

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Marketplace Policy Changes](#)

Omniscient - February 28, 2025, 2:55 pm

Some recent events are now forcing me to officially implement some policy changes.

This was previous policy: <https://hackforums.net/misc.php?action=help&hid=35>

7. Refusing to use the HF Contract system with a member you want to deal with.

Updated:

7. Anyone refusing to use HF Contracts will be closed.

8. Anyone refusing to use a Middle-man in HF Contracts will be closed. MM has to be paid by the party requesting it.

9. All off-site deals must still use an HF Contract, if not, you will be closed.

10. If a pattern of avoiding Contracts is apparent, you will be closed.

Basically it's time to go back to previous policy about proactively encouraging on-site deals and the use of HF Contracts. Why? Because avoiding Contracts is exactly how scammers get victims. I nearly never hear complaints about deals when an HF Contract is used and with the Contract it's more clear about who is in the wrong on the deal. While I know many feel the Contract system is just an additional step that's an annoyance, I have to weigh the cost of scams to the reputation of the site.

Recently had a contact about someone rather upset and accusing a handful of members of being involved in a scammer ring. I'm accused of helping them of course if I do nothing short of closing their accounts. But how can I justify that under policy based on some random member making a vocal complaint? This is why we have policies, they aren't just guidelines for members, they are guidelines for myself and Staff too. Without policy this place would be chaos. I don't want scammers on the site. I don't want members being scammed. Scams though are always a two-way street, the scammer and the victim. I don't understand why HF gets the blame of an off-site scam but we do. They don't contact the admins of Discord or Telegram, they contact me.

Another issue is false accusations. This would not be the first time that one or more members have a vendetta and use the scammer accusation attempting to get their account closed. That's why I need an HF Contract. I have no proof that two parties were in a deal without them. And current policy very clear that we won't get involved in Deal Disputes without a Valid Active HF Contract.

If you think my policies are overly harsh keep in mind we literally have threat-actors actively finding victims on HF and I'm pretty sure BKRandy and Blunt are on the site right now under reputable accounts just waiting for a Big Score. I'm trying to protect all members.

Stop being pricks and use HF Contracts if you're a buyer and sellers, if you don't accept a Contract, you will be CLOSED.

Thank you.

Hero - February 28, 2025, 2:57 pm

Not your fault that members deal offsite and get scammed. It's a way to teach them something for life. Stupid way to lose money, but only if they don't learn from it.

Sholi - February 28, 2025, 3:04 pm

Does it apply to payments made through autobuy links on the thread?

Like do you still need contracts when the user does not use it?

MFUK - February 28, 2025, 3:10 pm

Okay So if someone comes to me to buy something that ain't on HF I have to get them to them to make a contract ?

Omniscient - February 28, 2025, 3:14 pm

(Feb 28, 2025 03:57 PM)Virulent Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) But what does it have to do with 5 guys getting closed with zero proof? These are not scam ring leaders they are social shitposters and technologists with tenure... Meanwhile the complaint comes from some 140 post (all begging btw) rat? It just seems very strange from the surface.

Nobody was closed on "zero proof", I took a precautionary action (bans) while I reviewed. I believe an ongoing social engineering attempt to actually have these accounts closed has been going on. This is why I did mention threat-actors like BKRandy because it's entirely possible a scammer ring is operating on HF targeting members off-site. It's a weakness in policy I'm always struggling with.

(Feb 28, 2025 04:04 PM)Sholi Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Does it apply to payments made through autobuy links on the thread?

Like do you still need contracts when the user does not use it?

Autobuy Links should be part of HF Contract Templates for Vendors. The new policy is about intentionally avoiding them. So you should be fine if using Templates.

Omniscient - February 28, 2025, 3:16 pm

(Feb 28, 2025 04:10 PM)MFUK Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Okay So if someone comes to me to buy something that ain't on HF I have to get them to them to make a contract ?

If they aren't an HF member then no Contract required. If the sale originated from another source, that's fine too. But if the buyer does want to initiate and HF Contract, you better say yes because refusal is now a policy to close your account for the violation.

This isn't gonna stop all scams but I do hope it leads to less scams.

SwimmingPool - February 28, 2025, 3:17 pm

Good stuff. Should make it a bit more difficult for scammers to keep accounts.

Clue - February 28, 2025, 3:23 pm

(Feb 28, 2025 04:16 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) If they aren't an HF member then no Contract required. If the sale originated from another source, that's fine too. But if the buyer does want to initiate and HF Contract, you better say yes because refusal is now a policy to close your account for the violation.

This isn't gonna stop all scams but I do hope it leads to less scams.Would the only way to enforce this be for the buyer to send you proof of denial of contract?

