

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Sharing codebases shouldn't feel like an audit](#)

Hackers - May 5, 2024, 12:29 pm

I have noticed a trend (throughout the many years of posting online) of people being overly critical towards others.

For example, a user posted a thread where they start off with "this is not going to be fully undetected". One user's reply? Criticism that it doesn't bypass windows defender.

Another example would be me sharing C++ code as I learn C++ for the first time over the last few months.

One user? Making sure to tell me how terrible my code is.

Nightingale made a thread - the same user that came for me? You guessed it - criticized his code too and in my opinion he did that rudely.

Now, this is not to say that criticism has no place. It's always good to help people grow as a coder, point out flaws, help with bugs, etc.

But there is a fine line between "we're a community helping each other" and "I am toxic and your code is shit" that I feel gets crossed sometimes, and this is not exclusive to HF. This happens in workplaces between professionals, social media, github comments, and everywhere else too.

What do you think of this type of thing, and do you feel that some people are rude in an effort to be "right" or critical of code?

I personally feel that you can be as strict as you want with reviews, for example not letting a single flaw go unnoticed - but it can be done in a kind way, or a professional way, or ultimately: a helpful way. When this isn't considered & it's "just strict" or "just harsh" with no effort to even be socially aware, it can end up coming across as a toxic dev ego, and ultimately: unhelpful.

Absence - May 5, 2024, 12:37 pm

I am not particularly active in coding topics, but there definitely is a fine line between constructive criticism and being militant towards other people. For some reason, I have noticed that there are a few people who seem to have an elitist attitude towards others and their work, even when they don't meet that same degree of scrutiny.

Although I do not particularly know the thread you are referencing, I will soon, I do know that I enjoy my discussions with Nightingale himself. I also know that there are quite a few people who would happily work with him again and again.

That is kinda one of the issues with being online. Some people really love the idea that there is not as many consequences for the things they say.

I do know that today I didn't have to ridicule or degrade anybody to get my point across, or feel better about myself. Never know why people are distasteful, likely is something going on more with them than yourself.

[Hackers](#) stay awesome

Hackers - May 5, 2024, 1:26 pm

(May 5, 2024 12:37 PM)Absence Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I am not particularly active in coding topics, but there definitely is a fine line between constructive criticism and being militant towards other people. For some reason, I have noticed that there are a few people who seem to have an elitist attitude towards others and their work, even when they don't meet that same degree of scrutiny.

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I think the other thing is when people go into a thread with different expectations.

For example, if I share a POC - 9 times out of 10 it means "I just figured this out, I am not cleaning up my code, not optimizing my code". If I share more of a full release, I probably have gone through it a bit more. The problem is if someone comes into a POC codebase of mine expecting it to be 100% optimal. If they are critiquing it with a perspective that it should be perfect, of course they'll have an issue. But if my intent is not to share the cleanest code and is instead to just share something cool, it can be annoying if someone is caught up in those details.

Of course, everyone should always share "clean code" - but I'll mention this: Sometimes when I rush through a thread to share some code, if it doesn't get shared right then and there, I'll never share it. Why? because I explore concepts in code a lot, and if I "achieve something" (example: enabled/disabled AV via COM & WMI in Python thread of mine), I may never look at that code ever again.

The other angle is when someone actually DID try to optimize their code, and tried their best - and then gets criticized and told to never code again (or similar).

This can be discouraging to them big time, derail their motivation, and is probably the worst time to be overly-critical.

all in all, I know I can be better about being nice 100% of the time too and I can be harsh sometimes too. I think we can be better as a community both on HF and off HF, to help people grow more than we pick them apart.

newQuery - May 5, 2024, 1:46 pm

In the realm of interpersonal dynamics, when an individual exhibits toxic behavior devoid of constructive resolutions, it suggests a deficit in both emotional intelligence and problem-solving acumen. In this scenario, one could posit that said individual, colloquially speaking, may lack the cognitive faculties requisite for navigating such situations adeptly, thereby rendering them less proficient in knowledge acquisition than oneself.

Hackers - May 5, 2024, 1:54 pm

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situations adeptly, thereby rendering them less proficient in knowledge acquisition than oneself.

