threads as usual!

Eternal. - January 17, 2014, 11:38 am

Damn, 50 tries to become this successful? How is support forums doing? Do you ever plan on selling it?

Cole ??? - January 17, 2014, 12:33 pm

Was there anytime when hackforums sky rocketed? Or has it just slowly gone up in numbers.

Omniscient - January 17, 2014, 12:57 pm

Quote:Does being a webmaster become a compulsive addiction after a certain period of time? For example, after you make 5-10 websites/forums, you'd like to try more and more niches and subjects for each and you just can't find enough space on one or two websites, so you make more and more and more websites? It seems like it'd become an easy addiction.

For me it's about being a workaholic combined with my love for forums.

Ulysses S Grant™ - January 17, 2014, 1:20 pm

Yeah I am creating one soon for me its just the will to stop my other projects to start a new one I just wish I had a team to do it with ,.

How do you do stuff yourself without others motivating and telling you goodjob ect ?

xhflhkeuhwguu34 - January 17, 2014, 6:08 pm

I want to start doing something like this but one of the tricky parts of it is finding adequate staff members for the site. Any tips?

Yummy - January 17, 2014, 6:18 pm

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Ben121 - January 17, 2014, 6:24 pm

Are any of your other project still active(whether or not you manage them currently)?

If so mind if I ask what they are?

Omniscient - January 17, 2014, 7:54 pm

Quote:I want to start doing something like this but one of the tricky parts of it is finding adequate staff members for the site. Any tips?

If you need staff to start a forum from zero then you don't know enough on your own to start a forum period.

Quote:Damn, 50 tries to become this successful? How is support forums doing? Do you ever plan on selling it?

Many of my other projects were successful and sold. But I was looking for a success that I would not need to sell to continually monetize. SF is just sitting there. I have no plans for it or any of my other sidelined projects.

Quote:Are any of your other project still active(whether or not you manage them currently)?

I still have a couple dozen websites online and about 250+ domains still. None of them do I actively advertise or participate at. They are all just sitting there. I maintain them and keep them online and that's about it.

Crake - January 17, 2014, 7:56 pm

HF is really a brilliant example of SEO (1st or second in searches for almost anything) do you have any tips on this Omni?

Isidar - January 17, 2014, 8:01 pm

I personally believe that if you want to make a new forum and want it to be a success, you need to spend more than you would have had to a few years back because of the competition. I think having a premium domain certainly helps, especially for a brand new forum with competition, you need some sort of starting advantage and I feel a premium domain does just that.

I personally find it quite stupid how people usually start forums without any content and then advertise it, if you wanted to sign up to a forum, you'd want some activity.

SEO is king these days, you can't really be too successful unless you rank well for keywords.

Seems like most people start forums because they are passionate for the first few days, but when they only get a few sign ups, they've lost all that possession and drop the project instead of sticking with it. If you want to run a forum, it has to be because you want to and not do it for the money.

Omniscient - January 17, 2014, 8:04 pm

For SEO first focus should be your own site. Making sure that the way the search engines read your site makes sense and that you comply with all standards. It's a semi-complicated task for a beginner and in my experiences so-called SEO experts don't focus on this enough. They normally just spam your site link around the globe in bad neighborhoods.

Secondly you should work on your keyword targeting. Do all the research you can about what keywords you want to have on your site and what keywords you want linked to your site.

Third you'll want to work heavily on quality content and making sure you feed Google something fresh daily. Google loves to eat up fresh quality pages made of HQ content. So feed the CrawlerBot with all you can.

Lastly you can create some in-bound links. They should not just be to your front page. You'll want links to internal pages with proper keywords.

Don't be ashamed to be a stats whore either. Check your Google Analytics daily and use it to figure out where people are coming from and under what keywords. Make adjustments to your site based on that. If you're getting great traffic to a thread for a keyword then consider making it a sticky. If you see that certain keywords are getting you good traffic then consider adding it as a category and adding the keyword to your forum description or title.

SEO is easy enough but also complicated when it comes down to the nitty gritty. It's all about the fine tuning you can do to tweak your site ever so slightly.

Crake - January 17, 2014, 8:11 pm

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fine tuning you can do to tweak your site ever so slightly. Wow, that was a fast response, thanks! How do you select keywords for such a broad site like HackForums? I mean, with everything from graphics to RAtIng how do you know what to target? Is it best just to focus on the most-visited sections or simply to rely on the most-used keywords?

Kosmos - January 17, 2014, 8:28 pm

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SEO is easy enough but also complicated when it comes down to the nitty gritty. It's all about the fine tuning you can do to tweak your site ever so slightly.

Wow! That's some advice. ? Thank you, this thread surely has given me some motivation to start working with websites/forums. Sure, it isn't a day by day transformation and it takes time, but I think after awhile I'll manage.

Practice makes perfect, right?

Autopost - January 17, 2014, 8:32 pm

Pretty nice of you to share your experience, what sites are still actually running?

K.ing - January 17, 2014, 8:53 pm

Oh omni, did you like know I was trying to get into forum administration? ~~

Thanks for the great thread.

Omniscient - January 17, 2014, 9:03 pm

I stopped focusing on keyword research years ago. I've reached critical mass.

When selecting keywords use tools like Google Trends and Google Adwords. Do searches yourself and see what come up. Analyze everything. Keyword work is time consuming and you need to be thorough. If you do it right you can come up with good terms to target. Once you have the keywords then add them correctly into your sites content.

Blazin - January 17, 2014, 10:05 pm

Very good points omni to building a site/forum I always wondered myself.

Ulysses S Grant™ - January 18, 2014, 5:06 am

This thread is very very helpful , Thank-you Omni now what do you do about other forums that have the same keywords as you do you just try to have something they don't like awards and other plugins does that draw people ? And how long did it take for your other forums like support forums ect to take off ?

VRUMM - January 18, 2014, 7:36 am

It is sad many members now just create forums for leaking digital products to gain attention and new members.

(Jan 17, 2014 11:38 AM)Trophix Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) My domain is AnonymousForums, I thought it would be nice because there is always someone looking up "Anonymous" for some reason. I know CpaElites got big very quickly and I was hoping my site could do the same... I suppose I just need better effort, resources, and advertisement.Cpaelites used to be big, but now it is just the admins faking/hiding stats. The activity is very low, but Hawk eye makes it looks like the forum is very active. If you are a member there you will know right away.

