

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Please stop the imposters](#)

Target™ - August 24, 2016, 11:12 am

I've had FOUR people change there name onsite and pretend to be in order to scam. Three have been successful under my name, the latest one attempted to scam someone who was ALREADY SCAMMED BY HIM. Please can something be done???

Username Changes: https://hackforums.net/misc.php?action=username_history&uhuid=733760

Profile Link: <https://hackforums.net/member.php?action=profile&uid=733760>

Profile: <https://hackforums.net/member.php?action=profile&uid=466163>

Username Changes: https://hackforums.net/misc.php?action=username_history&uhuid=466163

Profile: <https://hackforums.net/member.php?action=profile&uid=2168127>

Username Changes: https://hackforums.net/misc.php?action=username_history&uhuid=2168127

Username Changes: https://hackforums.net/misc.php?action=username_history&uhuid=52726

Profile: <https://hackforums.net/member.php?action=profile&uid=52726>

Hash G. - August 24, 2016, 11:14 am

PM a staff member with the profile link and a screenshot of their profile (in case they change it). They'll ban the imposters. If you don't report it, they're not supposed to guess with some magic tricks.

Target™ - August 24, 2016, 11:14 am

(Aug 24, 2016 11:14 AM)Hash G. Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) PM a staff member with the profile link and a screenshot of their profile (in case they change it). They'll ban the imposters. If you don't report it, they're not supposed to guess with some magic tricks.

They all have been closed, i'm just wondering if there is a way to prevent this in the future. It's kind of annoying how they scam under my name.

minimalist - August 24, 2016, 11:16 am

(Aug 24, 2016 11:14 AM)Target™ Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) They all have been closed, i'm just wondering if there is a way to prevent this in the future. It's kind of annoying how they scam under my name.

No, they're just targeting active exchangers who don't have crazy high numbers and awards on their profile. If it's not you, it'll be somebody else.

Target™ - August 24, 2016, 11:17 am

(Aug 24, 2016 11:16 AM)minimalist Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) No, they're just targeting active exchangers who don't have crazy high numbers and awards on their profile. If it's not you, it'll be somebody else.

Is there no way to block out invisible characters?

minimalist - August 24, 2016, 11:19 am

(Aug 24, 2016 11:17 AM)Target™ Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Is there no way to block out invisible characters?

Yeah, but then other people wouldn't be able to take used usernames.

Gamer Fusion - August 24, 2016, 11:22 am

The people that try and do this must honestly have no life. Seriously...

Demonstrate - August 24, 2016, 11:23 am

My question is why and how are they allowed to change their username to yours?

2073436 - August 24, 2016, 11:23 am

(Aug 24, 2016 11:19 AM)minimalist Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Yeah, but then other people wouldn't be able to take used usernames.

I think it'd be best to just block out those invisible characters.

We can not take other usernames that have been taken anyway so why is it allowed to you use a few invisible characters?

Doctor Blue - August 24, 2016, 12:27 pm

There's a very effective way.

Strip anything above ASCII 127, just like in thread titles. That'd just require an awful lot of username changes. A lot (or all) of the extended ascii and UTF-8 don't belong in usernames anyway.

(Aug 24, 2016 11:19 AM)minimalist Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Yeah, but then other people wouldn't be able to take used usernames.

and it's funny how this is not a problem on any other website.

Target™ - August 24, 2016, 2:01 pm

(Aug 24, 2016 01:07 PM)- Sam - Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) All the members you have linked are closed, what more do you want? In future message a Staff member if you come across someone using the marketplace whilst using your username.

Maybe because I don't want them to scam under my name?? I can't be no damn lightning quick person and find when someone's using my username, lol.

Xernive - August 24, 2016, 2:08 pm

The only thing I can think of is to say "I deal on :insert skype name" only" anyone else is not me/imposter. Or some kind of "insurance policy" regarding scams.

I know this sucks as it happened to me on another forum and can be frustrating.

