

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Prominent Account Theft](#)

Omniscient - April 27, 2025, 10:53 am

Back in February I got a \$20 Account Recovery Fee for the member @Lrrr@. This was the initial message...

Quote:Forgot my password, inactive for a while. Miss this forum so much...I would like to get back....I used to have 2fa everywhere so once my phone got broken I can't login even to my email....big loss. Would like my account back with new email and password.

After looking at the account I saw he's not been online for almost 2 years. Almost immediately I got email contacts asking about the Recovery. The problem was that my checks on the account showed no matching IP's to the person attempting to recover. They didn't know the account email nor have any other information linking the account. And Lrrr is a very reputable account, even more reason for me to be very diligent.

I had probably 20 emails back and forth with this person attempting to recover. On the actual account email I sent a contact hoping to get a response, nothing. The account thief even went so far as to contact other members to "vouch" for them. Two members both told me it was suspicious and they either didn't know Lrrr that well or that they believed this was an account thief.

A lot of time was wasted on this and eventually the person went away, I told them point blank I can't recover the account. I then proceeded to ban the account out of caution.

Today I got a reply and contact from the actual Lrrr who was grateful I was diligent and they hadn't checked their account email in a while.

So a few things to learn from this.

1. The \$20 Recovery Fee is there for a reason. It dissuades account thieves from attempts. It covers the time I might have to put into confirming the account owner.
2. Fighting Bots crawling HF is important because one of the bot'd pages is member profiles. My guess is they're looking for a few things but one is definitely prominent accounts that might have Credibility but maybe haven't logged in for a while.
3. Be diligent about protecting your account by ensuring you have 2FA enabled and definitely backup the Secret Key.
4. I ain't no sucker falling for the bullshit.

Also, I think another account was attempted to get stolen/recovered to a thief a few weeks later.

Anyways, thought this was an interesting story to share. Had mentioned it in Convo so maybe some rumors floating around.

Enjoy your day.

Pentatonix - April 27, 2025, 11:03 am

Nice work. There [Lrrr](#) would definitely be able to do some damage in an exit scam if his account was given to the wrong person.

Syndicate - April 27, 2025, 11:04 am

Very nice catch, Omni! I'm glad that you kept another scammer off HF. :)

Lrrr - April 27, 2025, 11:12 am

Very thankful for Omni and his dedication to security. I'm glad so many members reached out to me on other methods and let me know about this (even though I was MIA)

Bullup - April 27, 2025, 11:33 am

Nice catch, glad the thief wasn't able to get passed your brain.

And the \$20 is definitely justified, in my personal opinion even too low of a price for an account recovery considering it's in the users best interest to safe guard their account especially when they have awards attached worth more then \$20 and years of history.

\$50 would be more logic in my personal opinion especially when looking at a case like this, where you had to spend a significant amount of time and research.

Lets also not forget about inflation as well right, your time is worth more now then when you originally made that price.

Lrrr - April 27, 2025, 11:36 am

(Apr 27, 2025 11:33 AM)Grouwd Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Nice catch, glad the thief wasn't able to get passed your brain.

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Shut up, you're gonna make me feel like I need to buy an award to tip him for not giving my account away.

Bullup - April 27, 2025, 11:38 am

(Apr 27, 2025 11:36 AM)Lrrr Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Shut up, you're gonna make me feel like I need to buy an award to tip him for not giving my account away.

Listen, perhaps not the Bitcoin award, but maybe a cheaper one? ?

Omniscient - April 27, 2025, 11:47 am

(Apr 27, 2025 11:33 AM)Grouwd Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Nice catch, glad the thief wasn't able to get passed your brain.

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I think if it was \$50 most people with average accounts would choose to just open a new account which might be more problematic. A lot of recoveries are just l33t accounts, some even normal accounts that are aged and just want to get them back. I could potentially scale the fee based on something like group or Credibility but meh...easy to just say \$20 fee. Even had that month I was doing a \$10 special. More than a few recoveries that month.

Bullup - April 27, 2025, 11:57 am

(Apr 27, 2025 11:47 AM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I think if it was \$50 most people with average accounts would choose to just open a new account which might be more problematic. A lot of recoveries are just l33t accounts, some even normal accounts that are aged and just want to get them back. I could potentially scale the fee based on something like group or Credibility but meh...easy to just say \$20 fee. Even had that month I was doing a \$10 special. More than a few recoveries that month.

Yeah that makes sense then i suppose, i assumed majority of account recoveries where trusted members.

Honestly an increase on price depending how repped an account is makes sense tho, when you send TCG cards out of grading towards PSA your fee is also based on the value of your card.