I don't know if the niche is dying, or if the contents are just not as good anymore.

jaiswalankur - January 18, 2014, 8:12 am

Thank you Omni for this small but useful tutorial. I will follow your tips. I hope I own a very successful forum.

ZuGgY - January 18, 2014, 9:46 am

Pretty helpful and keeps someone motivated.

Thank you, Omniscient.

Xerif - January 18, 2014, 10:50 am

Thanks for this thread Omni! It's not often that you get this kind of advice from someone with a website that has half a million users.

Amazing - January 18, 2014, 11:35 am

(Jan 17, 2014 11:40 AM)Kosmos Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Oh, I have a question.

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I feel like it is.

My most successful site wouldn't even be considered successful by most standards but it feeling successful to me was an awesome feeling and made me want to continue creating sites... whether they failed or not. The most fun part about it for me is trying to create something that looks awesome... something that people compliment you on and of course learning.

I started toying with web development when I was like 13 because I played games online and I wanted to know how their forum worked. The site I was on most used IPB 2.3.6 which was my favorite forum software of all. I created an Invision Free forum and just started playing around with things until I learned how to use it well, then moved onto something else. That's the best way to learn. Running a successful site like HF would be amazing but the coolest part about web development in my opinion is learning everything, even though that may sound boring to everyone

else. ?

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projects now. Agree with most of this post besides having multiple projects at the same time. I believe in working on a single good project instead of several semi-good ones. That's just me though.

Moji - January 18, 2014, 8:38 pm

Great guide Omni, thanks for the share.

200 websites at one time.. wow.

Disease - January 18, 2014, 11:24 pm

(Jan 18, 2014 09:36 PM)Jaeger Wrote: [CITE](#) Agree with most of this post besides having multiple projects at the same time. I believe in working on a single good project instead of several semi-good ones. That's just me though.

Omni's point was that he played to the numbers. Practically everything in life, and business at that, can be boiled down to statistics. And statistically speaking, having a greater number of opportunities active results in a greater chance of one coming into fruition. It's clear Omni took the position of not putting all of his eggs in one basket.

Omni, you mentioned that with HF taking up as much time as it does, that this has become your sole focus. If you had the opportunity to, would you remedy that? Or are you at a point where HF takes up all of your time and you're okay with it doing so?

Omniscient - January 19, 2014, 12:39 am

Quote:Omni now what do you do about other forums that have the same keywords as you do you just try to have something they don't like awards and other plugins does that draw people

I don't really spend a lot of time on other forums. I might view SERP's then check out what I'm competing against. That may help me decide if it's a weak or strong keyword for me. Like if the top 3 results are not so relevant or the sites are low quality. Then I know I can win that term by having more relevancy and better quality. In a nutshell I just gave you the secret to every SEO expert on the planet. They won't ever target solid competitive keywords like "travel". They'll go for low-hanging fruit and what's known in the industry as long-tail keywords.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Long_tail

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That sounds like me 15 years ago except I wasn't 13. :) When you continue to work, strive, and learn then eventually you'll reach success. It's practically ensured.

Quote:I succeeded with my first forum. Although it was nothing big, I found the right niche and got the right content, but I was a terrible webmaster and got the site hacked several times.

It's a common tail for all webmasters. Even some completely lose their sites if they don't keep backups. Some even lose their domains...I think that's hilarious personally. Takes a real noob not

to pay a \$10 annual fee.

Quote: Agree with most of this post besides having multiple projects at the same time. I believe in working on a single good project instead of several semi-good ones. That's just me though.

The multiple projects is just me though. I'm too ADHD and anxious to have just one or even 3 projects. I'm even stupid enough to start HackerCraft even though I don't have the spare time. But I just love new projects.

And yes I still maintain and visit my sites. Sometimes I'll take a day to make sure they're properly working and backed up. Sometimes host updates break sites and even one might get compromised if I'm not paying attention.

Quote: Omni, you mentioned that with HF taking up as much time as it does, that this has become your sole focus. If you had the opportunity to, would you remedy that? Or are you at a point where HF takes up all of your time and you're okay with it doing so?

I would like to have the free time to explore more projects. Unfortunately every time I do the problem becomes time management. I simply just don't have the endless energy and time of a teenager.

RDCA - January 19, 2014, 12:49 am

I remember reading this thread a day or two ago and reminiscing the countless number of my former friends who wanted to start forums. Originally a lot were HF copies, and then by the second time I realized all their mistakes. They were taking an over saturated idea, presenting it in a horrible manner with many empty forums, useless structures, and a plethora of rules. In addition the owner was not active on the forum but rather spreading his site like an STD where and where not he could. All those forums were bound to fail. Things surely have changed since those days lol.

Anyway, my personal tips:

1. Class over flash. Shiny and sparkly names, ranks, and other things typically come off as amateur, unprofessional, and in general, unskilled. Users shouldn't be blinded by sparkles when looking at someone's name, when the more important content is the actual post.
2. From the roots up. Realize that your forum should be based in a unique 'soil', where the content is your own, and there is a good amount of interest. Slowly add sections, features, and abilities.
3. Functionality and features over money. Many people put together these horrid upgrades which carry no benefit, and are multiple tiers. Also, don't try to implement 3 upgrades if you can't implement a nice feature for one of them which is unique.
4. Think long term. Do not implement policies, features, or other things which are created with the short term only in mind. You need to have a plan, which should include the future.

Either way there is always room to learn with this, as well as all other occupations. Running a forum isn't as easy as it is all cracked up to be. One of my friends who did have a very good and active site ended up killing it just by simply switching forum software. I'm sure some of the older members actually know of this.

Tonight - January 19, 2014, 12:54 am

Similar but different question (regarding tumblr); How would one go about beating the competition in a particular niche that has limited possibilities.

Obviously I've already taken the initiative by purchasing a domain to look more professional. I can also rank that probably if I really wanted to blow more money. But it's for a non-profit cause anyway. Just trying to make the largest blog for this niche on the web.

Isidar - January 19, 2014, 1:13 am

I've done decently with Revenue Forums, I get 10-20 sign ups per day from the SEO that's been

done and I made \$200-\$400 just selling the banner spots for a month and don't maintain it.

