

## Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [HackForums Is Big, Why Doesn't It Have Any API\(s\)?](#)

**Nutar** - July 24, 2014, 11:22 am

Note: The first two paragraphs are nothing related to the actual suggestion. If you are willing to know how I came up with this and how it may help me. Also, please forgive my bad English grammar skills as English is not my foreign language.

Hello,

So I was in middle of planning for a project I was willing to create. This project is a website where you can sell your signature space and anyone can rent it for a set price. When someone rents it, it will instantly change the signature of the user renting his sig. I had no problem with that if the user puts the link I give him as an image in his signature.

After sometime, a problem came up. Why will anyone rent a signature space if they can't redirect a person clicking on it to their sales page? At this point everything I made and did felt worthless, since that's the whole point of creating this signature marketplace.

My question is, why doesn't HackForums have an API where I can request the amount of posts, reputation or maybe change the signature of a user.

I know it can be hard to code it, and maybe put the user's account at risk if all the information needed to do a certain thing on the user's account gets leaked. But we can have a monthly payment to get access to the API, or a one-time fee. We can also have a person or Omni look at the code so you can get an API key.

I want to know other user's opinions on this. And I hope Omni takes this into consideration. After all, he will get paid for it. Also, I would like to have Omni do a poll on this if users don't mind Omni implementing it, if he ever considers implementing this.

Thanks for reading,  
With regards,  
Calypo.

EDIT: Regarding the signature problem, the user Dean Winchester helped me with it. But I think we still need an API.

(Jul 27, 2014 03:10 AM)Psifour Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I feel I should elaborate. I will most likely be leaving HF (and many other services) in the near future if proper APIs are not at least planned for. Lately I have realized I personally disagree with not having a convenient way to retrieve information from a service that you contribute to. Allow me to explain on a larger scale without limiting my explanation to just HF.

For any site/application that has a social aspect the users (and their user-created content) tend to be the draw for new users. For instance if Facebook didn't have as many users as it does I would have no logical reason to use their service. So it follows that the success for any social site/app is based on usage of their current members and their work. By itself this is not a problem as the exchange is more akin to a symbiotic relationship than anything else. The problem comes in when said service stores and tracks information about their users. You now have an unfair exchange in favor of the service provider. They are able to use your data for any purpose (within the limits of the law) without providing you any means to access said data in a convenient manner. At a minimum any social-focused service should provide you a programmatic means of monitoring your input to said data pool.

With all of that said there are times where you can (in good faith) limit access to said data. The first is when access to such data would be detrimental to the safety/security of users. This is solved rather easily by allowing users the ability to opt-out of the API. The security side is easily solved with the usage of something like OAuth which has had rather few security issues when compared with your average forum software. The second is when the creation of said API would require a significant restructuring of the back-end of a service. This case would never apply to a forum (unless someone writes a P2P PKI-enabled forum with no centralized server/back-end). In the cases it does apply the developers/providers should still endeavour to provide the best possible API they can without damaging the service they provide.

**lurking** - July 24, 2014, 11:25 am

This is my first time ever posting on a suggestion; just because this is a really good one. Hope it get implemented.

**Nutar** - July 24, 2014, 11:26 am

(Jul 24, 2014 11:25 AM)balon Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) This is my first time ever posting on a suggestion; just because this is a really good one. Hope it get implemented.

Thank you for your kind reply. I would love to see more interested members.

**Logically** - July 24, 2014, 11:27 am

I'm half and half on this.

It easily cause lag unless Omni butts a very low limit on requests per second/minute.

**Camdog** - July 24, 2014, 11:27 am

I really like this idea i also like your idea of the signature marketplace

**Vince** - July 24, 2014, 11:28 am

Wouldn't you need to call upon the database to gather the information for this? If so, I doubt Omni would approve of it.

**Nutar** - July 24, 2014, 11:31 am

(Jul 24, 2014 11:28 AM)Vince? Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Wouldn't you need to call upon the database to gather the information for this? If so, I doubt Omni would approve of it.

No. We can just request it through a page. That page will return the information we need in a JSON format.

**Dean Winchester?** - July 24, 2014, 11:32 am

(Jul 24, 2014 11:27 AM)Logically Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I'm half and half on this.

It easily cause lag unless Omni butts a very low limit on requests per second/minute.

I didn't understand a word of that.  
Edit: oh

Also this might be a good idea but I don't see it being accepted (any time soon) due to the work needed to be put into this.

**Nutar** - July 24, 2014, 11:32 am

(Jul 24, 2014 11:27 AM)Logically Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I'm half and half on this.

It easily cause lag unless Omni butts a very low limit on requests per second/minute.  
Yes, that can be implemented. Good idea bro!

(Jul 24, 2014 11:32 AM)Dean Winchester? Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I didn't understand a word of that.

EDIT: It also could be used by other websites offering services for HF users.  
Also this might be a good idea but I don't see it being accepted (any time soon) due to the work needed to be put into this.  
Well, I don't mind paying \$100 or more for this.

