

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [can special chars be prevented on HF?](#)

tim - November 19, 2018, 9:17 pm

how can a system be built that can prevent special chars?

let's say i wanna switch my username to Eagle 95 and impersonate him.

i can add special char

but how can HF make system to change username to prevent special char?

how is this possible? is it possible? easy to do? if it's easy to do and possible, can it be done? is there reason it won't be done? or?

just wondering. ty. am sure it was suggested, but idk .

UpTheCrust - November 19, 2018, 9:18 pm

(Nov 19, 2018 10:17 PM)LoRdVagrant Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) how can a system be built that can prevent special chars?

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I know Omni recently said if he started HF over he would disallow special characters. I don't think it would be hard to disable them but he might not want to force everyone using them now to change their username

PerfectStorm - November 19, 2018, 9:19 pm

Hmm I don't know.. it doesn't sound very easy to me. Impersonators get wacked pretty quick anyway, don't they?

tim - November 19, 2018, 9:20 pm

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yeah i am wondering how could it be done programmatically. never done it in code, curious how.

basically to prevent people stealing other people's usernames etc.

(Nov 19, 2018 10:19 PM)PerfectStorm Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Hmm I don't know.. it doesn't sound very easy to me. Impersonators get wacked pretty quick anyway, don't they?

yeah they do, but hwen they do it during a deal in marketplace, not quickly until a scam happens u know? thts wh i ask

PerfectStorm - November 19, 2018, 9:23 pm

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Well its an interesting Idea but I don't think anything is set in place to detect it. I guess let others reply.

tim - November 19, 2018, 9:24 pm

(Nov 19, 2018 10:23 PM)PerfectStorm Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Well its an interesting Idea but I don't think anything is set in place to detect it. I guess let others reply.

yeah maybe admin can let us know if it's doable and worth the time to try to make iguess.

PerfectStorm - November 19, 2018, 9:26 pm

Yeah one of the mods will post here Im sure just be patient

Narrate - November 19, 2018, 9:31 pm

I mean, there's a way to block characters in usernames. It could be done in two seconds.

The issue is that a ton of people already use invisible characters in their usernames, and it would probably be pretty difficult to set a system for them to have the characters removed from their names. But again, not impossible. There's just so many invisible characters though, so that would take a while. Plus you would have to make it where, if someone with an invisible character in their username has their base username taken, has the option (or more likely forced) to change their username to something available.

But again, that seems like it would be pretty time consuming for something that's really a non-issue. You can't really impersonate staff since you don't have the usergroup.

tim - November 19, 2018, 9:36 pm

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no need to get them to change usernames.

if they try to change their username AGAIN, it should enforce this new rule. Therefore, no site-wide change is required. all future changes must abide by the rule, done programattically.

Narrate - November 19, 2018, 9:38 pm

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Again though, it's really a non-issue. You can tell if someone's an imposter just by taking the minute to look at their profile.

And then once they get reported, they're gone.

PerfectStorm - November 19, 2018, 9:38 pm

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Im pretty sure l33t can change username correct? obviously r00t and ub3r. L33t isnt too expensive so that makes it easy for scammers I assume.

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And then once they get reported, they're gone.

true. i guess.

no idea, whatever. just suggestion/possible suggestion idk

Xerotic - November 19, 2018, 9:43 pm

It would be easy to do programmatically. Just limit allowed characters to ASCII range 32-126. At this point I just assume Omniscient doesn't want to because so many usernames already use special characters.

What is the solution? Tell all users on HF that they have a deadline to remove special characters before their account names are randomized? Then we have a bunch of random string usernames all over the place. You have to consider members that are not active as well.

tim - November 19, 2018, 9:47 pm

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ye true makes sense.

it is tough i guess.

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Plus, can't you use a special character at the time of account creation?

So those who can't change their usernames since they aren't upgraded are either shit out of luck, or staff would have to deal with all of them manually.

It's just pointless imo.

Evil - November 19, 2018, 11:50 pm

It's a neat idea, but as a special character user myself, I think that it's stupid to force everyone to change their name. People should just instead not be naive and do their due diligence by double checking UID when conducting deals. Even besides UID, most users worth impersonating have awards, popularity, and b-rating that make their account distinct.

CyberError - November 19, 2018, 11:53 pm

Recently a guy scammed 2000\$ with changing his username (check DD about honey Singh case) , so yeh it's serious , serious for at least new members

BlueSynAck - November 20, 2018, 1:09 am

All you have to do

is only allow numbers and letters no other character in username

Traum - November 20, 2018, 6:54 am

(Nov 19, 2018 10:20 PM)LoRdVagrant Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) yeah i am wondering how could it be done programmatically. never done it in code, curious how.

basically to prevent people stealing other people's usernames etc.

I'm sure it'd be easier to only allow names within the alphabet, basically disallowing anything else then abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz0123456789 and special characters like ,.;:-_ and so on.

Wires - November 20, 2018, 8:45 am

It could also be done easily using `preg_match` or something similar in PHP. HF's beyond doing that know. Unless they forced it on new users only then I don't see how this would be done. Existing users with special characters would be forced to change their username.

Fudster - November 20, 2018, 6:32 pm

Yes, it's completely possible to prevent special characters.

By adding something like this in the code `Code $string = preg_replace("/[^\w]+/", "", $string);`
Source:

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/6442174/replace-all-characters-except-letters-numbers-spaces-and-underscores>

Omniscient - November 20, 2018, 8:29 pm

It's easy to do. I already disallow regular members from using special characters. It's only allowed for upgraded members. Also in Trust Scan it will show if a username has special characters. I think most members want to keep them.

Impersonators generally get reported and closed very fast.

Special characters in usernames aren't really a problem. It's more about members not being diligent

and careful that is the problem. Takes 5 seconds to confirm who you dealing with.

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Yeah that's true. I guess it's just best to keep double checking while doing deals, especially very big ones i guess. that's fair