My gaming forum, gamingfan.com is almost at 1,000 members and 20,000 posts and I've just started heavy SEO on it. I maintain this forum as I enjoy running it. Problem is, one day I'm extremely motivated and imagine how successful I can possibly make it and I'm all excited, the next day, I'm thinking what the hell, why did I invest heavy money in this.

Canonsx130 - January 19, 2014, 9:44 am

(Jan 17, 2014 11:25 AM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) The road to success is not a quick 5 step process. It's a cross country highway that you're jogging. If you work hard and stick with it eventually you'll find you've made it.

This made my day. Very well said master.

Omniscient - January 19, 2014, 12:06 pm

@RDCA ...great post.

Quote:One of my friends who did have a very good and active site ended up killing it just by simply switching forum software.

I did that once as well. :(It was a 500k post forum too. I even made a bigger mistake changing domains and trying to broaden the forum. Live and learn. HF is mostly a success after learning for decades what to do and not to do. I'm sure I'm still making mistakes though.

Quote:My gaming forum, gamingfan.com is almost at 1,000 members and 20,000 posts and I've just started heavy SEO on it.

Get rid of the ads. You don't make enough on them to make it worth even displaying them. And you have 3 of them. Bad move. If you must have an ad make it only 1 ad and tuck it somewhere away to not annoy visitors. And I have a tip/idea for you. Get rid of the characters in your logo. Then create some of them as individual graphics and rotate them in the header on the right so that on each page grab a new game character is displayed. This way you can always add or remove characters and they are not embedded into your logo.

RDCA - January 19, 2014, 1:00 pm

Quote:@RDCA ...great post. ? Thanks lol.

Quote:I did that once as well. :(It was a 500k post forum too. I even made a bigger mistake changing domains and trying to broaden the forum. Live and learn. HF is mostly a success after learning for decades what to do and not to do. I'm sure I'm still making mistakes though.

Oh wow, that is quite a big mistake lol.

Without trying to sound like a complete kiss-ass, you're one of the better forum administrators I've seen. I guess a lot of it comes with experience. I've learned so much about administration just by reading some of your posts in the past. Your whole no bullsh*t persona and policies are very unorthodox compared to many other large forums, but yet they seem to work well. The multiple facets HF has taken on is amazing too. From MRT, to the news, to the Marketplace, they have all grown excellently.

Maybe in a few more years after college I can try my hand at a forum lololol.

Isidar - January 19, 2014, 1:43 pm

(Jan 19, 2014 01:06 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) @RDCA ...great post.

I did that once as well. :(It was a 500k post forum too. I even made a bigger mistake changing domains and trying to broaden the forum. Live and learn. HF is mostly a success after learning for

decades what to do and not to do. I'm sure I'm still making mistakes though.

Get rid of the ads. You don't make enough on them to make it worth even displaying them. And you have 3 of them. Bad move. If you must have an ad make it only 1 ad and tuck it somewhere away to not annoy visitors. And I have a tip/idea for you. Get rid of the characters in your logo. Then create some of them as individual graphics and rotate them in the header on the right so that on each page grab a new game character is displayed. This way you can always add or remove characters and they are not embedded into your logo.

Thanks Omni, I am actually currently changing the Logo, I was going for something like this though but GF instead of FC.

https://fbcdn-profile-a.akamaihd.net/hprofile-ak-ash2/174848_108212739252798_7559450_n.jpg

T0ucaNSaM - January 19, 2014, 3:11 pm

(Jan 17, 2014 12:12 PM)Haza?d Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) You know as stupid as this may sound, a good way to promote your website is to print out flyers and hang them up around your area.

For example I have a movie streaming service, and what I did was I print out a page that shows my website with a QR code that leads to my website, and I hung it up around schools.

Something like this:

[\[img\]http://s12.postimg.org/yi19ahc2x/vidcloud_template_page.jpg\[/img\]](#)

Almost every kid nowadays has an iphone and they might scan the QR code, even if they don't they may visit the website because who doesn't love free movies right?

It's been working pretty well. Most of my visitors are direct type ins. And 50% of the visitors are returning visitors which means they must've liked the website.

[\[img\]http://s24.postimg.org/5yndly8tx/stats_xd.png\[/img\]](#)
[upload](#)

Although what's interesting is the average visitors duration on my movie site is 3:00 and most movies last at least 1 hour. Which tells me they visit the site and end up leaving.

[\[img\]http://s23.postimg.org/i9dkya0ij/avg_visits.png\[/img\]](#)
[online photo sharing](#)

I would guess this is because of the the pre post ads I set up which require the user to wait before they can watch.

[\[img\]http://s15.postimg.org/9k8pj9rc7/pre_post_ad.jpg\[/img\]](#)

I'm willing to bet if I removed it the average visitor duration would fly up.

So I guess what i'm trying to say is make sure to watch your analytics very carefully, and advertise your website properly. Most people would probably never think to print out papers and hang them up at schools and stop lights. You wouldn't believe how well it's worked for me though.

I have done that with my small business and websites works like a charm. It really does!!!!?

Hey Omni i do have a question if you or anyone else can answer.

When it comes to security with a site especially like this. How can one go about securing there forum from DoS attacks or unwanted users??

Canonsx130 - January 19, 2014, 4:48 pm

A friend of mine used to run a very successful forum with incredible activity. But due to some

unknown reasons, the forum traffic simply went down and there are hardly any members who still use the forum. The niche is still strong but whatever he tries, he simply can't get back the activity. It's got PR2 rank on google yet it's not getting converted. Any tips?

clark.dll - January 19, 2014, 4:49 pm

Such an awesome guide. Thank your for the write up, it means so much coming from someone like yourself.

LijpeMD - January 19, 2014, 4:52 pm

I don't know if someone already posted this, but you have a spelling mistake right here.

Quote:4. Officially launch site and promote it where you're allowed and is appropriate. DO NOT ADVERTISE ON COMPETING SITES...that almost never works an usually pisses people off. Look for places where a potential member might be. Quote:that almost never works an usually pisses people off. Quote:an

H??????a X™ - January 19, 2014, 6:36 pm

Great post, personally I just run my forum to gain experience and learn. I have a career I'm happy with so a forum would never be my main focus like Hack Forums is to you. Historic Forums is a fine size for me and I can manage it just fine and have a couple staff members to help me maintain the forum along the way.