**V For Vendetta** - July 24, 2014, 11:34 am

I'm in support of this. Hopefully this gets implemented.

**Based Clam** - July 24, 2014, 11:34 am

I like this idea, I could see omni taking interest as long as you did all the work, I can't imagine he would want to spend his time on this project when he is already busy with other aspects of HF.

**webdev77** - July 24, 2014, 11:35 am

I honestly just don't see the need for this. I sell my signature frequently and it's plenty easy to have a user pay me and then they reply back with their sig code once they pay. I change my sig and wear it for the agreed period of time and all is good.

I understand why you think this may be useful, but I don't see myself using it.

**Nutar** - July 24, 2014, 11:49 am

(Jul 24, 2014 11:35 AM)webdev77 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I honestly just don't see the need for this. I sell my signature frequently and it's plenty easy to have a user pay me and then they reply back with their sig code once they pay. I change my sig and wear it for the agreed period of time and all is good.

I understand why you think this may be useful, but I don't see myself using it.  
Well, It could save the hassle of PMing. Also, It would be instant and safe. What makes it safe that the user will be paid at the end of every 24 hours.

**SIM-1676753** - July 24, 2014, 11:57 am

I don't find a whole lot of use for this. I mean, what would you do with the API?

**Nutar** - July 24, 2014, 12:03 pm

(Jul 24, 2014 11:57 AM)Mr. Trvp Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I don't find a whole lot of use for this. I mean, what would you do with the API?  
We could offer services related to HF which will actually help HF grow.

**Aceman** - July 24, 2014, 12:10 pm

The problem with an API is that it would promote business off site. I don't think Omni is going to want to hurt his site traffic and make the marketplace less effective.

**Nutar** - July 24, 2014, 12:13 pm

(Jul 24, 2014 12:10 PM)Aceman Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) The problem with an API is that it would promote business off site. I don't think Omni is going to want to hurt his site traffic and make the marketplace less effective.

I'm not sure about that, but anyone trying to use must already be using HF. However, you seem to have a good point.

**ctrlaltdestroy\_** - July 24, 2014, 12:16 pm

This can all be solved simply on your own. Provide your own ad site that hosts images and change them using something like [this](#) depending on the customer. Provide a link that also links to your site, and just redirect it.

**Stoke** - July 24, 2014, 12:16 pm

My head is big, why doesn't it have a brain in there? :(

Sigh.

**Aura** - July 24, 2014, 12:17 pm

(Jul 24, 2014 11:34 AM)Based Clam Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I like this idea, I could see omni taking interest as long as you did all the work, I can't imagine he would want to spend his time on this project when he is already busy with other aspects of HF.

Omni doesn't use any plugins or features that are from 3rd party or not custom coded by himself. He does everything alone.

**Nutar** - July 24, 2014, 12:21 pm

(Jul 24, 2014 12:16 PM)ctrlaltdestroy\_ Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) This can all be solved simply on your own. Provide your own ad site that hosts images and change them using something like [this](#) depending on the customer. Provide a link that also links to your site, and just redirect it.

I don't get what you mean, but the image thing can be easily done. What I'm talking about is the [url] tag. I can't set it unless HTML was on. Also, the API could be useful for many other projects out there.

(Jul 24, 2014 11:34 AM)Based Clam Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I like this idea, I could see omni taking interest as long as you did all the work, I can't imagine he would want to spend his time on this project when he is already busy with other aspects of HF.

I'm surely going to code the signature marketplace. But I don't see omni giving me access to the back-end of this site to implement an API.

**Aceman** - July 24, 2014, 12:47 pm

(Jul 24, 2014 12:16 PM)ctrlaltdestroy\_ Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) This can all be solved simply on your own. Provide your own ad site that hosts images and change them using something like [this](#) depending on the customer. Provide a link that also links to your site, and just redirect it.

Dynamic signatures are not allowed on HF. You can view the help document which states that [here](#).

**SIM-1858092** - July 24, 2014, 12:50 pm

Nice idea the only issue is that it could easily contain bugs... of course there are alot of hackers here... so it could be awhile before it is released to public to ensure that there are no bugs...

Dafull97 ?

**/jeremy/** - July 24, 2014, 12:51 pm

This is a great idea, I'm all for this. I hope Omni implements it.

**Nutar** - July 24, 2014, 12:51 pm

(Jul 24, 2014 12:47 PM)Aceman Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Dynamic signatures are not allowed on HF. You can view the help document which states that [here](#).

I'll try to contact him and see what he replies back. I'll make sure to apply all signature rules. Btw, I'd like to see discussion about the API not about my current project.

**D\_E\_F\_C\_O\_N** - July 24, 2014, 1:07 pm

REST-ful APIs are wonderful. I always implement them in my projects. Whether it's retrieving an NFO from a preDB, retrieving timestamp data or data from a user ID, posting something to a site from another site, or whatever - they're incredible useful.

