

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Stopping Scammers and Smart Marketplace Choices](#)

Omniscient - October 11, 2019, 10:00 am

What does HF do to stop scammers and protect the community?

Over the years our site has evolved tremendously in both features and policies in dealing with scammers.

Originally HF was like the Wild West and protecting yourself from scammers was something you had to do on your own. The main system to spot scammers at first was our Reputation system which members would leave comments like "Deal With Caution". We did not allow you to libel members by calling them scammers.

Then we added a Deal Dispute forum where those who did feel they were scammed could create a thread. Only if there was a thread linked inside the Reputation system could you call someone a scammer. This was a reasonable step but was definitely just as much of a problem with abuse as it was helpful.

We eventually added a Deal Dispute Database where you could enter information about the deal and other members could search for UIDs of others to see if they had any disputes. Another good step toward catching scammers faster but unfortunately it was under-used.

Next step for HF was the innovative and original creation of Trust Scan. With TS you were given some additional statistical data about an account. Such as how many unique logins they had or if their password was recently changed. Scammers at this time had evolved into buying existing accounts with high reputation and no deal disputes in order to exit scam. This was definitely a problem we tried to help the community solve with TS. One of our best features and still part of account checking even today.

Now we have a new innovative feature called HF Contracts or just Contracts. We created a full Marketplace Control Panel with Marketplace Profiles for all members. Part of HF's recent policies is that all deals originating on HF must have a Contract and that dealing off-site without a Contract is not allowed. The reason being is that a ton of scammers will convince you to do a deal off-site at places such as Discord and scam you. Then you will only have off-site proof of the deal and we do not allow you to use that in a dispute.

Currently you cannot create a Deal Dispute thread without an HF Contract, and when you Dispute a Contract it's automatically created. All Marketplace section threads have a Contract creation button. Anyone caught soliciting off-site deals without Contracts is usually closed but sometimes just warned. B-Ratings (Business Ratings) are part of everyone Marketplace Profile and gives you data on the deals sort of like the old Reputation system. Old Reputations are now Popularity instead and offer no value for Marketplace activity. There is a Vendor group who are approved manually and given additional Contract and Marketplace features such as Contract Templates which use Auto-Buy links. Only those in a Complete Contract can vouch in a thread. Fake vouches are not allowed and usually punishment is harsh for violations.

I get asked quite often what does HF do to stop scammers. I think we do a lot. Mainly we provide excellent features for you to make a decision on who you deal with. We do not get involved in

Disputes but that's always been an HF policy and will remain so. Deals you make are always at your own risk and this is stated all over the site including [Help Docs](#) and the Contracts page. But this is not to say we don't take action against scammers. I personally close accounts every single day and mark them as scammers in the Mod Notes. Then when they return they are immediately closed. Often scammers make mistakes by violating one of the many policies we have and in such cases that's the only reason I need to take action.

HF will continue to evolve our strategy to lower deal disputes. Currently Contract Disputes are around 3% and many Disputed deals are Resolved through our process.

HF is not going to hold your hand in deals. We are not here to protect you from yourself. The tools provided to you exist for a reason, use them please. And understand we do a lot more to protect the community as a whole than we do to protect individual members who make poor choices.

Please familiarize yourself with HF policies and best-practices when making deals on HF. We implore you to make smart decisions but most of all...do not blame us when you don't.

Thank you.

Pyro - October 11, 2019, 10:05 am

Pretty good elaboration on how HF evolved trough years

I've joined HF cause of CE section and I never got scammed cause I used my brain together with all the tools HF provides, and I must say, it was enough. If someone gets scammed it's because of their fault, not HF's

Long live HF !

Mad76e. - October 11, 2019, 10:08 am

Problem isnt you Omni. The problem are stupid ppl not doing some proper research. I mean "why" does this one have 3 disputes? coincidences?, hardly!

NNiks19 - October 11, 2019, 10:12 am

You did great system, people just need to learn how to use it :D

Natas - October 11, 2019, 10:13 am

I love the popularity system it reminds me of shopping on ebay and its really as easy as using the ebay feedback system.

literally people are setting there selfs up for there own failure by not following this.

Omniscient - October 11, 2019, 10:17 am

Been meaning to write something like this for a while. I just need something to link to when I get these stupid contacts from new members that ignore the PM we send them on joining that blame HF for a scam. Just had 2 of them this morning. Both new members who did deals without Contracts, claimed they didn't know, then asked me why these members are on HF.

Point blank I told both of them they are morons and that these scammers are here because they are easy targets to prey on. We make tools and features constantly but if members ignore them, they get scammed. Almost a guarantee that if you tell a member you want an HF Contract they will either try to convince you don't need it (obvious scammer) or they will suddenly not want to complete the deal.