Also ads, on a small forum is a waste of time. You don't get anything, no idea why some people put them on.

xhflhkeuhwguu34 - January 19, 2014, 7:24 pm

Another question to you. I'm trying to help with user retainment on a niche site. It appears a good portion of the userbase is upgraded. Would you associate a decline in activity with the fact more members have higher prestige?

Omniscient - January 19, 2014, 9:16 pm

(Jan 19, 2014 08:24 PM)XenOn Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Another question to you. I'm trying to help with user retainment on a niche site. It appears a good portion of the userbase is upgraded. Would you associate a decline in activity with the fact more members have higher prestige?

I can't be sure but it sounds like your members don't have anything new to discuss or a reason to be active.

Fresh - January 19, 2014, 9:33 pm

Omni can you give me any recommendations for the forum I started?

<http://www.ZoneHub.net>

So far I have not done much advertising for the forum, since I have not finished everything yet and there is always some sort of problem, but would you say it's looking good so far?

This is the 1st website/forum I have ever made, and so far I think it's doing well.

RDCA - January 19, 2014, 10:07 pm

(Jan 19, 2014 10:33 PM)Fresh Prince Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Omni can you give me any recommendations for the forum I started?

<http://www.ZoneHub.net>

So far I have not done much advertising for the forum, since I have not finished everything yet and there is always some sort of problem, but would you say it's looking good so far?

This is the 1st website/forum I have ever made, and so far I think it's doing well.

Reread this thread and then (re)read my post:

<https://hackforums.net/showthread.php?tid=4002649&pid=37789557#pid37789557>

You have so many sections without true activity in them. It is almost a plain old copy of Hack Forums' structure. I don't really see your niche if there is one. Not to mention the whole flashy thing and I doubt your upgrades are actually worth it. You really need to rethink your forum imho. I'm not trying to be rude, but this is exactly like what my friends did in the ages of old, and if you don't change it your forum will die in under a month.

Though, on a positive note at least you're posting around. I'm also not one for the whole need to be logged in to see anything. I don't think that should be implemented until you have content which draws members in and makes them want to sign up.

T3h Hack3r - January 19, 2014, 11:52 pm

(Jan 19, 2014 10:33 PM)Fresh Prince Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Omni can you give me any recommendations for the forum I started?

I'm not Omniscient. But one thing I have noticed. You've copied the subforum descriptions right from hackforums without even changing it around. For example the "Group Discussion and Recruitment" section states "For all topics regarding custom user groups such as recruitment, joining questions, and other threads about crews please post here.". Might be something you should fix. ?

Hereticus - January 19, 2014, 11:57 pm

Thanks for the simple guide on how to start it boss!

Fresh - January 20, 2014, 12:06 am

(Jan 20, 2014 12:52 AM)T3h Hack3r Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I'm not Omniscient. But one thing I have noticed. You've copied the subforum descriptions right from hackforums without even changing it around. For example the "Group Discussion and Recruitment" section states "For all topics regarding custom user groups such as recruitment, joining questions, and other threads about crews please post here.". Might be something you should fix. ?
ye, still working on changing all that bossman...

Miki - January 20, 2014, 12:09 am

That's a good thread IMO, this should get a sticky.

Lavish Living - January 20, 2014, 12:14 am

you had 200 sites at one point? ridiculous lol are any of them around today? other than this one.

• ????c??? • - January 20, 2014, 6:34 am

I've made a site called gaming-lounge.net. We have 166 members but only 25-30 are actually active daily and even though we have over 500 threads we still have trouble attracting members, any tips?

Circular - January 20, 2014, 8:28 am

Omni, were there ever any competing sites at the time you thought of HF? Or was it a new niche?

Omniscient - January 20, 2014, 4:22 pm

@gaming-lounge.net

1. Why do you have VIP section for a forum with 168 members?
2. Why do you have 6 sections for a Marketplace which in total has only 40 threads.
3. What is the purpose of your groups?
4. Why do you have 7 forums for your Chillzone tab?
5. Why do you need tabs for such a new forum with dozens of forum categories you don't need.

Huge mistake is to immediately create your forum as if it has 200k posts and 50k members. It begins with 1 member and 1 post. Go from there. Create categories and structures that makes sense for a NEW FORUM. I see this mistake made all the time. You think because HF has this stuff that so should you. Bad move. Terrible move. You've done almost nothing to seperate yourself from competition.

Quote:Omni, were there ever any competing sites at the time you thought of HF? Or was it a new niche?

There was what I felt weakness in the space and I approached it very differently than what did exist. I can't even recall a single site I felt was competing because I didn't care about them. Most of what others thought of as competing I considered sites that didn't know what they were doing so I ignored them. There is only one site, I will not name it, in 7 years I felt was being done right and that site no longer exists either. Most forum sites today are based off the success of HF. Pretty lame IMHO considering I've never entered any space on the back of another. Either pave your own road or get out of the way is my opinion. So when I see a site I have to censor here or is being spammed I have to take a quick peek and 99% of the time they've lifted multiple elements from HF. But this tells me that I'm still #1 as they only wish to be HF...which they will NEVER be because they don't have the one ingredient they can't imitate....myself. :)

RDCA - January 20, 2014, 5:54 pm

Omniscient, have you ever considered or done web consulting? Also, how do you feel about ads on blogs? I've been thinking about starting a few and was thinking of ways to make money off of it. I'm not sure if I want to go through with the whole CPA thing, or just try to rely on ads. I'm not looking for a lot of course, and I have a few good ideas and have done some research into other related websites, search results, among other things.

Actually, in general how do you also feel about CPA/PPD? I think I have the logic, skills, and in general uniqueness to do it, but I'm not sure.

justinis - January 20, 2014, 6:11 pm

Wow, that was very generous of you to take the time and type this.

As of now, I'm attempting to make my own forum and I'm trying to make it mainly about the marketplace.. With a variety of possibilities, I hope my forum goes at least a little bit past failing... At least get 20 or so members.

I wonder how Omniscient thinks... I mean, I wonder if he ever wonders that so many people would absolutely love to be someone like him - owning an incredibly popular forum.