**Nutar** - July 24, 2014, 1:08 pm

(Jul 24, 2014 01:07 PM)D\_E\_F\_C\_O\_N Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) REST-ful APIs are wonderful. I always implement them in my projects. Whether it's retrieving an NFO from a preDB, retrieving timestamp data or data from a user ID, posting something to a site from another site, or whatever - they're incredible useful.

As you stated, they're useful. They make connecting to different applications a lot more easier.

**shreder** - July 24, 2014, 1:22 pm

hmm interesting maybe it's too much work but would be cool.

**Haxalot** - July 24, 2014, 1:38 pm

(Jul 24, 2014 11:31 AM)Calypo Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) No. We can just request it through a page. That page will return the information we need in a json format.

Where do you think that page gets its data from? It'll still involve querying against the database (even if data for that page is cached prevent lots of round trips). It'll put unnecessary strain on the web server from what I can see.

I think exposing an API like this will only lead to abuse and isn't really needed for a community like this.

**Nutar** - July 24, 2014, 1:41 pm

(Jul 24, 2014 01:38 PM)Haxalot Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Where do you think that page gets its data from? It'll still involve querying against the database (even if data for that page is cached prevent lots of round trips). It'll put unnecessary strain on the web server from what I can see.

I think exposing an API like this will only lead to abuse and isn't really needed for a community like this.

Omni could provide API Keys only to people who'd he trust. Also, he can place a time limit between requests and a limit of requests that can be made each day.

**Dean Winchester?** - July 24, 2014, 1:57 pm

If you want to change someone's signature without PMing them:

1. Buy a domain + hosting.
2. Upload a photo and place it in domain.com/photo.png
3. If you ever need to change the picture just change the photo.png
4. PROFIT

**Nutar** - July 24, 2014, 2:04 pm

(Jul 24, 2014 01:57 PM)Dean Winchester? Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) If you want to change someone's signature without PMing them:

1. Buy a domain + hosting.
2. Upload a photo and place it in domain.com/photo.png

3. If you ever need to change the picture just change the photo.png

4. PROFIT

What about making the image link to a thread on HF. Here comes the problem. I already mentioned that changing the signature is an easy task.

**CyberAlien** - July 24, 2014, 2:06 pm

Yea it's great idea, but you can't get living income from your signature ( average price it's from 2\$ to 10\$/month ) rent so it's kinda hard to believe that it will be implemented

**Dean Winchester?** - July 24, 2014, 2:07 pm

(Jul 24, 2014 02:04 PM)Calypo Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) What about making the image link to a thread on HF. Here comes the problem. I already mentioned that changing the signature is an easy task.  
Set up a redirection on domain.com/redirect

You would find a way if it was really needed.

**Nutar** - July 24, 2014, 2:11 pm

(Jul 24, 2014 02:07 PM)Dean Winchester? Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Set up a redirection on domain.com/redirect

You would find a way if it was really needed.

Well, you solved my problem. Now, I still need the API to grab the users' stats.

**Dean Winchester?** - July 24, 2014, 2:13 pm

(Jul 24, 2014 02:11 PM)Calypo Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Well, you solved my problem. Now, I still need the API to grab the users' stats.  
Someone could probably code this for you easily.

Make a code that goes to their /profile&uid\*\*\*\* and search up "Posts per day: \*\*\*" etc.

No I wouldn't know how to do this.

**wezlyyy** - July 24, 2014, 2:14 pm

It has to be very exclusive, its also just another entry point into peoples accounts so it would have to be very secure.

I would use it, but not pay for it.

**Nutar** - July 24, 2014, 2:18 pm

(Jul 24, 2014 02:13 PM)Dean Winchester? Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Someone could probably code this for you easily.

Make a code that goes to their /profile&uid\*\*\*\* and search up "Posts per day: \*\*\*" etc.

No I wouldn't know how to do this.

You are required to be logged in to do this. Also, I think Omni said somewhere that making application fetch Hackforums is not allowed. Correct me If I'm wrong. Also, I know how to do that.

**Dean Winchester?** - July 24, 2014, 2:19 pm

(Jul 24, 2014 02:18 PM)Calypo Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) You are required to be logged in to do this. Also, I think Omni said somewhere that making application fetch Hackforums is not allowed. Correct me If I'm wrong. Also, I know how to do that.  
Oh if he said it wasn't allowed then I guess you shouldn't do it.

Just put in a link of the user's profile then.

**Nutar** - July 24, 2014, 2:27 pm

(Jul 24, 2014 02:19 PM)Dean Winchester? Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Oh if he said it wasn't allowed then I guess you shouldn't do it.

Just put in a link of the user's profile then.

Let's see if Omni takes this into consideration. Because I wanted to actually implement a search function and also have user's sorted according to Posts and Rep in the home page.

**?Solace** - July 24, 2014, 2:32 pm

If Omni feels like it, then maybe one day. Very good suggestion ^^

**Nutar** - July 24, 2014, 2:54 pm

I hope to get a response of a Mentor or any staff member.

**Dean Winchester?** - July 24, 2014, 2:57 pm

(Jul 24, 2014 02:54 PM)Calypo Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I hope to get a response of a Mentor or any staff member.