Scammers know they get caught and often closed by making Contracts and a Dispute will likely

mean no one else will deal with them.

Natas - October 11, 2019, 10:21 am

Your doing a great job Omni I remember when the market place was like the wild west lol that was a good way of putting it this site has evolved a lot since then. Its not your fault people are so stupid there literally breaking the rules and then pming you about it by not having a contract in the first place lmao

Deal - October 11, 2019, 10:29 am

Nothing more to do than what's done.

The contract system is the best thing that has happened.

The exit scams that happens occasionally are problematic, because there are no way to prevent them. Someone can have 200 positive B-ratings, and then all of a sudden decide to exit scam.

I have seen you releasing some informations on some confirmed scammers which is nice.

As for stupid members, you can't do nothing to prevent stupid members of getting scammed. I have seen so many deal disputes regarding the user money. People asking "Why doesn't Omni ban him" well.. Why don't you look at his 11 fucking deal disputes before dealing with him. I have said it before, if someone deals with anyone who has open deal disputes, then it is on them if they do get scammed.

The contract system has helped HF. But it's not a magic cure to two things:

Dumb members
Exit scammers.

There are no cure to these things. In my 10 years here I have never been scammed. Am I lucky? Probably. But there are numerous threads on how to minimise risks of getting scammed, there are the contract system, B-ratings, you can check their trust score, see their previous posts.

Also something I always think when I deal with someone. Would they lose their account for this amount?

Look at registration date. Did the user register 6 months ago? And has hardly posted, hasn't donated, isn't a part of the group scene? Then he would have no issues with scamming you because he would have nothing to lose.

Does the user have awards, is active within the group scene, has donated, has some sort of business going on here? Then he most likely won't scam for some low amount like 500 dollars.

I'm not saying that members who are inactive and new will scam, and I don't say that members who are in the high-end won't. I am saying that when dealing online it's simply about minimising the risk.

TL;DR:

No further measures to be taken, people should learn to do research, and use common sense before dealing. And it's nearly impossible to take measures against exit scammers.

Furthermore, is it the fault of Hackforums when people get scammed? No. Is it the fault of Facebook when people get scammed there? No. No one blames Facebook when getting scammed

there, but everyone blames Hackforums when scammed here. So fucking stupid

PS. You bitches whining about it being the fault of HF that you get scammed... Fuck off dumbasses

Wheelie - October 11, 2019, 10:34 am

I think since the beginning, HF has really implemented the proper security measures and certain behavior to look out for

I remember the launch of the Contracts feature and people weren't feeling it, mixed emotions from a lot of people but

then people started adapting to the system and saw the bigger picture. Yes people lost the rep they worked hard for but

change is always good and i think its the best way to keep track and return to reference what was between the buyer and seller.

I know the admins don't get involved with our deals that happen on site but if they do take action if its a repeated action

being done. So much respect for that. HF has only gotten better.

Kaleb - October 11, 2019, 10:35 am

There's nothing more you could do, I think all the features you mentioned are great and provide some cushioning but when you deal on a forum like this there's always the risk of getting scammed and you should totally accept that. Someone could have a massive amount of vouches and seem reputable and decide to exit scam and that's just unfortunate for you but it should always be something you're accepting may happen.

Cryptod - October 11, 2019, 10:36 am

(Oct 11, 2019 10:29 AM)Deal Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Nothing more to do than what's done.

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I like everything you said here.

I think people that get scammed easily deserved to get scammed to condition them not to get scammed.

Whenever I buy any type of product even if its \$1 (which isn't much) I always do my research on the product.

For example, when I go on Amazon - I check reviews.

Same thing with any forum - Same thing with any purchase.

You can't always save consumers from getting scammed.

The contract system is Amazing and honestly the closest thing to prevent scamming next to a valid middle man.

There will always be exit scammers and there's really nothing you can do to prevent them.

People just need to be aware and be careful.

In the past week I've transacted over \$3000 in crypto exchanges with 0 issues.

I make sure the person is valid - I start with smaller values and I make sure every deal is on site and we PM for every deal done.

It's really that simple yet people still get scammed.

Nothing we can do really honestly after the contract system.

Omniscient - October 11, 2019, 10:41 am

Quote: The exit scams that happens occasionally are problematic,

Actually the risk is lessened if you used Contracts and check recent activity. Exit scammers work hard to create as many deals in a short period of time as possible. If you see someone doing quick and recent 2-3 Contracts that are active but not Completed you should be suspicious and wait till some of those deals get Completed before opening a new Contract. And in such cases it helps me close those accounts quickly.