Infinity. - January 20, 2014, 11:22 pm

Before you thought of HF and were focused on other projects like you said 200 websites, how much was your investment?

Isidar - January 20, 2014, 11:49 pm

Just hit 1k members and 20k posts in 2 months for my gaming forum.

Plus now my rankings for strong keywords are starting to increase.

Coton Pker - January 20, 2014, 11:52 pm

there's so many little project forums on the witza network :p
HF just happened to be the one that took off.

Omniscient - January 21, 2014, 12:44 am

(Jan 21, 2014 12:22 AM)Infinity ? Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Before you thought of HF and were focused on other projects like you said 200 websites, how much was your investment?

Most of my money was being spent on domains. I would buy and sell them regularly. I would often get a bunch of domains, do some quick development, and flip what sites I could. Some for as little as \$40-\$50 bucks. Just about anything to make a few dollars a day really. And I had sites I sold in the \$xx,xxx range as well.

I would do my own graphics and coding which of course saved me hassle and money. Over time I did all of my own work and maximized profits.

Kangaroo?? - January 21, 2014, 1:57 am

Something I can talk about a lot...

Sexforums.net here I come ?

The ? End - January 21, 2014, 9:04 pm

I think one of the most important things for people to take away from this slice of advice is: having unique content. Copy & paste forums happen all of the time, and being in the webmaster/forum business (scene?) now for over 15 years - uniqueness is absolutely the most important thing you can have. Things that set you apart from other forums are key to success. SEO, advertising and "getting your fingers in as many pies as possible" are all propellants that help snowball the growth of the forum. Cool thing about forums though, is that they practically grow themselves once you get to a certain point.

REEEEERRRE - January 21, 2014, 10:47 pm

Somethings you should ask yourself when creating a forum:

Why should people come to my forum?

What makes mine different than the rest?

Like Omniscient was saying, he had A LOT of forums that he made. He may have focused on the ones that were becoming popular, but I'm sure he didn't dedicate his soul into just one. Don't become attached to your forum. Think as if there's nothing to loose and if the forum fails, explain to yourself that it was fun creating it and move on.

Capone. - January 23, 2014, 9:32 pm

(Jan 17, 2014 11:29 AM)Bandors Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Ignore previous post, I was on a mobile >_>

This is actually REALLY cool. You're one of, if not THE best forum administrator. You're extremely successful, and I'm hoping to be able to use this guide to help out my forum.

SEO is a lot bigger part then I expected.

Agreed, let's just not kiss Omni's ass. He's cool from what I can tell so far :P

NotDunk - January 24, 2014, 1:06 am

(Jan 21, 2014 11:47 PM)Acropolis Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Somethings you should ask yourself when creating a forum:

Why should people come to my forum?

What makes mine different than the rest?

Like Omniscient was saying, he had A LOT of forums that he made. He may have focused on the

ones that were becoming popular, but I'm sure he didn't dedicate his soul into just one. Don't become attached to your forum. Think as if there's nothing to loose and if the forum fails, explain to yourself that it was fun creating it and move on. If he had a lot of forums made, why does he have to be a dick to one of the 1/1millionth member. He banned me because I asked him about a member using vacation ban. Very mature staff.. >_>

Odin the Wanderer - January 24, 2014, 11:33 am

Thanks for this thread. I have made a forum and I hope it becomes a great success.

webdev77 - January 24, 2014, 3:11 pm

I think the moral of this story is don't give up when you fail the first 50 times. I'm guessing HF now has over 10,000 hours of work put into it to put it where it is today. That's quite a long time working on a forum, but... the effort put in is showing pretty clearly.

Remix™ - January 24, 2014, 6:48 pm

Thanks a lot for the tips! I am not looking to get into it but its nice that you are open to getting others to get a forum opened!

1n9i9c7om - January 25, 2014, 10:57 am

First of all, thanks for this thread, Omni. The SEO tips can be really helpful.

(Jan 17, 2014 08:54 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) If you need staff to start a forum from zero then you don't know enough on your own to start a forum period.

While this is true (a new started forum doesn't need staff as there isn't many content) - would you say it's better to start a forum alone or with a friend/partner? In example, if guy 1 is good at coding, he could make plugins, while guy 2, who is good at graphics, can design the theme.

Or would it be better to start a forum alone and hire someone for things you can't do yourself?

(Jan 24, 2014 04:11 PM)webdev77 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I think the moral of this story is don't give up when you fail the first 50 times.

Exactly. This is actually how it works:

Spoiler ([Click to View](#))

[img]http://weknowmemes.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/success-what-most-people-think.png[/img]

Strategist - January 25, 2014, 2:06 pm

Writing so I remember this thread. Definitely gonna come back and read through it!

Omniscient - January 25, 2014, 2:19 pm

Quote:I think the moral of this story is don't give up when you fail the first 50 times.

Who said I failed 50 times? Some were more successful than others but very few were failures. I almost always made back my investment and then some. I'd say less than 10% of my projects lost money. It's not about failure. It's about varying degrees of success. Even the 0 income domains were useful for linking. I remember I had one site which never made me any money but I kept it anyways. About 3 years into the domain someone wants backlink to a casino website and pays me \$150 for a year. Bingo...I just made money. They paid me \$150 again the next year too.

Quote:would you say it's better to start a forum alone or with a friend/partner?

I would say it doesn't hurt to have friends help you but I don't believe in internet partnerships. I rarely see them last even a year. You are better off paying someone to do work than making them a partner because you're too cheap to pay them. Best solution though is to be able to do everything on your own. Doesn't take a genius to install forum software, buy a theme, and add some plugins.

webdev77 - January 25, 2014, 2:22 pm

(Jan 17, 2014 11:25 AM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) HF for example was probably my 50th forum..maybe more actually. I had at one point over 200 websites. No exaggeration.

Maybe I shouldn't have said failure, but that's where the number 50 came from. I interpreted that to mean you had many forums that were not great successes.

Bluffer - January 25, 2014, 2:26 pm

Nice share hopefully my forum will some day go somewhere.