If you shout "Positive" loud enough he will come, trust me.

**Doctor Blue** - July 24, 2014, 3:15 pm

(Jul 24, 2014 01:08 PM)Calypo Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) As you stated, they're useful. They make connecting to different applications a lot more easier.

Based on thousands of rejected suggestions, I'd say Omniscient most likely would prefer if people didn't connect HF to any application, with the exception of the web browser.

**Nutar** - July 24, 2014, 3:43 pm

(Jul 24, 2014 03:15 PM)Doctor Blue Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Based on thousands of rejected suggestions, I'd say Omniscient most likely would prefer if people didn't connect HF to any application, with the exception of the web browser.

Why is that. Creating services connected to HF would be amazing, and may grow the community even further with more developers willing to integrate HF to their applications someday.

**xploD** - July 24, 2014, 9:36 pm

Interesting idea! I support this! :)

**Deutsche Bank** - July 24, 2014, 9:51 pm

(Jul 24, 2014 03:43 PM)Calypo Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Why is that. Creating services connected to HF would be amazing, and may grow the community even further with more developers willing to integrate HF to their applications someday.

Opening up an API would create massive security problems. The time it would take to develop such a project so that it is secure and stable could be better used elsewhere. In other words, the time it would take to move databases around, create secure connections and ways of monitoring and implementing secure use of the API would not be worth it, when he could be working on things such as 2-factor auth and finishing ep1c for recent examples.

Omniscient has denied application connecting many times before, just because you are re-labeling it an API suggestion does not make it any different.

**Psifour** - July 24, 2014, 11:06 pm

(Jul 24, 2014 09:51 PM)Mixl Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Opening up an API would create massive security problems.

Not really. APIs are only a security issue if you implement them like a drunken monkey (many

frameworks exist that would allow said inebriated ape to still create a decent API). This would likely result in a lower total bandwidth usage of the forum as people like me wouldn't need to refresh the "your posts" page and instead could parse a JSON output into a clear/concise list.

**Nutar** - July 25, 2014, 3:40 am

(Jul 24, 2014 11:11 PM)xadamxk Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) If there was an API to do some of this, I see it getting abused or causing issues with the site.

The only benefit I see coming from it would be making plugins for an app or something.

As I mentioned before, he could give API Keys to certain members that he trust. Other than that, it's nice to see that a Mentor replied.

**Deathmaul** - July 25, 2014, 3:44 am

I would be VERY interested in seeing something like this implemented.

The risk factor is something I would think needs to be worked out for sure though. I can only imagine the amount of abuse you would see from something like this.

If it had the ability to only be implemented by trusted members Ub3r+ then I could see it working a lot better. Not to mention I think it would be used by MANY people whom we see advertising their signature for sale.

The biggest question I would have to ask is wondering if there would be a way to only have people that WANTED their sig used for adverts.

Good suggestion OP, I would hope to see something like this used in the furture. ?

**Nutar** - July 25, 2014, 3:46 am

(Jul 25, 2014 03:44 AM)Deathmaul Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I would be VERY interested in seeing something like this implemented.

The risk factor is something I would think needs to be worked out for sure though. I can only imagine the amount of abuse you would see from something like this.

If it had the ability to only be implemented by trusted members Ub3r+ then I could see it working a lot better. Not to mention I think it would be used by MANY people whom we see advertising their signature for sale.

The biggest question I would have to ask is wondering if there would be a way to only have people that WANTED their sig used for adverts.

Good suggestion OP, I would hope to see something like this used in the furture. ?

Regarding signatures, everything has been solved. But me and other members would like to see something like this implemented.

**'Snorlax** - July 25, 2014, 4:05 am

I am sure I have seen an API suggestion thread before.

Anyway. This would be very helpful for userscripts. I could very well see this.

**Nutar** - July 25, 2014, 4:33 am

(Jul 25, 2014 04:05 AM)Snorlax Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I am sure I have seen an API suggestion thread before.

Anyway. This would be very helpful for userscripts. I could very well see this.  
Well, your reply hasn't got my attention. But how much space your awards take on my screen.

**Vaxorr** - July 25, 2014, 4:44 am

As a member said above, Omni won't risk playing with the DB of the forums it can be used wrongly + there is more important things to focus on before making the API.  
My Opinion.

**Deathmaul** - July 25, 2014, 4:44 am

(Jul 25, 2014 04:05 AM)Snorlax Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I am sure I have seen an API suggestion thread before.

Anyway. This would be very helpful for userscripts. I could very well see this.  
Nice! Wait, does that mean you can rent sigs automatically here on the HF?

(Jul 25, 2014 03:46 AM)Calypo Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Regarding signatures, everything has been solved.  
But me and other members would like to see something like this implemented.  
You need to rethink your life.... Haha

That is a lot of awards!

**Nutar** - July 25, 2014, 5:14 am

(Jul 25, 2014 04:44 AM)Deathmaul Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Nice! Wait, does that mean you can rent sigs automatically here on the HF?

You need to rethink your life.... Haha

That is a lot of awards!