This is true, and there is something to be said that it takes two people to come to a constructive resolution. If either party does lack an emotional intelligence, or critical thinking skills, or other similar qualities, it can be very difficult to move forward. I think my issue with it though overall is more about how the knowledge, advice, critique, or comments are made - and their tone - more so than the actual information itself. It's always best to have code specific bugs, recommendations, improvements, and alternatives shared. If we can all work on how that's communicated over text, especially without any ability to hear the actual tone of the person saying it, we can be more productive. Sometimes I'll dislike a person because of their attitude, while simultaneously seeing how they are correct about certain things. Mix this with every other communication issue that can arise over the internet & it's easy to be derailed from the true reason we should all be here - make friends, learn from others or teach, make more money, write better code, be better people, etc.

ttbr0 - May 5, 2024, 8:16 pm

(May 5, 2024 12:29 PM)nodes Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I have noticed a trend (throughout the many years of posting online) of people being overly critical towards others.

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Now, this is not to say that criticism has no place. It's always good to help people grow as a coder, point out flaws, help with bugs, etc.

But there is a fine line between "we're a community helping each other" and "I am toxic and your code is shit" that I feel gets crossed sometimes, and this is not exclusive to HF. This happens in workplaces between professionals, social media, github comments, and everywhere else too.

What do you think of this type of thing, and do you feel that some people are rude in an effort to be "right" or critical of code?

I personally feel that you can be as strict as you want with reviews, for example not letting a single flaw go unnoticed - but it can be done in a kind way, or a professional way, or ultimately: a helpful way. When this isn't considered & it's "just strict" or "just harsh" with no effort to even be socially aware, it can end up coming across as a toxic dev ego, and ultimately: unhelpful.

I've been trying my best to avoid all of that drama because I don't believe it will lead to any meaningful discussion and I would prefer to not fuel the fire. Personally all of the back and forth degrades the experience of the thread filling it with useless posts. Those posts specifically trashing on OP is unwarranted and could make others reluctant to share their own code in fear of the same thing happening to them. The code released most likely isn't production code and nobody asked for a code review so it should just stop in my opinion. I don't think there are any positive outcomes that are worth the tradeoff for the negative impact.

Ramsey - May 6, 2024, 3:57 am

Yeah I agree with that. Code reviews should be more helpful than anything. Don't understand why some developers behave like this. You see it a lot on S/O.

Dirty - May 6, 2024, 4:36 am

people especially in general, software engineers have very little social skills and this is just one of it's many symptoms together with constantly trying to prove that they are better than everyone else.

COCKBOT - May 6, 2024, 4:43 am

There's a number of reasons.

- Feeling superior
 - Genuinely trying to help
 - Being a dick
- etc

The problem is deniability. One can hide behind "Genuinely trying to help" no matter the actual reasoning.

Ideally, if someone is to critique, they should be very matter of fact.

Euaggelistes - May 6, 2024, 5:04 am

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It's not limited to just coding. People are consistently being critical and negative. I think some is a knock-on effect of others doing it to them, some of it is just sheer badness. An inability to focus on the good, commend, and provide constructive criticism to improve. It's a lot easier to find fault and complain.

Klonopin - May 6, 2024, 8:21 am

Being strict in code reviews is acceptable, But it should always be done kindly and thoughtfully. There's a significant difference between pointing out flaws professionally and attacking someone's work 100%.

programmers can be very toxic especially when it comes to their code...

ilkelistansky - May 6, 2024, 10:15 am

LOL?

They're just a bunch of insecure and unfulfilled people.

happygonutty - May 6, 2024, 3:12 pm

(May 5, 2024 12:29 PM)nodes Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) What do you think of this type of thing, and do you feel that some people are rude in an effort to be "right" or critical of code?

I was watching these sort of threads when it all occurred and my almost first friend here in HF community (nucleo_type09) got his account closed because he keep on bad mouthing these so-called troll accounts that were making fun of everyone's code that were posted especially yours OP.

I am 100% sure that they were just messing with you guys since recently, y'all have been posting and debating about code. And you know, everywhere we go there will AND ALWAYS WILL BE someone that doesn't want people like us and they have this ego in them saying "I am better than these idiots" (something like that) so they would make new accounts, collect just a few privilege by posting then all of a sudden mock everyone up.

I find the whole issue very entertaining to be honest as nucleo_type09 (please do not be mad at me if you can see this) is kind of super sensitive about these kinds of trolling and I believe he should've not done this as we are a community and we have rules to follow, he should have just be mature, ignore them completely and just let the staffs take care of everything.

The whole thing doesn't matter to be honest. All in all, we are all just the same, we have different point of views, different perspectives, different styles of coding and so. I just hope everything not to get too personal, and we just ignore these sorts of trolling or these kinds of people. ?

Lastly, a community without trolls would be nothing. If there weren't, we won't get our precious bytes we can use for gambling. Lol. ??