Mr.Peanut - January 25, 2014, 2:28 pm

Great motivation actually.. if it took that much failure for success... :D

1n9i9c7om - January 25, 2014, 2:30 pm

(Jan 25, 2014 03:19 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I would say it doesn't hurt to have friends help you but I don't believe in internet partnerships. I rarely see them last even a year. You are better off paying someone to do work than making them a partner because you're too cheap to pay them. Best solution though is to be able to do everything on your own. Doesn't take a genius to install forum software, buy a theme, and add some plugins.

Exactly - the MyBB installation process is basically self-explanatory.

The only thing I wouldn't be able on my own would be making a theme, but I guess I'd just buy one if I ever make a forum again. :)

Kirian - January 25, 2014, 10:34 pm

Thanks for some tips, Omni. I might be thinking of starting my own forum too. c:

Truth - January 27, 2014, 8:53 pm

Hey OMNI,

I was wondering if you did this all by yourself? Did you have any partners on any of your projects? Thanks for the tips and hope you can answer this.

Huskar - January 27, 2014, 8:56 pm

Wow great tips omni.

They can be useful to people wanting to start one :p

clark.dll - January 29, 2014, 12:23 am

(Jan 27, 2014 09:53 PM)TryAgain Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Hey OMNI,

I was wondering if you did this all by yourself? Did you have any partners on any of your projects? Thanks for the tips and hope you can answer this.

I too wonder this. If you've started forums in the past with a partner, how did it go over? Did you know the partner in real life or did you meet each other online?

(Jan 24, 2014 04:11 PM)webdev77 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I think the moral of this story is don't give up when you fail the first 50 times. I'm guessing HF now has over 10,000 hours of work put into it to put it where it is today. That's quite a long time working on a forum, but... the effort put in is showing pretty clearly.

Exactly. Sometimes people forget that failure is really just a learning experience, assuming you learn from your initial mistakes.

(Jan 21, 2014 01:44 AM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Most of my money was being spent on domains. I would buy and sell them regularly. I would often get a bunch of domains, do some quick development, and flip what sites I could. Some for as little as \$40-\$50 bucks. Just about anything to

make a few dollars a day really. And I had sites I sold in the \$xx,xxx range as well.

I would do my own graphics and coding which of course saved me hassle and money. Over time I did all of my own work and maximized profits.

When you first started working with forums, what languages did you know, and how familiar were you with them? When did you start coding your own plugins?

I have another question; Once you've got members who are involved with the community and who appear to be enjoying their stay on your site how do you get them to remain active aside from awards, reputation, contests, and acknowledgment?

Thanks again, everyday I learn more about Forums/MyBB as an admin on another forum and it's great to receive advice/knowledge from someone such as yourself.

?nxy - January 29, 2014, 4:45 am

It seems you've hit a goldmine mate. ?

Omniscient - January 30, 2014, 10:40 am

I've had internet relationships in business before. Technically not a full-on partnership though. But I've witnessed many of them and a few times had real-world partners.

Quote:When you first started working with forums, what languages did you know, and how familiar were you with them? When did you start coding your own plugins?

First forum was perl based back in about 97 or 98. I had a small internet startup company till the dotcom bubble burst. At one point I had 17 employees. We had a T-1 line, in-house servers, a graphic artist, coders, content writers, and a sales team. That was my first internet company but it flopped when the bubble burst. There was some highlights though and I learned a lot. Over the next 5 years I continued to learn on my own and I kept many of my original sites online which even today are still online. :) But somewhere around 99 we started using PHP 3 and I started to pick up the language much easier than Perl. I think much of the web felt the same way...that PHP somehow saved us all. Even Facebook and Ebay are built on it. I still kept up with forums mainly but had many different sites. I was a member of successful forums in the early days like Anandtech, DigitalPoint, FatWallet, and CheapAssGamer which even today are still very popular forums. I started coding my own plugins for OScommerce actually and you can still find me in the credits of some of the addons. My game store had a great domain I bought early...videogamedeals.com. So I had my ecommerce site with OScommerce and I was making my own changes and design.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20040610021426/http://www.videogamedeals.com/>

The css/images don't load well but you get the point.

I was also doing forum stuff with phpBB and doing plugins for it. I created some pretty damn good plugins that were at the time ground breaking and widely used. Including one of the better plugins to buy forum points with Paypal using an IPN. I think I had a handful of plugins but I was frustrated with phpbb and moved to VB which I hated. I then tried out MyBB and instantly fell in love. Everything fell into place for me. My skills were well rounded, I had great domains, I was my own sysadmin, and I just moved to Vegas so I no longer had a store to maintain. I was 100% webmaster at that point. HF was just one of many projects in the mix over the next couple years.

Quote: Once you've got members who are involved with the community and who appear to be enjoying their stay on your site how do you get them to remain active aside from awards, reputation, contests, and acknowledgment?

I think it's simply because I maintained my presence and kept up with customer service. As an

example of what happens when I'm not personally involved just look at SupportForums.net. You can also recall HackerCraft was nearly dead before I stepped back in a few months ago and became active. I'm not saying I'm the star of the show but I think I have better instincts when it comes to customer service. It's why even though it's cumbersome at this point I still prefer to manually deal with just about every member wanting a sticky or to donate. I think if I automate donations that they will decline. So maybe it's just that customer service and support have to be part of your project goals.

Quote:It seems you've hit a goldmine mate.

If that was true I wouldn't have to work till 4am answering PMs. At best I've hit silver.

Isidar - January 30, 2014, 11:03 am

I struggle to convert traffic to members, especially Google traffic

Verilog - January 30, 2014, 11:12 am

Omni will you suggest switching a forum software for a site doing well but looking for more features of paid forum software ?

Omniscient - January 30, 2014, 11:22 am

(Jan 30, 2014 12:12 PM)Verilog Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Omni will you suggest switching a forum software for a site doing well but looking for more features of paid forum software ?

Only if you want to ruin it. Most forums I see change software fail. I think it's too much structure change and too much navigational change. Then you have SEO changes too.

IMHO you're better off going either to a full custom solution where you can keep any elements you have that you like or just keep on making custom alterations to your existing software.

I never foresee HF being anything but MyBB and I even highly doubt we'll use 2.0 because of the complete rebuild it's having. HF will likely go to 1.8x though as it's the same backend with some very good modifications I know I can take advantage of.