- IMG SNIPPED -

Yes, I'm already working on it. I hope I can release it soon.

(Jul 25, 2014 04:44 AM)Null? Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) As a member said above, Omni won't risk playing with the DB of the forums it can be used wrongly + there is more important things to focus on before making the API.  
My Opinion.

He wont be playing with it. He's just going to request data from the DB which MyBB usually does.

**Private Network** - July 25, 2014, 7:37 am

This is a great idea! I hope this gets implemented!

**Nutar** - July 25, 2014, 7:43 am

(Jul 25, 2014 07:37 AM)The Netherlands Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) This is a great idea! I hope this gets implemented!

Thank you for your kind support bro!

**Nivarka** - July 25, 2014, 9:20 am

I'll support this because I can't see any bad coming of it.

- Niv

**Nutar** - July 25, 2014, 9:28 am

(Jul 25, 2014 09:20 AM)Nivarka Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I'll support this because I can't see any bad coming of it.

- Niv

It's good to see so many users supporting this idea.

**Doctah** - July 25, 2014, 9:29 am

Why the fuck would any of this be helpful to the forum? It's stupid.

**Nutar** - July 25, 2014, 9:50 am

(Jul 25, 2014 09:29 AM)Doctah Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Why the fuck would any of this be helpful to the forum? It's stupid.

How is it stupid? I respect your reply, but implementing an API would open many doors for developers to contribute to this community in a way that is connected to HackForums.

**Gen1e** - July 25, 2014, 10:09 am

(Jul 25, 2014 09:50 AM)Calypo Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) How is it stupid? I respect your reply, but implementing an API would open many doors for developers to contribute to this community in a way that is connected to HackForums.

Like how? Give me an example of how can an API contribute to this community?

**Nutar** - July 25, 2014, 10:17 am

(Jul 25, 2014 10:09 AM)Gen1e Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Like how? Give me an example of how can an API contribute to this community?

It will open doors for developers to create applications linked to HF. Let's say a a mobile app which will offer users different statistics. Also, it may help me develop InstaSignature - The Instant HackForums Signature Renting Marketplace. I'm also developing other service in th near future like, InstaMiddleman - HackForums Escrow Service, InstaExchange - Instant BTC, Skrill, PayPal, OMC Exchange, InstaAcouns - Instant OG Account Selling Marketplace & InstaAlts - Free Alts Selling Platform (Like Selffy). All of these services will be exclusively for HF members, and I will manually verify each user. And having an API will make things much easier to connect applications like this to HF, like grabbing user's info (Posts, Rep, Etc.).

**+Haze** - July 25, 2014, 10:22 am

I don't know if I'm tired or retarded. But I've read your thread three times now but I can't seem to understand. Do you just want an API to allow people to change signatures from a website?

**Crake** - July 25, 2014, 10:25 am

HF uses external links to sigs... you could do this without an API.

Regardless, dynamic signatures are not allowed

We recommend you take the time to read the [HF Help Documents](#) section. The answer to your questions should be contained in there.

**Nutar** - July 25, 2014, 11:17 am

(Jul 25, 2014 10:22 AM)+Haze Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I don't know if I'm tired or retarded. But I've read your thread three times now but I can't seem to understand. Do you just want an API to allow people to change signatures from a website?

Nope. I am suggesting an API not for my website. I'm suggesting it for general use.

(Jul 25, 2014 10:25 AM)emanb29 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) HF uses external links to sigs... you could do this without an API.

Regardless, dynamic signatures are not allowed

We recommend you take the time to read the [HF Help Documents](#) section. The answer to your questions should be contained in there.

Leave my website and project aside for now.

**Doctah** - July 25, 2014, 11:32 am

(Jul 25, 2014 10:17 AM)Calypo Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) It will open doors for developers to create applications linked to HF. Let's say a a mobile app which will offer users different statistics. Also, it may help me develop InstaSignature - The Instant HackForums Signature Renting Marketplace. I'm also developing other service in th near future like, InstaMiddleman - HackForums Escrow Service, InstaExchange - Instant BTC, Skrill, PayPal, OMC Exchange, InstaAccounts - Instant OG Account Selling Marketplace & InstaAlts - Free Alts Selling Platform (Like Sellfy). All of these services will be exclusively for HF members, and I will manually verify each user. And having an API will make things much easier to connect applications like this to HF, like grabbing user's info (Posts, Rep, Etc.).

I don't see why Omniscient would want to turn his forum into eCommerce website.

**Nutar** - July 25, 2014, 11:36 am

(Jul 25, 2014 11:32 AM)Doctah Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I don't see why Omniscient would want to turn his forum into eCommerce website.

Well, leave my projects aside. Wouldn't it be nice to have something like this?

**Doctah** - July 25, 2014, 11:38 am

(Jul 25, 2014 11:36 AM)Calypo Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Well, leave my projects aside. Wouldn't it be nice to have something like this?

Not really, it would be exciting for a month then forgotten about because not many people would have use for it.