Cloudy - February 28, 2025, 3:35 pm

I don't think I'd ever deal without a contract even with "friends" that I "trust". Just easier that way and easier to prove if anything goes bad. Good change.

Omniscient - February 28, 2025, 3:53 pm

(Feb 28, 2025 04:23 PM)Clue Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Would the only way to enforce this be for the buyer to

send you proof of denial of contract?

Or a cancelled initiated HF Contract...or a pattern of that. Unofficially it's been a policy that those avoiding Contracts are potential scammers and this just makes it more official.

Komodo - February 28, 2025, 4:28 pm

Cool idea, thanks for implementing.

I did notice something the other day I believe can help with small / direct 1 time trades.

Having the option to make a contract without a Thread Link is currently impossible. I see some people use random threads they have made or they just open a thread and immediately close it for the sale.

Omniscient - February 28, 2025, 4:32 pm

(Feb 28, 2025 05:28 PM)Komodo Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Cool idea, thanks for implementing.

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Having the option to make a contract without a Thread Link is currently impossible. I see some people use random threads they have made or they just open a thread and immediately close it for the sale.

Good point, I too have seen that behavior. I may need to add additional requirements of the thread.

Pr0m3th3us - February 28, 2025, 4:35 pm

I like it. I thought all HF venders should of been using the contract system anyways.

Komodo - February 28, 2025, 5:03 pm

(Feb 28, 2025 05:32 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Good point, I too have seen that behavior. I may need to add additional requirements of the thread.

I think it makes more sense to remove the thread link necessity.

Less restrictions hopefully means more people will use contracts if they're easier.

If me and you are talking in chat and want to make a trade it's way easier to just throw up a contract and make the trade than make an entire thread for it.

Prawnster - February 28, 2025, 6:07 pm

I make sure to use contracts with anyone that I do deals with from HF haha even if they contact me off-site, definitely deters potential scammers.

Even if I've known them for a good while - If the first point of contact originally was HF, we using a contract if they want any goods or services.

Good change, thanks Omni.

(Feb 28, 2025 05:32 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Good point, I too have seen that behavior. I may need to add additional requirements of the thread.

+1 on the "must have a thread" requirement, instead of spamming threads I tend to just use the thread ID on one of my existing threads (whichever one is at the top), if we had an option of not requiring threads would be great imo.

Carl Elias - February 28, 2025, 8:30 pm

(Feb 28, 2025 06:03 PM)Komodo Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I think it makes more sense to remove the thread

link necessity.

Less restrictions hopefully means more people will use contracts if they're easier.

If me and you are talking in chat and want to make a trade it's way easier to just throw up a contract and make the trade than make an entire thread for it.

I've only used the contract system once, but I agree that I have seen random threads made solely for the contract to be made. Maybe there can be a button on the chat or PM's that initiates a direct contract without a thread? Or a step further, the author of a thread would see a button on each post of their thread (similar to the quick love or PM buttons) that would allow them to initiate a contract based off the PID?? Just a thought to make it easier than needing the thread link and it still link the contract to some conversation on-site.

Another thing I wanted to throw out there (this may already be a thing) is possibly forcing users to read & acknowledge the Contract System rules before even accessing the Marketplace threads? I feel like this information is shared when members join, but HF has A LOT of features, and it is easy for new members to miss important things like this. This could be beneficial for users who do not use contracts earlier on when they join HF, and forget about it and get scammed. This leads to my next point

Natural consequence probably for not checking the rules, but an occasional reminder that the user must read, check a box & click accept may be useful and shows HF is putting a proactive measure by increasing awareness. Maybe all members must acknowledge it yearly if they are active in the market/high-scam-risk forums. This would also help give HF more points to use if a victim reaches out after acknowledging those rules and still got scammed for working off site. Just a thought -- not that 90% of the people who get that pop up will actually read it.....

Blazin - February 28, 2025, 8:30 pm

I always ask customers to open a contract. Good update.

Artisan - March 1, 2025, 1:20 am

Thanks for going back to the previous policy. I have always been an advocate for contracts and always will be.

Sholi - March 1, 2025, 5:46 am

(Feb 28, 2025 04:14 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Nobody was closed on "zero proof", I took a precautionary action (bans) while I reviewed. I believe an ongoing social engineering attempt to actually have these accounts closed has been going on. This is why I did mention threat-actors like BKRandy because it's entirely possible a scammer ring is operating on HF targeting members off-site. It's a weakness in policy I'm always struggling with.

Autobuy Links should be part of HF Contract Templates for Vendors. The new policy is about intentionally avoiding them. So you should be fine if using Templates.

I meant direct links to websites. I remember that being allowed on sales threads.

So say there is a contract button, but there is also a direct link to the website in the thread design. Purchases could be made without the contract.