Quote: No one blames Facebook when getting scammed there, but everyone blames Hackforums

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<https://hackforums.net/showthread.php?tid=5953973>

Deal - October 11, 2019, 10:59 am

(Oct 11, 2019 10:41 AM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Actually the risk is lessened if you used Contracts and check recent activity. Exit scammers work hard to create as many deals in a short period of time as possible. If you see someone doing quick and recent 2-3 Contracts that are active but not Completed you should be suspicious and wait till some of those deals get Completed before opening a new Contract. And in such cases it helps me close those accounts quickly.

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I agree. There are basic measures which will prevent scams.

Problem is often people are too fucking stupid to use them. Either that, or they are somewhat desperate and naive.

SoulZeh - October 11, 2019, 11:24 am

(Oct 11, 2019 10:08 AM)Mad76e. Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Problem isnt you Omni. Problem are stupid ppl not doing some proper research. I mean "why" does this one have 3 disputes? coincidences?, hardly!

Can agree with this, you've done legit done everything you can as a "host,"admin". and still people seem to find the need to complain to you, I will still never understand that part when this website has came so much further compared to what it use to be when dealing with disputes.

You and Xerotic (can't leave him out) when it comes to Deal Disputes have tried everything to make it... Well "simple" for people...

I will always quote what Factor8 once said to me.. "Let morons be morons".

+mK - October 11, 2019, 12:52 pm

I've been thinking about this lately, but suggestion/food for thought to expand it (not sure if it's a dumb one):

Create an algorithm of points for Trust Scan to make it a grading scale. For example: Matching IPs to other members might have a higher grading standard. If that that grading standard is lower (or higher, depending on which way you look at it), that user can't create a marketplace contract. It removes almost all possibilities of an end user NOT looking at Trust Scan for statistics on the user they're looking into. I think the data that is harvest for TS can severely hinder the deal disputes for someone who simply "forgot" to look at a Trust Scan for an individual. An algorithm that is very similar to what prestige was doing, however, it'd be different data points and the number would be a percentage.

Threat - October 11, 2019, 1:03 pm

I think more people should focus on B-Rating than popularity, they just see a lot of popularity and they think their legit. Check the damn B-Rating, problem isn't the system, it's the people not utilizing the system in the correct way.

Omniscient - October 11, 2019, 1:04 pm

Quote:Create an algorithm of points for Trust Scan to make it a grading scale.

No, because a single number is going to give you a less accurate picture of an account than reviewing each of the parameters we have in TS. Lazy and stupid can't be fixed no matter what we do. We focus on members willing to make smart choices with smarter tools.

frsnix - October 11, 2019, 1:05 pm

I'm impressed, keep up the good work.

Heart - October 11, 2019, 2:00 pm

Quite thrilled with the gradual involvement of HF trying to prevent scammers or at least help people make wiser decisions when dealing in the marketplace. Very different now for the better.

Humpstead - October 11, 2019, 2:55 pm

The problem is newer members are stupid and don't lookup the profile of the person they are dealing with. Half of the scams I see can be avoided with literally a 10 second search of the persons UID or google search of their username/contact info they leave in the thread.

spiral - October 12, 2019, 9:21 am

I think HF has vastly improved in terms of systems in my 4 years or so on site. Honestly at the moment there isn't much that I would suggest to improve. The only thing I would like to see in the near future is if a user has an open dispute it will be displayed on their posts, around B-Rating and Popularity. I think this would make it harder for anyone with open disputes to further scam anyone and it would be a great incentive for people to resolve any disputes as anyone will be able to see the number of disputes they have open wherever they post. Not sure if this would be possible, but I think it would be a great feature for the future.

Omniscient - October 12, 2019, 9:28 am

(Oct 12, 2019 09:21 AM)spiral Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I think HF has vastly improved in terms of systems in my 4 years or so on site. Honestly at the moment there isn't much that I would suggest to improve. The only thing I would like to see in the near future is if a user has an open dispute it will be displayed on their posts, around B-Rating and Popularity. I think this would make it harder for anyone with open disputes to further scam anyone and it would be a great incentive for people to resolve any disputes as anyone will be able to see the number of disputes they have open wherever they post. Not sure if this would be possible, but I think it would be a great feature for the future.

We can do that. We won't. Issue is that we will see an increase of fake Deal Disputes either from trolls or competitors especially the Vendors who use Contract Templates and I regularly have to remove fake Disputes.

Even let's say I required 3 Disputes open before it did that. Then the trolls would just create 3 accounts and make 3 Disputes. I just don't like that idea.

And we need members to not be lazy and learn to use HF Marketplace safely. Which means BEFORE they do any deal they review an account. I tell every new member about the risk and to read up on policies. I literally just was in a Convo with someone scammed that expected us to refund him. When I pointed out the policies he ignored to read he was basically like "Oh, thanks anyways". It's ridiculous.