MavenGradle - May 6, 2024, 5:11 pm

I'll share what I have on my profile:

Quote:Don't be afraid to ask for help. Don't be afraid to make mistakes, for making mistakes is a great way to learn. If, for some reason, you feel offended by any commentary in the programming section, don't be. None of it is personal in nature, but rather meant to improve upon your skills and knowledge. Not only that, the community deserves the best possible solution to any given problem.

In terms of sharing code: I am personally offended when bad code is presented and feel the need to correct it. Why? Because if something can be improved upon, you should take the opportunity to do so. Don't let a good storm go to waste. It's not even a matter of trolling or trying to offend people or trying to feel superior because at the end of the day everyone makes mistakes. You, me, the president, your dog, your cat, your cow (Copy on Write, anyone?). We all fall, trip, but you are supposed to get back up. Not lie down and give up.

But let's be clear here. Without community feedback and without code reviews and without people pointing out the way for how things could be better, we would never have had FOSS applications. We would never have had Linux. We would never have been where we are today in terms of technological advancement. Knowledge should be shared, including critique and your opinions. Freedom of speech is a gift. During humanity's history, freedom of speech has always been impeded upon, so we should be happy to be living in a time where we can share our opinions, hate the king or president and not get killed for it. I digress. Sharing is good. As long as it is within your applicable laws, you should. But then again that is kind of the FOSS, GNU and open mindset.

But as someone stated above, there's a fine line between being harsh and trying to remain neutral. Sometimes things can get out of hand, even if one tries to be neutral. Not to mention the psychology at play here. Nerds like us tend to tie our entire personality on the things we write, and as such we

can get highly offended by someone trying to show us a better way. This is called [confirmation bias](#). You have to be self aware, thick-skinned but also WILLING to learn and improve if you stand any chance of rising above the rank of code-monkey. Not that there's anything wrong with being a code monkey, but if you are gifted with the ability to write beautiful code, why don't you? And I'm not talking about code styles, I'm talking about actually measurable performance improvements or requirement improvements. In any case, this is meant to be inspirational, I don't know how well I did but maybe it will offer you some insight.

Dirty - May 8, 2024, 9:43 am

(May 6, 2024 05:11 PM)MavenGradle Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I'll share what I have on my profile:

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There is however a right way and a toxic unnecessary way of expressing code is bad and how it can be improved upon. Also context of the code matters, if it's PoC code and it does it's purpose I'm not having any feedback since I didn't spend any time myself to get it to a point I even believe in it's actual quality, rather I have been working on something trying to figure something out if it's even feasible and do not have the time or energy (or see any ROI) in improving the code yet then there is no room to learn and any feedback about the code itself is mostly if not toxic also a waste of time from the person giving it.

MavenGradle - May 8, 2024, 9:45 am

(May 8, 2024 09:43 AM)Dirtybox Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) There is however a right way and a toxic unnecessary way of expressing code is bad and how it can be improved upon. Also context of the code matters, if it's PoC code and it does it's purpose I'm not having any feedback since I didn't spend any time myself to get it to a point I even believe in it's actual quality, rather I have been working on something trying to figure something out if it's even feasible and do not have the time or energy (or see any ROI) in improving the code yet then there is no room to learn and any feedback

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But then what's wrong with someone pointing out the flaws, correcting them and providing a better version themselves? Because at the end of the day, that's what it's all about. You're sharing code, essentially making it open source and allowing people to make better versions or share feedback in order for others to make a better version.

Again, without any of this happening, we would not have projects like Linux, AI, etc.

Dirty - May 8, 2024, 9:58 am

(May 8, 2024 09:45 AM)MavenGradle Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) But then what's wrong with someone pointing out the flaws, correcting them and providing a better version themselves? Because at the end of the day, that's what it's all about. You're sharing code, essentially making it open source and allowing people to make better versions or share feedback in order for others to make a better version.

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Because if code is in a PoC state you spending your time working through the codebase for the first time to give me feedback I can find way easier. But that was not the purpose the code was written for. Like your example with Linux and many other opensource projects, they are at a stage where your comment is valid, but I wouldn't need someone to comment on my PoC code to exploit a small vulnerability so that the code would be more readable for example.

MavenGradle - May 8, 2024, 10:02 am

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When you share code with the world without a license, companies and individuals may be reluctant to use your code, because you don't grant them specific rights to use it. When you put the code into the public domain (like HackForums), you are granting rights to use and create derivatives of your work. So you might as well make a statement of acceptable use that is acceptable to you. Without such a statement or license, there is nothing preventing people from using your code in whatever way they see fit. Including but not limited to giving critique and suggestions. What you need or don't need, legally speaking, becomes entirely irrelevant when you put the code into the public domain without terms and conditions that are enforceable. You can, in other words, complain all you like about receiving critique or code reviews; it won't change a thing except provide useless complaints and nagging to the world. HackForums does have its own set of rules and guidelines. Moderators and administrators will enforce them as they see fit. Thus far, there is no rule against providing code reviews, even if they are unwanted, to code provided on HackForums without a license or usage agreement.