Verilog - January 30, 2014, 11:27 am

(Jan 30, 2014 12:22 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Only if you want to ruin it. Most forums I see change software fail. I think it's too much structure change and too much navigational change. Then you have SEO changes too.

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I never foresee HF being anything but MyBB and I even highly doubt we'll use 2.0 because of the complete rebuild it's having. HF will likely go to 1.8x though as it's the same backend with some very good modifications I know I can take advantage of.

Digitalpoint is one site that i believe made a drastic improvement after changing software and after its result i have thinking about xenforo too much.

And i will also not upgrade to 2.0, instead i will shift forum software to xenforo at that time. And i believe 2.0 will take a long time

Thanks for the suggestion specially on SEO aspect

Omniscient - January 30, 2014, 11:32 am

I'd go XF before I went MyBB 2.0 as well.

bandors - January 30, 2014, 12:42 pm

(Jan 30, 2014 12:32 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I'd go XF before I went MyBB 2.0 as well. What's wrong with MyBB 2.0? I read the change log and so far it seems like a very nice update.

Omniscient - January 30, 2014, 5:55 pm

(Jan 30, 2014 01:42 PM)Bandors Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) What's wrong with MyBB 2.0? I read the change log and so far it seems like a very nice update.

To start with it's a complete rebuild. They're using a framework in the backend. That will break every existing plugin and theme. Everything has to be done from the ground up. They are saying you'll have improved SEO but it's terrible to break all existing URLs that are indexed already.

Everything they plan to do they can do on-top of 1.8x if they wanted to do it. Instead they are taking the lazy road of using a framework and imho it will be the end of MyBB. I've already registered a domain name in case I decide to fork...KnotBB. :)

HostSlayer - January 30, 2014, 6:11 pm

(Jan 30, 2014 06:55 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) To start with it's a complete rebuild. They're using a framework in the backend. That will break every existing plugin and theme. Everything has to be done from the ground up. They are saying you'll have improved SEO but it's terrible to break all existing URLs that are indexed already.

Everything they plan to do they can do on-top of 1.8x if they wanted to do it. Instead they are taking the lazy road of using a framework and imho it will be the end of MyBB. I've already registered a domain name in case I decide to fork...KnotBB. :)

I personally will stick to the 1.6 series and maybe switch to 1.8 in the future with projects. I currently have been fiddling around with 1.8 on localhost but so far its not appealing to me.

MyBB 2.0 is a hell no to me I will not even give it a chance.

T0ucaNSaM - January 31, 2014, 7:15 pm

(Jan 17, 2014 11:34 AM)Damdomy Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I think you should emphasize more about the success part. It doesn't happen over night. If you give up very quickly then i doubt any of your forums/projects will ever succeed.

Stick with it until the last squeeze of faith you have for the project, i can't stress this enough.

Great share btw.

very true hard work and determination plus the love of the net will for sure make the development of a forum more enjoyable

D????????????????io - February 1, 2014, 7:30 am

I'm currently helping promote a forum, and this is really helpful. Thanks Omni!

godforgive - February 1, 2014, 11:14 pm

so like if i keep posting , and posting all around the forums (my forums obviously) it would attract players to register and so on?

Kyle XY - February 1, 2014, 11:18 pm

This is a great tutorial, and you really are an amazing webmaster, (not sucking up).

Can you tell me what's wrong with <V.I .P> Hackforums? (Damn Omni, what a filter!) I guess it's their "Unique" step they messed up on, huh?

(Feb 2, 2014 12:14 AM)godforgive Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) so like if i keep posting , and posting all around the forums (my forums obviously) it would attract players to register and so on?

You would want high quality, and informative information obviously, something that will attract the

users.

Eminem? - February 5, 2014, 4:28 pm

Thanks for this tutorial Omni, will help me out in the forum :)

BoomShot - February 5, 2014, 6:52 pm

This reminds me of when I created my first forum for a clan that I was apart of.

I was always the highest poster because if I remained active and showed others that I knew what I was talking about and was passionate about it, it'd encourage others to participate in the same thing.

During this process, I learned how to setup a website, a domain, a forum, etc. At the time, since I was young, this was a very interesting experience and well worth it because I always remember it.

This is a great guide Omniscient, thanks for posting it.

Bluxy - February 15, 2014, 5:51 am

I'm the same, Omniscient. I've made over 10 forums and all but one were just failures. The one which did not fail, strived for success but was shot down by a group of "hackers" using their "advanced hacking skills" such as DDOS. Sad but true.

Exterse - May 30, 2015, 8:53 pm

Thanks for the tut man :D

BITW - June 1, 2015, 4:38 am

I have a vbulletin forum right now and i am not posting in that for many months. I wish i get time soon and start working.

I can see this tut will help many.

bass booster - June 1, 2015, 8:51 pm

(Jun 1, 2015 04:38 AM)BITW Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I have a vbulltin forum right now and i am not posting in that for many months. I wish i get time soon and start working.

I can see this tut will help many.

What's your forum about? Did you read everythingin this thread, ice learn more from reading the 2 pages on here than anywhere else lol

BITW - June 1, 2015, 8:53 pm

(Jun 1, 2015 08:51 PM)bass booster Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) What's your forum about? Did you read everythingin this thread, ice learn more from reading the 2 pages on here than anywhere else lol Just got the thread yesterday but i read First page only. I knew most of the steps omini sir mentioned but sometime you can't do all things because of time.

I will start following them soon and spend time on new projects.

Cheers ?

UnNullRouted - June 1, 2015, 8:56 pm

Vouch for Omni. Always knows what he is talking about :)

Declan? - June 13, 2015, 11:33 am

This image I found pretty much sums up what you said.

HACKED - June 13, 2015, 1:47 pm

Nice post. Really like your attitude on success.

st0nedpr0grammer - January 25, 2016, 1:53 pm

"I am a webMASTER." - Omniscient 2k14

Windows95 - January 25, 2016, 1:56 pm

Omni if your a web master why is HF so easy to down? Not trying to be a dick about it, I always assumed that to you thought downtime isn't often and it would cost a lot of money setting up protection, load balancing etc and that In your eyes amount HF gets hit < cost to set up prot.