Do I have to put "YOU CAN GET SCAMMED, READ THIS" in big giant bold letters in the heading? Sometimes it just feels like that's what I'm going to have to do.

spiral - October 12, 2019, 9:44 am

(Oct 12, 2019 09:28 AM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) We can do that. We won't. Issue is that we will see an increase of fake Deal Disputes either from trolls or competitors especially the Vendors who use Contract Templates and I regularly have to remove fake Disputes.

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Yeah I didn't think about that at all, at the moment I think you have done everything you possibly can and most people are either getting scammed because they didn't read the policies and/or couldn't be bothered checking who they are dealing with or they got unlucky with someone exit scamming.

I'm sure you will find ways to continue to improve the marketplace but like I already said it is in a really good place right now IMO.

MavenGradle - October 12, 2019, 9:54 am

In addition to all that, I must say that some members here actually provide detailed community alerts of sorts in regards to dealing with certain people. I've seen quite a few pass already in which the 'investigator' could figure out that the member was using multiple accounts or already scammed people in the past.

I'm sure those aren't always accurate, and I'm sure some members will create false community alerts in order to harass another member, but still. It goes to show that most people mean well.

Either way, even though deals are not the responsibility of staff or administrators, I find it exquisite that some form of action against those who scam is performed. You said yourself you close accounts of scammers daily, and I'm sure the other staff members do too, which is something the community as a whole is grateful for, even if they don't explicitly state as much. The community here might not realize it sometimes but they are being protected to a certain degree in regards to deals.

I've had multiple currency exchange deals here that were swift, without trouble and a hell of a lot faster than on other sites and the thing is that I don't feel like I'm going to get scammed either thanks to your actions of keeping this site adamantly clean.

Thanks for that.

Omniscient - October 12, 2019, 10:01 am

(Oct 12, 2019 09:54 AM)MavenGradle Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I've had multiple currency exchange deals here that were swift, without trouble and a hell of a lot faster than on other sites and the thing is that I don't feel like I'm going to get scammed either thanks to your actions of keeping this site adamantly clean.

As I knew from the creation of Contracts and the Vendor group, it was going to take time to build up B-Ratings and successful Contracts. I think it's much clearer now who is the members to deal with. Even new members who aren't legit and are here to scam I think are exposed pretty quick. What members don't see is that once you're closed as a scammer, if I find any related accounts they get closed too.

This morning, as with most mornings, the first 30 minutes of my day I was able to close 3 ban evading scammers before they even did a single deal. Members don't see that, from their perspective we don't do enough. They believe if they get scammed, it must be someone else's fault and not their own. I'm not sure I can ever change that mentality because it's partially human nature and partially stupidity.

Bastille - October 12, 2019, 10:05 am

Only 3% of disputed contracts, I was thinking that was more.

Sounds HF become safer :)

Omniscient - October 12, 2019, 10:09 am

(Oct 12, 2019 10:05 AM)Yseurk Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Only 3% of disputed contracts, I was thinking that was more.

Sounds HF become safer :)

It doesn't take into account the bad deals and scams that go against policy without Contracts. I can't track those of course. But based on the feedback I get I'm willing to believe your chances of getting scammed on Skype or Discord is a multitude higher. More like 50% chance imho. Could even be higher because legit sellers want deals on-site to get a B-Rating, that's by design. There is no benefit for legit sellers to take you off-site. Scammers absolutely want to convince you to deal off-site, think on that.

Cyber Coder - October 13, 2019, 11:03 pm

ignorant people can have it written on their forehead and still would ignore and come whining later

Blazin - October 13, 2019, 11:11 pm

Very nicely worded Omni and structured.

Grim - October 15, 2019, 1:19 pm

Pretty neat. I would say you do much more than most forums do to stop scammers. If people are still getting scammed with all these things in place it's really their own fault.

Vyrkfrir - October 15, 2019, 4:17 pm

I'm already happy with the level of work that's been out into the marketplace. So long as more people are vigilant of whom they're purchasing from, people won't get scammed. Common sense before all else.

Olympus - October 15, 2019, 4:26 pm

Omni you are a bloody internet sensation i hope i can live up to what you have become on day! You have done an amazing job of this website and i absolutely love how hard you work towards making it better and better!

iNviZ - October 17, 2019, 3:57 pm

I have seen nothing but such greatness out of the contract system, Glad it was added and even as someone that has been here a while, buying/selling is so much better with all these new changes. You and Xerotic keep up the great work, very much appreciated.

Omniscient - November 26, 2019, 7:49 am

Bumping this because it's still very relevant and I wish it was read more widely.