On the bright side you could simply ignore any advice you receive entirely, since all you wanted to do was share a proof of concept, so someone critiquing or offering suggestions shouldn't, realistically speaking, even bother you at all since you placed your code in the public domain with the explicit purpose / intent of simply sharing it and nothing else. You are not morally, legally or otherwise bound to implement any of the suggestions nor are you even paid to do so. And yes, these are legally valid statements Arguing about any of my statements in this comment is legally speaking entirely irrelevant and adds nothing but noise.

I understand that some of you feel the need to vent, or express thoughts and feelings, but please read the above very carefully and understand its implications. This is not intended as a hostile comment. Read it neutrally, as is intended except for my own thoughts and opinions on the matter

which are worded as 'nagging', 'complaining' and/or 'useless' (also provided as neutrally but more specifically as functionally as possible).

Hackers - May 8, 2024, 10:43 am

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I think the problem is when specific users respond to POCs or other unfinished codebases and act like its some sort of overall analysis of the poster's core skills / lack awareness over what is a thread meant to start a discussion or share a POC versus what is a codebase worth doing a full review of.

I also don't think this is something that needs a rule on HF.

There are clearly users who give feedback in a constructive way, and there are users who give feedback like a douchebag. This thread is focused on the people who lack social skills more than it is about code quality or reviews.

Nobody is arguing that code reviews are worthwhile - they are.

But if a user is writing reviews and people commonly agree that they sound like an ass, then perhaps the user should focus on their communication style as a bigger flaw than the code they're reviewing.

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You could use this thread to point them out. @ them and ping them if you want to address them about the lack of their social skills or speak to them in private. Perhaps they're not even aware of it and providing a public space for these kind of discussions can improve comradery instead of creating a hostile environment. Nothing wrong with improving someone's social skills if they themselves are open to critique in the psychological field of things.

Some reviewers try their utmost best to remain neutral, but as some have stated in previous comments there is a fine line between being neutral, friendly and being hostile, all while one might not even be aware of it.

This would also help expose trolling behavior and make it incredibly easy for moderators to do their thing!

boyah1337 - May 8, 2024, 11:11 am

You take this shit too seriously, Nobody knows you, nobody cares about you. If you post code, be prepared to give answers.

If you don't want people to judge simply don't write stuff like "best CRYPTER 2024".

You can't claim to be the best and write trash code. All this talk about "not perfect", is just... funny, just say you don't know the language, it is acceptable.

Go look at the big companies and their security blogs/ POC's that they share. Each POC is CR'd and reviewed 10 times before publishment, it is their image, their code.

If you don't care about your image continue posting half-baked code. There is a limit to how much a "code can be ugly", even for a POC.

Il give you an example:

You have allocated an extra `std::string` for no reason - Everyone knows that this is a BIG NO NO (One of the first lessons in c++), literary wasteful allocation which is not NEEDED.

This has nothing to do with "POC" or being lazy, because writing `std::string&` or `std::string` or `auto&` or `const auto&` takes the exact amount of time.

This simply shows that you lack the basic knowledge and you can't seem to admit it so you blame it on it being a "POC", admittingly it is very easy to do.

Heck, you can call me a hater but I am simply reflecting the truth.

Hackers - May 8, 2024, 2:01 pm

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This simply shows that you lack the basic knowledge and you can't seem to admit it so you blame it on it being a "POC", admittedly it is very easy to do.

Heck, you can call me a hater but I am simply reflecting the truth.
Nobody is upset at you for calling out a `std::string` improvement.

This thread is about how you or others can come across as rude, and that has absolutely nothing to do with code quality suggestions.

For example, implying that nobody cares about me, or nobody knows me, or that I should go back to being a 'web coder' (which isn't an insult), etc. It's the amount of time you spend being a douche that is a concern. Your actual C++ feedback becomes irrelevant when your posts are filled with toxic side-comments. That's the point of this thread: learn how to give feedback!

You should try joining one of those companies and writing your feedback in the same way you do here. I don't think you should be here claiming to be some coding guru when you lack the etiquette to even give feedback properly.

You'd be fired by HR pretty quickly. I know you know everything because you have 5+ years working on AV as a hobby, but in some places the ability to provide constructive feedback without being toxic is valued higher than malware development skills.