Endorphins - March 1, 2025, 6:25 am

Love this enforcement. Receipt is very important guys! Sure it won't make you not get scammed or lose money but at least the scammer will get his record tainted.

vyactor - March 1, 2025, 7:25 am

Seems like more safer way to make deals. Every people who contacts me off-site I make sure we create a contract before proceeding.

jcole - March 1, 2025, 8:04 am

Not a problem for people that follow the rules. Thanks for looking out for the best interest of buyers and sellers.

Omniscient - March 1, 2025, 9:21 am

Quote:I think it makes more sense to remove the thread link necessity.

Initially it was not required but over time it became obvious we needed it. Mainly because without the requirement people can make fake Contracts to raise their Credibility too easily. I suppose if nonsense threads are being created then that's now what they are doing too. So the next step is to ensure any threads linked to a Contract have some validity to them or maybe something more creative.

Quote:I've only used the contract system once, but I agree that I have seen random threads made solely for the contract to be made.

An adjustment is obviously needed in that regard. Coming soon. I have to think on the problem more and consider a good way to deal with it.

Quote:I meant direct links to websites. I remember that being allowed on sales threads.

That's Vendors only and is still allowed. No change there. Again this is about intentionally avoiding Contracts. Generally speaking the issue is nearly never the Vendors group. Yesterday bans had only one Vendor.

Confound - March 1, 2025, 10:01 am

So quick question to clarify - MM is not required in a contract, but if one of the parties in the contract requests a MM, the other party cannot refuse not using the MM. Is that correct?

What if you are also a MM on site?

Omniscient - March 1, 2025, 10:15 am

(Mar 1, 2025 11:01 AM)Confound Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) So quick question to clarify - MM is not required in a contract, but if one of the parties in the contract requests a MM, the other party cannot refuse not using the MM. Is that correct?

What if you are also a MM on site?

Correct, but the one party requesting it must pay the MM fee too. And I don't see how it's different if the seller also offers MM service. You'd obviously need a 3rd party to be a MM.

Py_Dev - March 1, 2025, 10:22 am

Great addition to the forums here. It makes me feel uncomfortable when people refuse contract.

Game - March 1, 2025, 11:00 am

Great addition.

To me, if you refuse a contract, it's because you don't want to be accountable for the deal and that's an instant red flag. You either don't trust your product and don't want to risk getting a negative review, or you're looking to scam.

Komodo - March 1, 2025, 11:39 am

(Mar 1, 2025 10:21 AM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Initially it was not required but over time it became

obvious we needed it. Mainly because without the requirement people can make fake Contracts to raise their Credibility too easily. I suppose if nonsense threads are being created then that's now what they are doing too. So the next step is to ensure any threads linked to a Contract have some validity to them or maybe something more creative.

An adjustment is obviously needed in that regard. Coming soon. I have to think on the problem more and consider a good way to deal with it.

That's Vendors only and is still allowed. No change there. Again this is about intentionally avoiding Contracts. Generally speaking the issue is nearly never the Vendors group. Yesterday bans had only one Vendor.

What if contracts without threads didn't give you a credibility rating?

I get what you're saying, but I think the easier the contract system is the more people will use it.

For example convo business deals, or deals where they don't want to make a thread and it be public knowledge what they're buying, etc.

Dragosthethird - March 1, 2025, 3:00 pm

(Mar 1, 2025 11:15 AM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Correct, but the one party requesting it must pay the MM fee too. And I don't see how it's different if the seller also offers MM service. You'd obviously need a 3rd party to be a MM.

Would we be allowed to refuse to use a certain middle man. Not saying outright refusing to use a middleman but if the person who requests the middle man decides to use a middle man that I don't trust would I be closed for refusing that middle man and saying I want another one.

Binance - March 1, 2025, 4:08 pm

So you mean those sellers you see with hundreds of expired contracts with new members who were initiated but never accepted only to lure them offsite will get clapped?

this is great news.

Omniscient - March 1, 2025, 4:11 pm

(Mar 1, 2025 05:08 PM)Binance Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) So you mean those sellers you see with hundreds of expired contracts with new members who were initiated but never accepted only to lure them offsite will get clapped?

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Very likely. I may have to do some adjustments on the Expired contracts. Potentially close sellers or ban them from Contracts over a certain percentage of Expired or Cancelled Contracts. Might be a good rule for Vendors too that they must maintain a certain level to remain in the group.

I'll have to do some statistic queries on it.

Frost Crypt - March 1, 2025, 11:16 pm

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I'll have to do some statistic queries on it.

please be aware that in my experience, most who open a contract never get to actually buy the product so expired contracts is probably not the best indication .

StuffSneak - March 1, 2025, 11:30 pm

(Mar 2, 2025 12:16 AM)Nano Shield Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) please be aware that in my experience, most who open a contract never get to actually buy the product so expired contracts is probably not the best indication .