Warbiest - November 26, 2019, 5:40 pm

(Nov 26, 2019 08:49 AM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Bumping this because it's still very relevant and I wish it was read more widely.

Why don't you (get someone to) make a video tutorial on how to use the HF marketplace, how to use contracts and what to look out for.

The sad reality is a vast amount of people think 2-3 sentences is about as long as a message can be before they just stop reading.

A nicely made video would promote HF as well as help new members actually get informed about everything you've put so much work into.

Edit: in fact, you could give out awards for videos about the subject as well like you did with the HF promotional videos.

Nuworld - November 26, 2019, 6:25 pm

(Nov 26, 2019 06:40 PM)Warbiest Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Why don't you (get someone to) make a video tutorial on how to use the HF marketplace, how to use contracts and what to look out for.

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Is this what the world has come to "Videos" no one can read any more?

There is already a sticky thread in the marketplace on how to use the Contracts.
If one can't take the time to read (Before making a deal) then it's there problem.

[How to Use Contracts || Minimizing Risk in the Marketplace](#)

Warbiest - November 26, 2019, 6:42 pm

Quote:Is this what the world has come to "Videos" no one can read any more?

Well, yeah, to an extent.

And people not reading the information already provided is not just their problem, it's Omni's problem as well (he's forced to hear their whining).

Anyway, just offering a suggestion to help. Not sure what the intent in your comment is if I'm honest.

Pyro - November 26, 2019, 6:43 pm

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[How to Use Contracts || Minimizing Risk in the Marketplace](#)

New generations dont wanna bother themselves with reading, they want everything chewed up and spitted for them

Nuworld - November 26, 2019, 6:48 pm

(Nov 26, 2019 07:43 PM)Pyro Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) New generations dont wanna bother themselves with reading, they want everything chewed up and spitted for them

This is so true.

Whats the world coming to?

Laziness at it's best. ?

Blazin - November 26, 2019, 6:51 pm

Yes I would agree HF does a ton to protect HF from bad people if only they took the time to use

those tools.

Nuworld - November 26, 2019, 7:01 pm

(Nov 26, 2019 07:42 PM)Warbiest Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Well, yeah, to an extent.

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No disrespect [Warbiest](#)

I appreciate your comment, However my point is the fact we already have a system in place. It only takes a few minutes to read a simple thread.

This is not only a marketplace problem, It's forum wide!.

There are sticky's in place in each forum for a reason
And it only take a little time to "Read" first.

Trust me I'm dealing with the same issues in the Wiki forum. ?

Omniscient - November 26, 2019, 8:08 pm

(Nov 26, 2019 07:43 PM)Pyro Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) New generations dont wanna bother themselves with reading, they want everything chewed up and spitted for them

I can read much faster than watch a video.

Pyro - November 27, 2019, 1:46 am

(Nov 26, 2019 09:08 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I can read much faster than watch a video.

That's why I said newer generations, you are old school bro ? ?

defame - November 27, 2019, 6:45 am

My only issue is with the fact that staff never closes proactively, the only way for scammer to get closed is through multiple open disputes.

Your argument that you have rules and whole infrastructure in place so the amount of scams that go through is minimal is valid, no doubt, but why you'd chose one way over another when you can do both and really make a change is beyond me.

nCuX0 - November 27, 2019, 6:58 am

(Nov 27, 2019 07:45 AM)defame Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) My only issue is with the fact that staff never closes proactively, the only way for scammer to get closed is through multiple open disputes.

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Not accurate, watch this:

[Hack Forums - Profile of xoRz Software](#)

[SILENT XLS EXPLOIT BUILDER & Bypassing Amsi & FUD UPDATE](#)

ha had more accounts closed before he scammed anyone

Cooligan - November 27, 2019, 7:34 am

This thread was written perfectly for a newer member and also us older members Omni.

I've been saying it for years, and over the past few it's only gotten easier to say, but HF is 100% without a doubt hands down the BEST forum on the internet. Why? Because of literally everything

you listed in the OP and so much more. Not one other forum has Contracts, all the "Scan" features came after HF's Trust Scan feature. Many other forums have stolen our graphics as well such as awards, userbars, and more. Also many like to argue that Staff should get involved in Deal Disputes; this is a terrible idea. On other forums I'm on, Staff do get involved, and the ONE thing it's caused isn't a "better and safer marketplace", no, it's only caused corruption and so much controversy throughout the community. And the thing is, there's no way to prove or disprove any of it as only Staff would know at the end of the day, and that's something we don't worry about here on HF. In fact, most online marketplaces do NOT have an onsite marketplace team, they don't get involved in DD's, etc., and that is all a good thing in my personal opinion. I've seen what happens when Staff doesn't get involved, and I've seen what happens when they do, and I'd much rather see them stay out of it and keep the forums reputation alive rather than do get involved and then raise a million and one arguments on "why this Staff did this", or "why this Staff is corrupt", etc..