MavenGradle - May 8, 2024, 3:37 pm

(May 8, 2024 02:01 PM)nodes Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) You'd be fired by HR pretty quickly. I know you know everything because you have 5+ years working on AV as a hobby, but in some places the ability to provide constructive feedback without being toxic is valued higher than malware development skills. You handled this perfectly. The member in question, it appears, is now exiled. To me this seems like a good working justice system here on the forum. It might be entirely unrelated to his posts but it goes to show how a thread like this can expose people for what and who they are. Good job.

happygonutty - May 8, 2024, 4:20 pm

(May 8, 2024 09:43 AM)Dirtybox Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) There is however a right way and a toxic unnecessary way of expressing code is bad and how it can be improved upon. Also context of the code matters, if it's PoC code and it does it's purpose I'm not having any feedback since I didn't spend any time myself to get it to a point I even believe in it's actual quality, rather I have been working on something trying to figure something out if it's even feasible and do not have the time or energy (or see any ROI) in improving the code yet then there is no room to learn and any feedback about the code itself is mostly if not toxic also a waste of time from the person giving it.

Lol, both of you really look like nemesis! Hahahaha. I have seen you on another thread arguing. But hey man, let's all be friends and respect each other's perspective. I mean if MavenGradle is offended with dirty code then let MavenGradle be since that is the way MavenGradle is. I myself am like Dirtybox to be honest, I just ignore if the code is dirty if it's just a PoC but if it is to be presented on mass audience then showing a clean code is totally necessary as it represents professionalism. ?

MavenGradle - May 8, 2024, 6:07 pm

(May 8, 2024 04:20 PM)happygonutty Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Lol, both of you really look like nemesis! Hahahaha. I have seen you on another thread arguing. But hey man, let's all be friends and respect each other's perspective. I mean if MavenGradle is offended with dirty code then let MavenGradle be since that is the way MavenGradle is. I myself am like Dirtybox to be honest, I just ignore if the code is dirty if it's just a PoC but if it is to be presented on mass audience then showing a clean code is totally necessary as it represents professionalism. ?

Very kind, but I don't think [Dirty](#) is an adversary and I certainly hope he doesn't see me as such. At least I'm not getting the impression that we're having an unfriendly chat. I'll gladly smoke a cigar with the man and you or anyone else for that matter. So far everything here has been civil and professional but feel free to correct the wrongs!

Hackers - May 8, 2024, 6:39 pm

(May 8, 2024 03:37 PM)MavenGradle Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) You handled this perfectly. The member in question, it appears, is now exiled. To me this seems like a good working justice system here on the forum. It might be entirely unrelated to his posts but it goes to show how a thread like this can expose people for what and who they are. Good job.

Yeah, not surprised they are banned, but looks like its for being a multi - I think it makes sense that someone who says things like they do are more likely to break the rules online too. They made a lot of posts flaming OPs and just going off-topic with non-code comments.

Dirty - May 9, 2024, 1:57 am

(May 8, 2024 06:07 PM)MavenGradle Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Very kind, but I don't think [Dirty](#) is an adversary and I certainly hope he doesn't see me as such. At least I'm not getting the impression that we're having an unfriendly chat. I'll gladly smoke a cigar with the man and you or anyone else for that matter. So far everything here has been civil and professional but feel free to correct the wrongs!

I don't believe we are adversary either. I have more intense discussions with my wife, co-founder, and dad all the time. I would take you up on the cigar offer but I don't smoke. But we definitely could go climb some mountains together, more my vibe.

Hackers - May 9, 2024, 5:56 am

(May 8, 2024 06:07 PM)MavenGradle Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Very kind, but I don't think [Dirty](#) is an adversary and I certainly hope he doesn't see me as such. At least I'm not getting the impression that we're having an unfriendly chat. I'll gladly smoke a cigar with the man and you or anyone else for that matter. So far everything here has been civil and professional but feel free to correct the wrongs!

(May 9, 2024 01:57 AM)Dirtybox Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I don't believe we are adversary either. I have more intense discussions with my wife, co-founder, and dad all the time. I would take you up on the cigar offer but I don't smoke. But we definitely could go climb some mountains together, more my vibe.

I've seen MavenGradle get "serious" about tech or be firm with his posts, but I haven't seen him go over the line and be toxic. That's the critical difference that I'm honing in on in this thread. People are allowed to give "harsh" or "stern" criticism and there's a way to do that without being rude. I'll take a review from Maven over that boyah guy any day lol!

itcorp - May 10, 2024, 6:25 pm

Constructive criticism is an essential part of growth, whether it's in coding, writing, or any other skill. However, there's a significant difference between offering helpful feedback and being outright rude or dismissive. It's important to approach criticism with empathy and respect for the person on the receiving end.