Target™ - August 24, 2016, 2:11 pm

(Aug 24, 2016 02:08 PM)Xernive Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) The only thing I can think of is to say "I deal on :insert skype name" only" anyone else is not me/imposter. Or some kind of "insurance policy" regarding scams.

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Skype imposters i don't care about as much. It's the on-site imposters who can end up changing there name to mine, pretending to be me and scam.

Xernive - August 24, 2016, 2:14 pm

(Aug 24, 2016 02:11 PM)Target™ Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Skype imposters i don't care about as much. It's the on-site imposters who can end up changing there name to mine, pretending to be me and scam.

Couldn't you state in thread too only deal with the "UID" on your profile? Any other UID profile would come up different. Or could tell the buyers to look at recent name changes or something like that.

Demonstrate - August 24, 2016, 2:15 pm

(Aug 24, 2016 01:07 PM)- Sam - Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) All the members you have linked are closed, what more do you want? In future message a Staff member if you come across someone using the marketplace whilst using your username.

He wants to prevent future incidents from happening. There's no justice in them being banned, they're still winning in the end of it.

Gamer Fusion - August 24, 2016, 2:17 pm

People seriously need to confirm everyone who they speak to, is indeed who they say they are.

Target™ - August 24, 2016, 2:17 pm

(Aug 24, 2016 02:15 PM)Demonstrate Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) He wants to prevent future incidents from happening. There's no justice in them being banned, they're still winning in the end of it.

Thank you- yes!!!! Thank you

Demonstrate - August 24, 2016, 2:18 pm

(Aug 24, 2016 02:17 PM)Target™ Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Thank you- yes!!!! Thank you

I understand how bad this is and I hope that something is implemented to fix this.

\$lick - August 24, 2016, 2:53 pm

The fact that you kept switching the format of your profile links makes me want to kill you.

I've had a whole bunch of people impersonate me, infecting people/scamming is super common and it's why I've stopped Skype support all together.

Target™ - August 24, 2016, 2:55 pm

(Aug 24, 2016 02:53 PM){Nexus} Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) The fact that you kept switching the format of your profile links makes me want to kill you.

I've had a whole bunch of people impersonate me, infecting people/scamming is super common and it's why I've stopped Skype support all together.

Sorry lmao. But it's not just skype- it's onsite what bothers me the most

\$lick - August 25, 2016, 12:53 am

(Aug 24, 2016 10:54 PM)xadamxk Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Honestly if users are dumb enough to be scammed by someone else who has the same username, let them.

You should be extra cautious when dealing with ANYONE on the Internet, let alone HF.

I understand how it sucks and is frustrating, but those accounts seem sketchy as fuck.

I doubt OP really cares about the fact they were scammed, it's more about the fact they were scammer under his name.

Armada - August 25, 2016, 1:06 am

Is hitting that TS button such a problem for people that they cant see the fact some user has renamed themselves to another notable member?

I suppose 2 extra clicks of a mouse is an inconvenience to some people, but frankly if I am going to transact hundreds of even tens of dollars online I will spend the time to make sure I am dealing with the person I want to be not some cockless wonder who uses hidden blank characters to act like someone else.

I mean C'mon it is pretty hard to actually facilitate a imposter situation on the site, as already noted. Awards and rep alone pretty much speak for themselves.?

Target™ - August 25, 2016, 11:13 am

(Aug 24, 2016 10:54 PM)xadamxk Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Honestly if users are dumb enough to be scammed by someone else who has the same username, let them.

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I understand how it sucks and is frustrating, but those accounts seem sketchy as fuck. Agreeded, i just don't like how they are doing it under my name.

(Aug 25, 2016 01:06 AM)Armada Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Is hitting that TS button such a problem for people that they cant see the fact some user has renamed themselves to another notable member?

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I mean C'mon it is pretty hard to actually facilitate a imposter situation on the site, as already noted. Awards and rep alone pretty much speak for themselves.?

True, well when someone you've dealt with (me) has the same everything, name, avatar, whole profile- just different rep it think you would throw them off just a little, (the reputation) but then again not everyone remembers each other reputation. That was the only way people were able to tell.