Omniscient - April 27, 2025, 1:18 pm

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Actually it's mostly people with L33t who might have not logged in for a couple years and lost access to either their email, don't know their email, lost their password, or changed devices losing 2FA. Sometimes it's a Vendor or Ub3r under similar circumstances.

Jamika - April 27, 2025, 2:01 pm

This scammer may have stolen the account and scam a bigger amount than the 20usd , good work man

jcole - April 27, 2025, 2:09 pm

Good to see that there are barriers in place to protect member's accounts other than the usual 2FA. Welcome back to the board [Lrrr](#)

_VOX - April 27, 2025, 4:40 pm

Well done on trusting your gut. I can't imagine the damage a profile like that would do in the wrong hands

Confound - April 27, 2025, 6:45 pm

(Apr 27, 2025 10:53 AM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Back in February I got a \$20 Account Recovery Fee for the member @Lrrr@. This was the inital message...

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Anyways, thought this was an interesting story to share. Had mentioned it in Convo so maybe some rumors floating around.

Enjoy your day.

I'm glad you did the due diligence to ensure that the Lrrr imposter who attempted account recovery wasn't actually him.

Someone reached out to me on Discord claiming to be Lrrr, knowing that him and I were good buddies (through the Red Lions days), and it was clear within minutes that it wasn't him. The way he typed, English was clearly a second language. He also had no recollection of any of our past conversations which I tested him about. He stopped responding immediately after I called him out.

Had I known this was a larger issue, I would have reported it, but I just left it be. Glad you did the right thing though.

Dredd - April 27, 2025, 11:56 pm

(Apr 27, 2025 11:12 AM)Lrrr Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Very thankful for Omni and his dedication to security. I'm glad so many members reached out to me on other methods and let me know about this (even though I was MIA)

Glad to see you're still about, interesting read.

skull - April 28, 2025, 12:13 am

Good work, detective Omni ?

And glad to see you back [Lrrr](#)

SilentTrace - April 28, 2025, 1:01 am

You have done a really nice work man! This is why i like so much this forum !

Game - April 28, 2025, 2:07 am

This is something that has been happening on my own forum as well. We've been getting a lot of recovery requests for inactive but reputable accounts.

Around the same timeframe, we've been getting a lot of spam registrations related to gambling with names like "your888kings" or "futbol777" with links to gambling sites etc in their bio. Fortunately our system catches them 98% of the time, I intend to analyse the data soon to gather an ip range to block.

We haven't started charging for account recovery but I think I might copy that from you to add as a deterrent and avoid the time spent being a total waste.

We usually ask them for the following:

- Current Username
- Username History
- Current Email Address
- Registration Email Address
- Birth Date on the account
- IP address on the account
- IP Hostname
- PM Titles (PM's Related to Site News do not count.)
- Purchase History

We also have it so if an account is inactive for either 6 months, they have to confirm their email and change their password to avoid people saying "I don't have access to my email anymore, can't login as forgot password and can't recover it via email". It has helped to keep those active up to date and more secure.

Cooligan - April 28, 2025, 5:47 am

Welcome back [Lrrr](#) , long time no see brother.

(Apr 27, 2025 06:45 PM)Confound Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Someone reached out to me on Discord claiming to be Lrrr, knowing that him and I were good buddies (through the Red Lions days), and it was clear within minutes that it wasn't him. The way he typed, English was clearly a second language. He also had no recollection of any of our past conversations which I tested him about. He stopped responding immediately after I called him out.

This was the first thing I noticed as well. Even if you haven't spoke to Lrrr in the past, one can easily go through his old posts and compare the writing style in that recovery email and see that they're two different people.

Granted, this isn't a sure-fire way of determining if someone's who they say they are, as writing styles can change, sometimes people write differently on mobile (to save time) compared to on a keyboard, maybe they're on a time crunch, etc.. It's just one method of determining whether someone is genuinely who they claim to be, or an imposter.

Great job as always [Omniscient](#) at keeping HF and its members safe.

Aeowulf - April 28, 2025, 5:50 am

Glad it was caught!

I agree the fee being in place is a good thing, and that it shouldn't be too high as it would just encourage more multi activity.

Nice work.

DOG - April 28, 2025, 8:00 am

Interesting story!

I only had to send you one email to get my account back :D thanks again by the way

Tyr - April 29, 2025, 9:32 am

This is still happening with people pretending to be Lrrr? The fuck.

Aye, but glad you guys are on top of things when it comes to handling these multi pricks.

Regulus - April 29, 2025, 10:02 am

(Apr 27, 2025 11:12 AM)Lrrr Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Very thankful for Omni and his dedication to security. I'm glad so many members reached out to me on other methods and let me know about this (even though I was MIA)

My man!

I am so glad the account got back into the right hands again, Omni really did an amazing job here!