It's incredibly easy to safely deal on HF's marketplace with the systems in place and our Contracts system. The BIGGEST tip I could give to a newer member using Contracts and the marketplace in general would be; A. always use a middleman if you're worried / B. if your deal goes wrong and you feel you were scammed and/or didn't get what you paid for, dispute the contract and do NOT close the disputed contract until you are 100% happy, as once it's closed there's nothing you can do about it. I honestly love that system. It's beyond easy to understand, and when used right, works like a charm.

I've seen this place truly evolve over the years from back when we only had our old school theme, no trust scan, no Contracts, none of that, but only Reputation to know whether someone is trustworthy or not, and now we have all of this. Not one person can say HF doesn't have the communities best interest at heart, not a single soul. If you do say that, you just haven't been here long enough to see the change that all the features you guys have implemented have caused, and it's been wonderful to see unfold.

Not one other forum have I donated hundreds of dollars to, not one other forum do I have over 10,000 posts on, and not one other forum do I care as much about it as I do HF. HF has and always will hold a very special place in my heart and one of the main reasons is because of the ongoing efforts that you guys have shown over the years to not only keep HF going, but to make it goddamn flourish. For instance, I'm on vacation right now. Yes, VACATION. And yet, HF is still something I wanted to make sure I'd be able to get on once I arrived to my vacation spot (hours and hours away from where I live). I was worried I might not be able to get my 2FA working to be able to sign on where I'm at now, and HF is the only place I was worried about it. And this isn't all because I use HF's marketplace on a daily basis and need to keep up with my sales threads, no, not at all. In fact I was worried I wouldn't be able to get on because of the Hack Game I play EVERYDAY, the daily check-in thread and my progress on it (which teaches patience and reward), the Sportsbook and all the bets I make on a daily basis (which has taught me how to properly bet on games, how to truly know the odds, and because of it, I now have so much knowledge on Sports that I never had before the Sportsbook), the Crypto Game that I check stats on a daily basis (another thing that has only taught me something), and HF's RANF section that I review on a daily basis to see what might be new or important at that time on HF. These are all things that do not effect my real life in anyway, but still are things I wouldn't want to go without even while on vacation. HF has accomplished its goal of becoming more than just a forum, and I think everyone here knows that, and all the reasons I stated right above on why I wanted to be able to use HF on vacation are just more reasons why it's more than a forum. HF for me is like Facebook. I come on, check my newsfeed (forum in general), play my games (hack game), and then on top of it use the Sportsbook daily and CG, etc.. There's a reason why I'm so loyal to this place and this place only, and it's because of everything I've said above. (not sure if I rambled a bit here, I just woke up though so if I did that's why lol, still have morning brain)

I'm not sure the reason for this thread Omni, whether it was just a general announcement thread or something specific you wanted to say to the community, which ever reason doesn't matter. All that matters is I truly hope you guys (especially you Omni) realize just how impact-full HF is to the community and especially to members like myself who've been here for a long time now. We truly notice all the hard work you put in, all the changes you make, and while we might not like every change implemented; we understand that there's most likely a very good reason why it's happening as you guys will always have the communities best interest at heart, which basically comes back to the point of this thread. With all of that, I can safely say Mission Accomplished, and we can only go up from here. I love this place so damn much. :)

At the top of my lungs; LONG LIVE HF! <3

edit: LOL omg I love you so much [Omniscient](#) . Just laughed my ass off for 3 minutes straight ?
"No award is a bad award to an award whore." - Cooligan 2019 lmao :P - still got a cheesy smile on my face lol, wicked happy, made my day.

Pyro - November 27, 2019, 8:08 am

(Nov 27, 2019 07:45 AM)defame Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) My only issue is with the fact that staff never closes proactively, the only way for scammer to get closed is through multiple open disputes.
U dont know what staff do beyond closed doors

defame - November 27, 2019, 8:34 am

(Nov 27, 2019 09:08 AM)Pyro Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) U dont know what staff do beyond closed doors
I don't but I do know what they usually say when confronted with evidence that someone is scamming, and I'm not just talking about my thread.

Contracts and everything they've done is defenetly huge, but letting someone stay on the forum because they screwed over a member out of the contract (just an example) thus the dispute is invalid, in all honesty isn't the right course of action, and if you disagree which you absolutely have the right to, please elaborate, as I legitametly want to understand your point of view.

Unexplained - November 27, 2019, 9:03 am

[Omniscient](#) well said.