Omniscient - August 25, 2016, 11:24 am

Quote:Strip anything above ASCII 127, just like in thread titles.

I just think that's an extreme measure. Yes, I can do it but honestly I think anyone scammed from an imposter would likely get scammed in any number of ways. Because imposters are super easy to spot. You just have to check username history.

Hmm...but you did give me an idea...

What if on Trust Scan I add a check for the username if it has any hidden characters?

Who wants to write the regex for me? I hate regex, don't know all the hex characters, and I don't have the time to make it. If someone makes me the regex for the php I can do the rest quickly.

Quote:Is hitting that TS button such a problem for people that they cant see the fact some user has renamed themselves to another notable member?

Apparently yes. And I even have TS available to ALL MEMBERS. We just got a big marketplace and scammers are going to find victims. No matter what I do that's not going to change. But I do think the tools I've added have reduced the risk. TS page already has last username change date and it's RED if it was recent.

I'll think more about impersonators and see if I can come up with anything else to help curb this.

Target™ - August 25, 2016, 11:30 am

(Aug 25, 2016 11:24 AM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I just think that's an extreme measure. Yes, I can do it but honestly I think anyone scammed from an imposter would likely get scammed in any number of ways. Because imposters are super easy to spot. You just have to check username history.

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I'll think more about impersonators and see if I can come up with anything else to help curb this. Yeah, if not everyone checks reputation+trust scan, i don't think they would check username changes though sadly.

Assault - August 25, 2016, 12:09 pm

(Aug 25, 2016 11:24 AM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Who wants to write the regex for me? I hate regex, don't know all the hex characters, and I don't have the time to make it. If someone makes me the regex for the php I can do the rest quickly.

For all non 0-127 you'd maybe do something as simple as (if i'm wrong, I must look like a moron right now)

Code [^\x00-\x7F]+

? <https://regex101.com/r/wZ1vY7/1>

Omniscient - August 25, 2016, 12:36 pm

Quote:For all non 0-127 you'd maybe do something as simple as (if i'm wrong, I must look like a moron right now)

Easier to use php sanitizer filters for that.

<http://php.net/manual/en/filter.filters.sanitize.php>

Target™ - August 25, 2016, 12:45 pm

(Aug 25, 2016 12:43 PM)Fictional Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) This shouldn't need to be necessary. Even if Omniscient would add a check to the Username changes for hidden characters people are still going to be scammed cause most people don't check usernames etc (Especially if you get scammed by an imposter.)

Yeah- most people don't check username history- as some people don't check rep+deal dispute+trust scan.

SoulZeh - August 25, 2016, 12:46 pm

(Aug 25, 2016 12:43 PM)Fictional Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) This shouldn't need to be necessary. Even if Omniscient would add a check to the Username changes for hidden characters people are still going to be scammed cause most people don't check usernames etc (Especially if you get scammed by an imposter.)Well I mean if people do get scammed then and it's by an impostor and that username check for hidden char is done, then it's peoples problems for not doing there research.

(Aug 25, 2016 12:45 PM)Target™ Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Yeah- most people don't check username history- as some people don't check rep+deal dispute+trust scan.

But if it was added and people still complained it would be YOUR own fault as the suggestion someone gave about doing that to check usernames for hidden chars, it would come up on the TS, so people should look more carefully.

Neeeeeeeeeeel.- - August 25, 2016, 12:56 pm

(Aug 25, 2016 12:53 PM)xadamxk Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) What if you changed the color of the username when a user receives a PM based on the colors of their trust scan?

If yellow is present (with no red), it's yellow.

If red is present, make it red.

Otherwise, green?I think that would load the database because it must run the trust scan every time you read a PM. Even if the result is saved on PM's table, it still has to run the trust scan (that are a lot of queries) every time you send a PM.

Omniscient - *August 25, 2016, 2:07 pm*

Looking into this I think I have started to work on a solution. Going to make a new thread about it though.

EDIT: <https://hackforums.net/showthread.php?tid=5386200>