

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Does HF have permission to read my convo and PMs?](#)

Zexture - February 23, 2020, 7:34 am

Convo is a great alternative to discord and it's great to have everything in one place. I've been using convos whenever possible to deal with everyone I know from HF. One thing I want to know is, can HF just read my convos or PMs whenever they wish? Also, when is it acceptable for Staff/Mods/Admins(other than being forced to do so legally) to read my convo or PMs

Charger - February 23, 2020, 7:35 am

What a funny thread. You have zero right to privacy. If Omni wanted he could post everyones convos in plain text.

BreadMaker - February 23, 2020, 7:36 am

Would be interested in the answer to this, i would say they wouldnt read/check ur convo unless there was a community alert or something serious that theyd consider closing an account for

Dorrance - February 23, 2020, 8:52 am

You remember when you signed up, you should of read that fine print.

webdev77 - February 23, 2020, 8:58 am

Staff cannot read PMs and Convos without you forwarding them directly to one of us. Administrators should be able to view/edit any site content they wish but have far better things to do than read your messages. Note that HF rules still apply to PMs and Convos, so don't be doing anything against site policy because members can and will report.

Lrrr - February 24, 2020, 2:58 pm

(Feb 23, 2020 09:58 AM)webdev77 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Staff cannot read PMs and Convos without you forwarding them directly to one of us. Administrators should be able to view/edit any site content they wish but have far better things to do than read your messages. Note that HF rules still apply to PMs and Convos, so don't be doing anything against site policy because members can and will report.

Staff maybe not, but admin yes. (Unless the database are both somehow securely encrypted AND encrypted at rest.)

This is a public forum, you have zero right to privacy here. The data held in this website can be viewed by Omni at any time for any reason.

Charger - February 24, 2020, 3:00 pm

(Feb 24, 2020 03:58 PM)Lrrr Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Are you insinuation that the conversations and PM's in the database are both somehow securely encrypted AND encrypted at rest? I doubt it.

This is a public forum, you have zero right to privacy here. The data held in this website can be viewed by Omni at any time for any reason.

????

He's saying staff don't have access to read it.

Lrrr - February 24, 2020, 3:02 pm

(Feb 24, 2020 04:00 PM)Charger Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) ????

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Does omni count as staff?

(Feb 24, 2020 04:00 PM)Charger Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) ????

He's saying staff don't have access to read it.

fixed just for you bb

Charger - February 24, 2020, 3:03 pm

(Feb 24, 2020 04:02 PM)Lrrr Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Does omni count as staff?

No.

Does his userbar say staff or admin?

Admin = global moderation- admin panel

Staff = global moderation - no admin panel

Mentor = sectional moderation - no admin panel

Yin Yang - February 24, 2020, 3:03 pm

It's not encrypted, no. Sry

Lrrr - February 24, 2020, 3:03 pm

(Feb 24, 2020 04:03 PM)Charger Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) No.

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I FIXED ITTTTTTTTTTTTTTT

Nas - February 24, 2020, 5:06 pm

(Feb 24, 2020 04:02 PM)Lrrr Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Does omni count as staff?

fixed just for you bb

I actually made a thread for all Official Usergroups on Hack Forums.

<https://hackforums.net/showthread.php?tid=5957042>

FBIRandom - February 24, 2020, 5:08 pm

(Feb 24, 2020 04:03 PM)Lrrr Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I FIXED ITTTTTTTTTTTTTTT

lol stop posting. you already got roasted here. go hide

Omniscient - February 24, 2020, 5:19 pm

Quote:. One thing I want to know is, can HF just read my convos or PMs whenever they wish? Also, when is it acceptable for Staff/Mods/Admins(other than being forced to do so legally) to read my convo or PMs

Only Admins can read your PMs/Convo. After 12 years of running HF the only times I need to do so are when problems are reported. Normally it's spam, harassment or sometimes it's confirming a screenshot from a Deal Dispute.

I got no interest in reading private member communications. I thought about allowing E2E Encryption but I'm almost positive members would not know how to correctly use it. We have a real problem with 2FA which is relatively simple to use. E2E would require public/private keys to be made and correctly added. Loss of keys would mean loss of access to the content.

HF has encrypted XMPP but that's hardly used by members.

Discord offers no encryption at all btw.

Also one day we might encrypt portions of the database. It's also complex to execute on the backend but would require no changes or interaction from members. It could partially make HF database more secure but at the cost of some resources. It's also not 100%.

<https://community.mybb.com/thread-201850-post-1249339.html#pid1249339>

This is more info on [MySQL InnoDB Encryption](#).

Lrrr - February 24, 2020, 6:17 pm

(Feb 24, 2020 06:19 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Only Admins can read your PMs/Convo. After 12 years of running HF the only times I need to do so are when problems are reported. Normally it's spam, harassment or sometimes it's confirming a screenshot from a Deal Dispute.

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Rds with kms at rest could be an affordable solution

overlude - March 2, 2020, 7:33 am

(Feb 24, 2020 07:17 PM)Lrrr Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Rds with kms at rest could be an affordable solution Database encryption at rest is pretty pointless, especially if using bare-metal servers (you might as well encrypt the entire disk). It's only really useful for physical theft of hard drives or security of data if hard drives are being sent in for repair. It's not really helpful to address the 'concern' OP has.

If OP is discussing such sensitive information and he feels there would be a reason for concern if the administration of the site could read his messages he should be more than capable of figuring out a secure, E2E encrypted, method of discussing that particular topic. For 99% of conversations, it's really not a problem, and people don't think twice before discussing the same topics on Discord or Skype, where messages can be and are read by moderation.

Lrrr - March 2, 2020, 9:00 am

(Mar 2, 2020 08:33 AM)overlude Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) If OP is discussing such sensitive information and he feels there would be a reason for concern if the administration of the site could read his messages he should be more than capable of figuring out a secure, E2E encrypted, method of discussing that particular topic. For 99% of conversations, it's really not a problem, and people don't think twice

before discussing the same topics on Discord or Skype, where messages can be and are read by moderation.

This guy is spitting facts

NoSuchAgency - *March 2, 2020, 10:50 pm*

You could always just encrypt your sensitive messages with pgp and have the end user decrypt it himself.

Little overkill but if you're really concerned it's not hard to do.

Charger - *March 4, 2020, 6:12 am*

I also want to add this:

It's the internet, you don't need permission to do anything. It comes with ability.