Comments ?

ization - January 25, 2016, 7:35 pm

thanks bro for this quick tut

Zuro - January 26, 2016, 8:23 am

(Jan 17, 2014 11:25 AM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) put my fingers into as many pies as possible. Oh, Omni, you sexy bastard.

yes it's a phrase, im not autistic i think thx

??? ??? - January 26, 2016, 8:29 am

Thanks for sharing, Not only will this help me and other to give us motivation to keep digging and not to give up when it comes to putting new projects and ideas together. There is a saying good things come to those who wait. You worked hard and now its your time to shine. Congratulations on the success and thanks for sharing your tips.

Omniscient - January 26, 2016, 11:32 am

(Jan 25, 2016 02:56 PM)Windows95 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Omni if your a web master why is HF so easy to down? Not trying to be a dick about it, I always assumed that to you thought downtime isn't often and it would cost a lot of money setting up protection, load balancing etc and that In your eyes amount HF gets hit < cost to set up prot.

Comments ?

Whenever someone says something like "not trying to..." it simply means you are going to.

So by you saying ..."not trying to be a dick", you admit that what you're doing is being a dick.

You're account is GONE.

Virgin Retard - January 26, 2016, 11:35 am

(Jan 26, 2016 12:32 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Whenever someone says something like "not trying to..." it simply means you are going to.

So by you saying ..."not trying to be a dick", you admit that what you're doing is being a dick.

You're account is GONE.

oh shit

Isidar - January 26, 2016, 12:34 pm

(Jan 25, 2016 02:56 PM)Windows95 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Omni if your a web master why is HF so easy to down? Not trying to be a dick about it, I always assumed that to you thought downtime isn't often and it would cost a lot of money setting up protection, load balancing etc and that In your eyes amount HF gets hit < cost to set up prot.

Comments ?

People can call me a kiss for saying this, but Omni has worked hard to improve the downtime. A couple years ago you'd frequently have some sort of issue with the forums. Now, how many times do you see down time with HF?

Karnaugh - January 26, 2016, 12:39 pm

One of the coolest things in the way you administrativa the website is, like you said, "barely anything I can't handle" on the websites you own. You don't need technical support or 3rd party plugins/etc. What you need, you develop it.

???? - January 26, 2016, 12:41 pm

(Jan 26, 2016 01:34 PM)Isidar Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) People can call me a kiss for saying this, but Omni has worked hard to improve the downtime. A couple years ago you'd frequently have some sort of issue with the forums. Now, how many times do you see down time with HF?

I back this. Our downtime issues really aren't that bad.

TEMP_Windows - January 26, 2016, 2:02 pm

(Jan 26, 2016 12:32 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Whenever someone says something like "not trying to..." it simply means you are going to.

So by you saying ..."not trying to be a dick", you admit that what you're doing is being a dick.

You're account is GONE.

Let's keep this diplomatic.

First off all its your, not you're.

And can you not take constructive criticism?

And yes I wrote not to be a dick because after reading my post before posting it it seemed like a threat to HF, that I was going to down it.

And yes HF is easy to down, if you cannot realize that you are blind, anyone who knows anything about JavaScript can write a script to bypass your little cookie test with cloudflare and black lotus. For you to ban and repfuck me because you can't handle a comment that is simply constructive criticism is utterly sad. Not that people haven't spent more but I've spent over 3 weeks online time on this forum and because you get butthurt you wave your magic repfuck stick and kill my rep and soon after killing my account. Now if we do a trust scan on my account you can see I have roughly or over 100 different IPs and several different countries, becoming a MultiAccounter would be quite easy for one with as many VPNs and RDPs as I have, however if I'm not wanted I shall not be because if the owner a forum with over two million users almost three million cannot handle a simple comment asking a genuine question then I personally feel I shouldn't be a part of your forum.

Thanks and good day omni.

(Jan 26, 2016 01:41 PM)???? Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I back this. Our downtime issues really aren't that bad. As I also said they're not bad, however whenever someone from SST gets banned the site seems to go down. EG: When Jibbly got banned.

tim - January 26, 2016, 5:41 pm

This is probably one of the best, if not the best, forums that I've been on. It's so diverse that it caters to all types of people ranging from Music all the way to sports and to running botnets. Crazy. I've never seen a forum other than this one that seems to be always fun to check. Everytime I check HF, I don't think of it as a boring thing. I look forward to it. It fits me well. Pretty damn cool how Omni created this site. Obviously, underground forums go further into the more detailed stuff about specific topics, but this forum is unique as hell. Hack Forums is like the Microsoft of the tech scene. HF is like Microsoft because it's the only forum, hacking related, that is ORIGINAL. There are so many copies or wanna-be hacking forums yet they fail. Amazing work done on this site.

Big Tony - January 26, 2016, 6:30 pm

This is actually a really cool thread to read by you Omni. Thanks for writing this. I'm taking down a few tips!

Queen Cin - January 27, 2016, 10:51 am

I have never seen this thread, this was a good read.

Seife?r - January 27, 2016, 10:52 am

suprised I have not seen this thread before xD

however, "1. Find a topic you can discuss everyday that you're passionate about and knowledgeable."

I though omni was not knowledgable about hacking lol

Zakarum - January 27, 2016, 10:54 am

Good read. Has some nice steps for someone who is willing to put his time and work into forums.

-CP- - January 28, 2016, 8:50 am

Thanks for this little thread. It's pretty crazy that you were running so many sites. I guess it's a good idea though since it doesn't half heighten the chances of success :D

MiLkBoNe - January 30, 2016, 1:16 am

(Jan 26, 2016 06:41 PM)Marc????????????????? Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) This is probably one of the best, if not the best, forums that I've been on. It's so diverse that it caters to all types of people ranging from Music all the way to sports and to running botnets. Crazy. I've never seen a forum other than this one that seems to be always fun to check. Everytime I check HF, I don't think of it as a boring thing. I look forward to it. It fits me well. Pretty damn cool how Omni created this site. Obviously, underground forums go further into the more detailed stuff about specific topics, but this forum is unique as hell. Hack Forums is like the Microsoft of the tech scene. HF is like Microsoft because it's the only forum, hacking related, that is ORIGINAL. There are so many copies or wanna-be hacking forums yet they fail. Amazing work done on this site.

I couldn't have said it better myself.

I used to own a GFX forum a few years ago, it was mildly successful. ?