**Nutar** - July 25, 2014, 11:44 am

(Jul 25, 2014 11:38 AM)Doctah Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Not really, it would be exciting for a month then forgotten about because not many people would have use for it.

Well, what you're saying is just a prediction and I respect that. You do not know what could happen actually, especially that you do not know what things would the API have to offer, if it would ever be implemented.

**VirusTotal** - July 25, 2014, 11:51 am

Hope it get implemented. Very nice idea!!! :)

**Vexane** - July 25, 2014, 11:52 am

Security flaws will strike repeatedly if this is added. I can almost guarantee this won't happen.

**Nutar** - July 25, 2014, 12:53 pm

(Jul 25, 2014 11:52 AM)Varosion Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Security flaws will strike repeatedly if this is added. I can almost guarantee this won't happen.

You don't know. If Omni took every precaution he can, it will surely not have many major security flaws.

**jamesgates1** - July 25, 2014, 12:54 pm

Would love to see an android app of HF.

Thanks, James.

**Doctor Blue** - July 25, 2014, 1:05 pm

(Jul 25, 2014 11:52 AM)Varosion Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Security flaws will strike repeatedly if this is added. I

can almost guarantee this won't happen.

If, for starters, there was a read-only API, the only security concerns would be potential Denial-of-service holes, keeping access keys private and escaping MySQL queries.

**Nutar** - July 25, 2014, 1:15 pm

(Jul 25, 2014 01:05 PM)Doctor Blue Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) If, for starters, there was a read-only API, the only security concerns would be potential Denial-of-service holes, keeping access keys private and escaping MySQL queries.

What I actually want is a read-only API.

**Doctor Blue** - July 25, 2014, 1:19 pm

(Jul 25, 2014 01:15 PM)Calypo Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) What I actually want is a read-only API.

It was more or less aimed at your change-signature-point, but I realize we're not talking about that anymore.

I know several users who'd love a simple read-only API to get public information about users, but since it doesn't exist they decided to just load the whole pages instead... or datamine the forum.

**Server97** - July 25, 2014, 1:26 pm

its a good idea. but i wonder about the security flaws

**Crake** - July 25, 2014, 2:39 pm

A readonly API could be helpful, but iirc, Omni doesn't want any portion of HF automated beyond client-side userscripts.

**lemmon** - July 26, 2014, 1:52 am

For getting stats etc, could you not navigate to the page, then using regex get information such as post count and rep? and for logging in, just post to the login page then save the cookie.

**Dastoks** - July 26, 2014, 1:57 am

You mean like an option so only people with rep above 100 e.g could post?

I like that idea.. but i thik it should be one of the 3p1c benefits.

**cunning** - July 26, 2014, 1:59 am

Already been requested and denied.. Wasn't it?

**Crake** - July 26, 2014, 3:42 am

I agree with Dastoks though... It would indeed be a cool 3p1c feature.

**Chickendipper** - July 26, 2014, 3:59 am

If the API could get things such as all the posts in a thread, it would be great to use to make some sort of android or iOS app.

**cunning** - July 26, 2014, 6:14 am

(Jul 26, 2014 03:59 AM)Chickendipper Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) If the API could get things such as all the posts in a thread, it would be great to use to make some sort of android or iOS app.I think I laughed too hard at this post. Whenever it involves hackforums, "app" is a banned word.

**Roger Waters** - July 26, 2014, 8:55 am

I believe Omniscient said something about making an API so others can make applications on their own. This was said right after he announced that he would no longer be working on a mobile application and that he doesn't have the time to create one anymore. Nothing else has been said about it since.

**Nutar** - July 26, 2014, 8:58 am

(Jul 26, 2014 08:55 AM)Roger Waters Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I believe Omniscient said something about making an API so others can make applications on their own. This was said right after he announced that he would no longer be working on a mobile application and that he doesn't have the time to create one anymore. Nothing else has been said about it since.  
I hope he is still considering an API.

**Doctah** - July 26, 2014, 11:32 am

(Jul 26, 2014 11:22 AM)I am so HQ lol Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I fully support this idea. An API is essential for a website as big as Crack Forums.  
Explain in what way it is essential for the forum.

**AnonSasquatch** - July 26, 2014, 12:02 pm

(Jul 26, 2014 11:32 AM)Doctah Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Explain in what way it is essential for the forum.  
Since Omni dropped his mobile application, an API would allow a developer like me to really streamline the site for beautiful viewing on an Android/iOS mobile. Sure it's ok to browse on occasion on my phone, but with static layouts, sometimes it's rather annoying. It'd be great to see a really fluid layout for HackForums on a mobile device.

**Doctah** - July 26, 2014, 12:25 pm

(Jul 26, 2014 12:02 PM)tch1 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Since Omni dropped his mobile application, an API would allow a developer like me to really streamline the site for beautiful viewing on an Android/iOS mobile. Sure it's ok to browse on occasion on my phone, but with static layouts, sometimes it's rather annoying. It'd be great to see a really fluid layout for HackForums on a mobile device.  
I really wasn't aware that the forums were hard to use on a mobile device :/.

