

Forum: [Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Founder and CEO of Niantic Says Bans are "coming"](#)

Clockism - August 4, 2016, 10:59 pm

Not sure if this has already been posted but apparently John Hanke the founder and CEO of Niantic replied to someone on twitter that was saying to lock accounts with fake GPS as it is very unfair to the legit players. Wonder how soon this will be coming.

I am wondering how they will be determining the bidders from the non-bidders. What do you guys think of this?

Also if this is the case and bidders are getting banned i wonder if devs will then try and make bots undetectable? Only time will tell.

Link to tweet: <https://mobile.twitter.com/johnhanke/status/761358072224755712>

Sharjah - August 4, 2016, 11:00 pm

Damn. Hopefully some of us turn out to be safe ?

grail - August 4, 2016, 11:01 pm

I'm hoping accounts that haven't been botting since the API change are OK.

Crypto™ - August 4, 2016, 11:03 pm

(Aug 4, 2016 10:59 PM)Clockism Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Not sure if this has already been posted but apparently John Hanke the founder and CEO of Niantic replied to someone on twitter that was saying to lock accounts with fake GPS as it is very unfair to the legit players. Wonder how soon this will be coming.

I am wondering how they will be determining the bidders from the non-bidders. What do you guys think of this?

Link to tweet: <https://mobile.twitter.com/johnhanke/status/761358072224755712>

I'm assuming spoofed GPS would be pretty easy to determine since normal GPS has some jitter, and would probably be easy to determine what's natural vs what's artificial, and they probably still have the analysis tools of Google at their disposal.

KazerTheAmazer - August 4, 2016, 11:11 pm

As I understand Niantic is a parent company of Google? I'm assuming they would have all those tools and more then, and hopefully they don't just look for those who had >"x amount of xp/pokestops" and then lesser than after the API update, would be an easy way to find out potential botting accounts because if you make a mil xp per day then suddenly your account stops seems a bit suspicious, and then geolocation bouncing like some of us are frequent travellers to Japan, santa monica etc.

I think those that ran the bots on a default config are fucked because the code was freely available and all they have to do is look into it and they could probably determine which accounts were on that timer, so to say.

Fantod - August 4, 2016, 11:13 pm

While I haven't batted any accounts personally, i'm really interested to see how well they can ban them, and how quickly the bot creatures can adapt.

Gary - August 4, 2016, 11:17 pm

I botted on my main for one rank I hope I don't get rekt by it.

Clockism - August 4, 2016, 11:18 pm

(Aug 4, 2016 11:17 PM)Gary. Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I botted on my main for one rank I hope I don't get rekt by it.

Also something i hope does not happen to my main. I pretty much was just sniping the rares i would not be able to find around me and such.

Do You Want To Bet - August 4, 2016, 11:19 pm

im sure its really easy to spot like 90 95% of bots. like people playing non stop for 72 hours. or people going from cali to new york then paris in one day ect.

Karadion - August 4, 2016, 11:20 pm

(Aug 4, 2016 11:11 PM)KazerTheAmazer Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) As I understand Niantic is a parent company of Google? I'm assuming they would have all those tools and more then, and hopefully they don't just look for those who had >"x amount of xp/pokestops" and then lesser than after the API update, would be an easy way to find out potential botting accounts because if you make a mil xp per day then suddenly your account stops seems a bit suspicious, and then geolocation bouncing like some of us are frequent travellers to Japan, santa monica etc.

I think those that ran the bots on a default config are fucked because the code was freely available and all they have to do is look into it and they could probably determine which accounts were on that timer, so to say. Incorrect about Google. It's a spinoff from Alphabet which means Alphabet does not control it anymore. Since it's a private company right now, it's unknown if Alphabet owns shares in the company or not whether as a minority owner or majority.

Crypto™ - August 4, 2016, 11:20 pm

(Aug 4, 2016 11:11 PM)KazerTheAmazer Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) As I understand Niantic is a parent company of Google? I'm assuming they would have all those tools and more then, and hopefully they don't just look for those who had >"x amount of xp/pokestops" and then lesser than after the API update, would be an easy way to find out potential botting accounts because if you make a mil xp per day then suddenly your account stops seems a bit suspicious, and then geolocation bouncing like some of us are frequent travellers to Japan, santa monica etc.