I agree. I also get many such contracts as well where new members open the contract using the template but never contact me further on/off site & also do not purchase on the autobuy as well. I usually just ignore such contracts.

Proof - March 2, 2025, 12:14 am

This is good. Should have always remained this way, people are often too fucking stupid to be trusted.

Deal on site, use HF convo, ain't rocket science.

Chorozone - March 2, 2025, 4:06 am

Good work as always, more successful contracts = more trust
Should also stop high trust members scamming off site as well

Omniscient - March 2, 2025, 9:27 am

(Mar 1, 2025 05:50 PM)Yung Zel Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I've previously been contacted for very small deals and declined using a contract (and declined the deal entirely), will that subject me to be closed if I do so again?

Potentially an adjustment to the language for a minimum value amount.

SIM-587985 - March 2, 2025, 10:24 am

(Feb 28, 2025 03:55 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Updated:

7. Anyone refusing to use HF Contracts will be closed.
8. Anyone refusing to use a Middle-man in HF Contracts will be closed. MM has to be paid by the party requesting it.
9. All off-site deals must still use an HF Contract, if not, you will be closed.
10. If a pattern of avoiding Contracts is apparent, you will be closed.

Couple questions:

Do I need a contract for byte transactions?

Rule number nine seems like it removes half the reason people buy into the vendor group, would it make more sense if it was more like rule number eight (where MM can't be refused) and contracts couldn't be refused?

Omniscient - March 2, 2025, 10:40 am

(Mar 2, 2025 11:24 AM)SIM-587985 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Couple questions:

Do I need a contract for byte transactions?

Rule number nine seems like it removes half the reason people buy into the vendor group, would it make more sense if it was more like rule number eight (where MM can't be refused) and contracts couldn't be refused?

Maybe I need to rephrase #9. It's not intended to affect the Vendor groups existing features.

INCREDIBLE - March 2, 2025, 11:13 am

(Mar 1, 2025 04:00 PM)Dragosthethird Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Would we be allowed to refuse to use a certain middle man. Not saying outright refusing to use a middleman but if the person who requests the middle man decides to use a middle man that I don't trust would I be closed for refusing that middle man and saying I want another one.

The rule in the question is not about the specific MM. You are welcome to use the one you deem more trustworthy, but the other party has to accept it, too.

in contrast, though, I can recall 5-10 reputed MM services here on HF.

just DYOR ?

Blazin - March 5, 2025, 3:57 am

Every deal I do I ask it to be a HF contract no matter how big or small. Members have even told me "Do I have to use the contract system" I let them know this builds feedback as a trusted buyer and seller and it will help us both. Sometimes, they even forget to leave ratings or close it out and I have to remind them. But I've enjoyed the contract system and everyone should use it, period.

Jamika - March 5, 2025, 1:28 pm

(Feb 28, 2025 03:55 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Some recent events are now forcing me to officially implement some policy changes.

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Stop being pricks and use HF Contracts if you're a buyer and sellers, if you don't accept a Contract, you will be CLOSED.

Thank you.

Good step alongside the first one of deleting free upgrade by bytes (which i dont support tbh) but

indeed it lowered scams , hope this lowers it too

Syndicate - March 5, 2025, 5:09 pm

(Mar 1, 2025 06:46 AM)Sholi Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I meant direct links to websites. I remember that being allowed on sales threads.

So say there is a contract button, but there is also a direct link to the website in the thread design. Purchases could be made without the contract.

If someone purchases it from HF, messages me on HF or Telegram saying they're from HF. I asked them to confirm their order number and contract on HF. Easy enough for me to do. I don't trust people easily ?

TYLER - March 5, 2025, 6:58 pm

Glad to see this is being reinforced. I was getting tired of being told to hit them up on Telegram if I had questions or wanted to purchase whatever they were selling and nowhere in their thread did it mention the use of a contract.

Omniscient - March 6, 2025, 1:07 pm

(Mar 5, 2025 07:58 PM)TYLER Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Glad to see this is being reinforced. I was getting tired of being told to hit them up on Telegram if I had questions or wanted to purchase whatever they were selling and nowhere in their thread did it mention the use of a contract.

Every sales thread has Contract link automatically. So even if you do a chat off-site, you should be coming back on HF to create the Contract. And the more details you can provide in the Contract the more protected you should be if something goes wrong.

SickM - March 6, 2025, 2:54 pm

Is there any specific documentation to be found on how the contract system works?

Omniscient - March 6, 2025, 3:11 pm

(Mar 6, 2025 03:54 PM)SickM Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Is there any specific documentation to be found on how the contract system works?

Stickies here should help you: [Marketplace Discussions](#)