**xFuze.** - July 26, 2014, 12:27 pm

Although I only joined today, I support this notion. It seems like a gigantic forum (the biggest one I've ever used) and an API seems like it would be a great utility for developers.

**Crake** - July 26, 2014, 3:11 pm

(Jul 26, 2014 12:02 PM)tch1 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Since Omni dropped his mobile application, an API would allow a developer like me to really streamline the site for beautiful viewing on an Android/iOS mobile. Sure it's ok to browse on occasion on my phone, but with static layouts, sometimes it's rather annoying. It'd be great to see a really fluid layout for HackForums on a mobile device.  
Omni doesn't want a mobile application. I developed one and before deploying it asked permission to distribute it (not that I actually needed it) but Omni quite clearly stated he did not people using my app.

**7oUP** - July 26, 2014, 3:23 pm

Not a bad idea at all. I think all sorts of forums should have this

**The LAD Bible** - July 26, 2014, 3:26 pm

Guide for use on mobile device:

Using: Samsung Galaxy S5

Enable screen rotation, please Google this is you don't know how... (facepalm)

Open browser and go to hackforums.net.

I just saved Omni alot of time.

**tweety** - July 26, 2014, 3:27 pm

tldr; Omni doesn't want people to fuck with his shit.

**BlueFish** - July 26, 2014, 3:31 pm

(Jul 24, 2014 11:22 AM)Calypo Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Note: The first two paragraphs are nothing related to the actual

suggestion. If you are willing to know how I came up with this and how it may help me. Also, please forgive my bad English grammar skills as English is not my foreign language.

Hello,

So I was in middle of planning for a project I was willing to create. This project is a website where you can sell your signature space and anyone can rent it for a set price. When someone rents it, it will instantly change the signature of the user renting his sig. I had no problem with that if the user puts the link I give him as an image in his signature.

After sometime, a problem came up. Why will anyone rent a signature space if they can't redirect a person clicking on it to their sales page? At this point everything I made and did felt worthless, since that's the whole point of creating this signature marketplace.

My question is, why doesn't HackForums have an API where I can request the amount of posts, reputation or maybe change the signature of a user.

I know it can be hard to code it, and maybe put the user's account at risk if all the information needed to do a certain thing on the user's account gets leaked. But we can have a monthly payment to get access to the API, or a one-time fee. We can also have a person or Omni look at the code so you can get an API key.

I want to know other user's opinions on this. And I hope Omni takes this into consideration. After all, he will get paid for it. Also, I would like to have Omni do a poll on this if users don't mind Omni implementing it, if he ever considers implementing this.

Thanks for reading,  
With regards,  
Calypo.

EDIT: Regarding the signature problem, the user Dean Winchester helped me with it. But I think we still need an API.

This is an excellent idea! I am more than interested if this were to be put into action. I like the sound of a per month fee opposed to an up front fee for the fact that it may deter many potential buyers/users (including myself).

Great thread!

Nutar - July 26, 2014, 3:32 pm

Thanks to everyone who supported the idea.

Psifour - July 27, 2014, 3:10 am

I feel I should elaborate. I will most likely be leaving HF (and many other services) in the near future if proper APIs are not at least planned for. Lately I have realized I personally disagree with not having a convenient way to retrieve information from a service that you contribute to. Allow me to explain on a larger scale without limiting my explanation to just HF.

For any site/application that has a social aspect the users (and their user-created content) tend to be the draw for new users. For instance if Facebook didn't have as many users as it does I would have no logical reason to use their service. So it follows that the success for any social site/app is based on usage of their current members and their work. By itself this is not a problem as the exchange is more akin to a symbiotic relationship than anything else. The problem comes in when said service stores and tracks information about their users. You now have an unfair exchange in favor of the service provider. They are able to use your data for any purpose (within the limits of the law) without providing you any means to access said data in a convenient manner. At a minimum any social-focused service should provide you a programmatic means of monitoring your input to said data pool.

With all of that said there are times where you can (in good faith) limit access to said data. The first is when access to such data would be detrimental to the safety/security of users. This is solved rather easily by allowing users the ability to opt-out of the API. The security side is easily solved with the usage of something like OAuth which has had rather few security issues when compared with your average forum software. The second is when the creation of said API would require a significant restructuring of the back-end of a service. This case would never apply to a forum (unless someone writes a P2P PKI-enabled forum with no centralized server/back-end). In the cases it does apply the developers/providers should still endeavour to provide the best possible API they can without damaging the service they provide.

Nutar - July 27, 2014, 7:20 am

(Jul 27, 2014 03:10 AM)Psifour Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I feel I should elaborate. I will most likely be leaving HF (and many other services) in the near future if proper APIs are not at least planned for. Lately I have realized I personally disagree with not having a convenient way to retrieve information from a service that you contribute to. Allow me to explain on a larger scale without limiting my explanation to just HF.

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This is the best reply I have seen so far.

EDIT: Added your reply as quotes in the OP.

**Alg0rhyth3m** - July 27, 2014, 7:23 am

I love that notion. @Psifour. Wonderful reply.