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They started at Google, but spun out into their own independent company, but Google still owns a controlling portion of it. There's no way they'll just look at "Lots of XP/Pokestops", since there's some very dedicated legit players. They'll definitely look at general behavior patterns most likely, particularly if they see lots of similar behavior. (Default bot configs, travelling inhumanly fast from one location to another, etc.)

(Aug 4, 2016 11:20 PM)Karadion Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Incorrect about Google. It's a spinoff from Alphabet which means Alphabet does not control it anymore. Since it's a private company right now, it's unknown if Alphabet owns shares in the company or not whether as a minority owner or majority.

Alphabet is still colloquially known as Google in many contexts. While Alphabet is the correct term, many people aren't terribly misled by saying "Started at Google" vs "Started at Alphabet", and I think it's correct, since Niantic started before Google's reorganization into Alphabet and subsidiaries. I'm fairly sure I heard that Alphabet still owns a controlling interest in Niantic though, in some form or another.

Clockism - August 4, 2016, 11:21 pm

(Aug 4, 2016 11:19 PM)snailgolfer Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) im sure its really easy to spot like 90 95% of bots.

like people playing non stop for 72 hours. or people going from cali to new york then paris in one day ect.

This is true but then i wonder now if you bot and take breaks, or you stay in one location such as Central Park, then will it be harder for the accounts you are botting to be banned.

leo4thewin - August 4, 2016, 11:24 pm

i called him a faggot , hopefully he responds

???? - August 4, 2016, 11:24 pm

Is that John Hanke account real? Just curious cause for a guy to be a CEO of PGO, shouldn't his twitter be verified? I was peeping through his twitter account and I'm just ehhhh about it

Clockism - August 4, 2016, 11:27 pm

(Aug 4, 2016 11:24 PM)Castillo Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Is that John Hanke account real? Just curious cause for a guy to be a CEO of PGO, shouldn't his twitter be verified? I was peeping through his twitter account and I'm just ehhhh about it

I thought about this also, but i wanna say it is him. People have been talking about it in Discord assuming that it is the real one as well.

0108dk - August 4, 2016, 11:28 pm

GPX pathing to your local "always lured" pokestops seems safer now?

Karadion - August 4, 2016, 11:32 pm

(Aug 4, 2016 11:20 PM)Crypto™ Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Alphabet is still colloquially known as Google in many contexts. While Alphabet is the correct term, many people aren't terribly misled by saying "Started at Google" vs "Started at Alphabet", and I think it's correct, since Niantic started before Google's reorganization into Alphabet and subsidiaries. I'm fairly sure I heard that Alphabet still owns a controlling interest in Niantic though, in some form or another. However if you read the SEC reports specifically the 10-Q for that quarter and the 10-K, there's no declaration of how large their shares are in the company. For all we know, there's a contract between the two companies that declares that payment must be repaid back to Google plus any earnings as a result of their investment. Similar to Airbus did with their loans from European governments when they invested in the A380 programme.

Clockism - August 5, 2016, 9:20 am

(Aug 4, 2016 11:28 PM)0108dk Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) GPX pathing to your local "always lured" pokestops seems safer now?

I would be fine with having my bots do that honestly haha.

Dyet - August 5, 2016, 9:26 am

I'm curious to see this go down. My main account is at 30, almost 31 and I've been using lucky eggs like crazy. My bot account is sitting at 29 with no progress since the API update. My main account has a wider variety of High CP pokemon because I've been building my team since 20, but my bot account has way more Pokedex completed. I will keep watch and see if they can tell the difference.

Vince - August 5, 2016, 9:28 am

That's exactly why I had stopped botting around 2 weeks ago. Just had this strange feeling that something was about to go down.

th3c0rrupt3d0n3 - August 5, 2016, 9:39 am

I feel is pretty easy for them to look up for botted accounts... playing nonstop 24/7, going from Santa Monica Pier to Central Park in 1 minute, getting level 25 in a day, insane amounts of Pokestops in a minute, etc, the list goes on.

Hope they don't ban my hidden stash of accounts I bottled awhile ago though lol.

ThatsComplex - August 5, 2016, 9:44 am

I feel like any past accounts that were bottled before the new API got a 50/50 of being safe. When the bots come back online i think im done, accounts could automatically get flagged right away.

Clockism - August 5, 2016, 9:46 am

(Aug 5, 2016 09:44 AM)ThatsComplex Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I feel like any past accounts that were bottled before the new API got a 50/50 of being safe. When the bots come back online i think im done, accounts could automatically get flagged right away.

This could be true, might just start fresh accounts at that point and save what i have.