I'm curious what active measures you take to shut down accounts that are actively scamming, multiple red flags, disputed contracts? Is there a regular manual or automatic review process that is used?

I think contracts were the best thing for the marketplace here on HF. THANK YOU!

Omniscient - November 27, 2019, 9:08 am

defame Wrote:My only issue is with the fact that staff never closes proactively
You are very wrong about that. We don't really discuss it. I can assure you that I personally spend a lot of time everyday closing scammer accounts long before they can scam. You just don't see what's going on behind the scenes.

Cooligan Wrote:Not one other forum has Contracts, all the "Scan" features came after HF's Trust Scan feature

Yeah, another original feature of HF that's being cloned.

Quote:On other forums I'm on, Staff do get involved, and the ONE thing it's caused isn't a "better and safer marketplace", no, it's only caused corruption and so much controversy throughout the community.

I was part of dozens of Marketplace forums way before HF even existed. There are reasons for the policies grounded in that experience.

Quote:I don't but I do know what they usually say when confronted with evidence that someone is scamming

Off-site evidence is never considered and in most cases a member has interactions with a scammer off-site that we can't prove is legitimate.

Quote:because they screwed over a member out of the contract (just an example) thus the dispute is invalid, in all honesty isn't the right course of action

Yeah, that's right. If you didn't use the Contracts system, any accusations of a scammer is harassment on HF. If the deal was done somewhere else then that's where the person should complain. We have a system in place and policies regarding members actions during Disputes. We must enforce policy and push for usage of the Contract system. And it is the right course of action, you don't have to agree.

Kavalli † - November 27, 2019, 9:17 am

Omni, correct me If I'm wrong but I heard you can't start more than 1 contract with 1 person (You have to finish one contract before starting another). Is that right? Also you don't think that pushes people to do more deals off-site?

This is specially difficult for users who're selling products that have upsell/down-sells.

defame - November 27, 2019, 9:37 am

(Nov 27, 2019 10:08 AM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) You are very wrong about that. We don't really discuss it. I can assure you that I personally spend a lot of time everyday closing scammer accounts long before they can scam. You just don't see what's going on behind the scenes.

Yeah, another original feature of HF that's being cloned.

I was part of dozens of Marketplace forums way before HF even existed. There are reasons for the policies grounded in that experience.

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Have you considered having a special group of active and trusted members who'd be on the hunt for the scammers, I can see this working with the current website policies.

Biggy - November 27, 2019, 9:53 am

(Nov 27, 2019 10:37 AM)defame Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Have you considered having a special group of active and trusted members who'd be on the hunt for the scammers, I can see this working with the current website policies.

IMHO that would go down badly. I think he does just fine taking care of scammers by himself, it's up to the user to do their due diligence to avoid being scammed. There are so many measures he has in place to avoid you being scammed. From 2fa, to trust scan, to an entire contract system and

proper deal dispute section. Sometimes there is only so much you can do to completely avoid a scam. It's inevitable, scams are going to happen, but what we have in place works, and very well in my opinion.

Omniscient - November 27, 2019, 9:53 am

Quote:I'm curious what active measures you take to shut down accounts that are actively scamming, multiple red flags, disputed contracts? Is there a regular manual or automatic review process that is used?

Providing that information would only help scammers.

Quote:Omni, correct me If I'm wrong but I heard you can't start more than 1 contract with 1 person (You have to finish one contract before starting another). Is that right? Also you don't think that pushes people to do more deals off-site?

Currently that's how the system works.

Quote:This is specially difficult for users who're selling products that have upsell/down-sells. If we create exceptions it might be for Vendors. But realize someone could abuse this an open 100 Contracts with you.

defame Wrote:Have you considered having a special group of active and trusted members who'd be on the hunt for the scammers, I can see this working with the current website policies.

Wow, that's a great idea. Why hasn't someone thought of that after 12 years of HF? You must be the smartest guy on HF. Gonna send you a PM about this concept.

defame - November 27, 2019, 9:57 am

Quote:Wow, that's a great idea. Why hasn't someone thought of that after 12 years of HF? You must be the smartest guy on HF. Gonna send you a PM about this concept.

Don't tell me you couldn't find a way to efficiently implement the idea, after 12 years then.

Layered approach is the best approach no doubt.

Astonished - November 27, 2019, 9:57 am

(Nov 27, 2019 10:37 AM)defame Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Have you considered having a special group of active and trusted members who'd be on the hunt for the scammers, I can see this working with the current website policies.