**Psifour** - July 27, 2014, 7:42 am

(Jul 27, 2014 07:20 AM)Calypo Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) This is the best reply I have seen so far.

EDIT: Added your reply as quotes in the OP.

(Jul 27, 2014 07:23 AM)Alg0rhyth3m Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I love that notion. @Psifour. Wonderful reply. Thank you for the kind words. I have been working on this idea for awhile, but I figured it is close enough to done that I can start implementing it as a life-theory. The logic actually goes much much deeper than just social media. If anyone is interested in where this conclusion comes from I can write it up as a thread with proper references and such (the discussion would probably serve to help me fix the last few issues I am having with it).

**TRH4CK** - July 27, 2014, 7:58 am

Actually I love this idea! But sadly that would be a lot of work for Omni as he's already busy with other things... But I could even pay for it aswell xD

**Nutar** - July 27, 2014, 8:54 am

(Jul 27, 2014 07:58 AM)TRH4CK Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Actually I love this idea! But sadly that would be a lot of work for Omni as he's already busy with other things... But I could even pay for it aswell xD It's a lot work for him, but if he thought of how it could help grow the community, it would be worth his while. Also, I think this idea got many replies and support from other members and It's time to hear reply from Omni. I hope he replies soon.

**.Nick.** - July 27, 2014, 8:58 am

If this was to happen, we may be finally get the mobile app, we've been promised for 4 years...

**TRH4CK** - July 27, 2014, 9:36 am

(Jul 27, 2014 08:58 AM)I dont sleep Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) If this was to happen, we may be finally get the mobile app, we've been promised for 4 years...

Actually thats another thing we would love to have aswell xDD

**Neeeeeeeeeeel.-** - July 27, 2014, 10:03 am

(Jul 24, 2014 02:04 PM)Calypo Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) What about making the image link to a thread on HF. Here comes the problem. I already mentioned that changing the signature is an easy task. You can easily do it using `$_SERVER['HTTP_REFERER']`, but as far as I know it's against the rules.

**Hulk** - July 27, 2014, 10:59 am

I actually think this is quite a good idea, and this is my first time posting on a suggestion.

Good luck getting this worked out ?

**Nutar** - July 28, 2014, 4:03 am

(Jul 27, 2014 10:59 AM)Hulk HF Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I actually think this is quite a good idea, and this is my first time posting on a suggestion.

Good luck getting this worked out ?  
Thanks for your kind support to this idea!

**?Cryptified™** - July 28, 2014, 4:22 am

I think the reasoning for this is because HF user's info has always been private to unregistered users. If there was an API to retrieve this information, anyone could see it without registering here.

**Psifour** - July 28, 2014, 5:20 am

(Jul 28, 2014 04:22 AM)\_who Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I think the reasoning for this is because HF user's info has always been private to unregistered users. If there was an API to retrieve this information, anyone could see it without registering here.

Untrue adding a simple OAuth system to the API would be simple (frameworks already exist to do so). After that was done the API would only be accessible by registered users and HF could track who was making calls to what part of the API.

Also your response hinges on having access to information about other users. I would be okay with an API that covered only my own data/time contribution to the forum. Being able to see everything would be neat and I would use it, but not even being able to track my OWN data is unacceptable (I COULD scrape the data I want, but that would be against the rules).

**SIM-1456245** - July 28, 2014, 7:26 am

Agreed. I would like to have an API. That would allow us to create mobile apps. But hence Omni doesn't allow for HF to be automated in any way, i doubt that this will be ever implemented.

**Nutar** - July 28, 2014, 7:47 am

(Jul 28, 2014 05:20 AM)Psifour Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Untrue adding a simple OAuth system to the API would be simple (frameworks already exist to do so). After that was done the API would only be accessible by registered users and HF could track who was making calls to what part of the API.

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Another great response from Psifour.

**Deutsche Bank** - July 28, 2014, 12:58 pm

(Jul 28, 2014 07:47 AM)Calypo Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Another great response from Psifour.  
Another ass kissing post from Calypo!

In short, I cannot see Omniscient having the time or measure to implement such a system. Sure it will benefit the website, but this is not a social media platform, this is not something to which we spend our daily lives on enough in order to warrant gathering our own information. Such an API would allow people to create features omniscient has denied in the suggestions forum many times before.

It would encourage many rule-breaking things such as LQP, multi-accounting and much more. Hell, having an API would make it so much easier for rip-offs of HF to start floating around. We all remember hackforums now don't we?

Simply put, this just opens up too many problems that a forum full of 13 year old kids who don't know any better 'hackers' will try and exploit to be a kewl kat.

Overall, it is a good idea, but not for hackforums. Hackforums is a place where you can share content and opinion, not a place where your latest status update should be broadcast to all the different platforms from which your information is being gathered from the API.

**Omniscient** - *July 28, 2014, 1:04 pm*

I'd love to implement an API. However it's not something I can promise I'll add to my todo list of projects for HF at this time. An API would be wonderful though.

Thanks for your feedback.