How do you consider hunting scammers without putting people in the risk of being scammed. The only way to do this is to close accounts that look like they could be used to scam someone. Which either ends up in closing an account that someone genuinely want to use for its intended purpose, or doing what Omni already does. If I was a "Scam hunter" and didn't like someone, I can abuse the fact that I am trusted and say, yes this guy is a scammer > Banned

From omni = "I can assure you that I personally spend a lot of time everyday closing scammer accounts long before they can scam"

Well okay Omni, guess he aint get a chance to explain it to me ?

spiral - November 27, 2019, 10:02 am

(Nov 27, 2019 10:57 AM)defame Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Don't tell me you couldn't find a way to efficiently implement the idea, after 12 years then.

Layered approach is the best approach no doubt.

You couldn't trust said person to not abuse the situation and allow certain members to scam other users. Putting trust in someone online about something as important as this is not a smart move.

lulzytrash - November 27, 2019, 10:19 am

Good job dumb shit, keep wondering why hackforums is the known as the scammers hive everywhere else, even though you tried so hard.

Pull that head out of your ass, once in a while you might be able to see the right approach.

Omniscient - November 27, 2019, 10:32 am

(Nov 27, 2019 11:19 AM)lulzytrash Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Good job dumb Clay Davis, keep wondering why hackforums is the known as the scammers hive everywhere else, even though you tried so hard.

Pull that head out of your ass, once in a while you might be able to see the right approach.

It's known as a scammers hive by the competition and those with closed accounts. That's not really something I care about. And what you see as the "right approach" is your opinion which is complete garbage, naive, and ignorant.

I made this thread with a ton of information about how we deal with scammers. It's as if you completely ignored it. What a prick you must be in real life.

no-avast! - November 30, 2019, 1:35 pm

Its not your fault. You have done a great job to protect this forum's community.

Nate - December 1, 2019, 1:19 am

Basically if its to good to be true, then it is

vyactor - December 1, 2019, 4:52 am

To let the new comers know about contracts, there should be some kind of big text that should be compulsory for any new comers before posting a single post in Marketplace area or even visiting any boards of Marketplace area.

flavoral - December 1, 2019, 10:46 am

(Dec 1, 2019 05:52 AM)vyactor Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) To let the new comers know about contracts, there should be some kind of big text that should be compulsory for any new comers before posting a single post in Marketplace area or even visiting any boards of Marketplace area.

I'm pretty sure that the welcome msg includes a reminder to read all marketplace rules and to familiarize yourself with contract system.

Cæciliux - January 26, 2020, 11:18 pm

Thanks for everything you're doing for this community! ?

Omniscient - October 20, 2022, 2:34 pm

Appropriate bump of this thread since we now also review all Deal Disputes.

<https://hackforums.net/showthread.php?tid=6224532>

Slyboo.ts - October 28, 2022, 10:03 am

This is good to know for when I am around the marketplace. Thanks!

webdev77 - October 28, 2022, 2:46 pm

If you are willing, seeing stats on dispute reduction in a few months would be cool to see. I would be shocked if the number of scams doesn't go down over the next few months given all the focused attention on making changes.

LBD95 - March 27, 2024, 11:19 am

(Oct 11, 2019 10:05 AM)Pyro Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Pretty good elaboration on how HF evolved trough years

I've joined HF cause of CE section and I never got scammed cause I used my brain together with all the tools HF provides, and I must say, it was enough. If someone gets scammed it's because of their fault, not HF's

Long live HF !

What do you mean exactly? What does someone need to do in order to not get scammed?

peldon - March 27, 2024, 1:47 pm

Great job Omni ! Thanks

Nostre - March 27, 2024, 7:52 pm

(Mar 27, 2024 11:19 AM)LBD95 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) What do you mean exactly? What does someone need to do in order to not get scammed?

Being scammed isn't 100% preventable, it's a probability game like anything else. Those odds increase when the person wants to rush the payment, not use contracts, go off-site, etc.

LBD95 - March 27, 2024, 9:36 pm

(Mar 27, 2024 07:52 PM)Genuine Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Being scammed isn't 100% preventable, it's a probability game like anything else. Those odds increase when the person wants to rush the payment, not use contracts, go off-site, etc.

I read that one being having its account here for so long wouldn't lose it for money so you're supposed to check it in detail, to see if he/she interacts or if he/she doesn't etc.

I read that there are who wasn't scammed.

bronzegods - March 27, 2024, 10:19 pm

Scammers have been grinding their guts ever since HF came up with the contract system because now they have to follow the due process which marginally reduces their result of executing a big scam.

Jamika - March 28, 2024, 5:07 am

(Mar 27, 2024 10:19 PM)bronzegods Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Scammers have been grinding their guts ever since HF came up with the contract system because now they have to follow the due process which marginally reduces their result of executing a big scam.

Some still willing to do more effort to get a cash sum, even if buying vendor is the cost