

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Guests Can View Threads](#)

Omniscient - January 15, 2026, 1:01 pm

Since HF began you were required to join to read threads. Today I have allowed guests to view threads. I have had some advertising wishing for this as they are hoping their stickies and threads will get more exposure (which they will).

I'm going to see how this goes for a week or so but I have a plan to actually write a plugin which will restrict guests to viewing only the first post of any thread. Currently guests see full threads and replies. I still want to encourage registrations.

Let's see how this goes.

Thank you.

Tyr - January 15, 2026, 1:08 pm

Oh lawd. Time to purge some stuff.

Omniscient - January 15, 2026, 1:16 pm

(Jan 15, 2026 02:08 PM)Tyr Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Oh lawd. Time to purge some stuff.

Why? Google can see all of HF anyways. Doesn't change anything for members posts.

Tyr - January 15, 2026, 1:20 pm

(Jan 15, 2026 02:16 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Why? Google can see all of HF anyways.

Doesn't change anything for members posts.

Eh. Just paranoia after certain events that someone and I spoke of awhile back. Not much time on my hands either tho and kinda a moot point with the crawlers on here, yeah. The script for viewing the first post sounds pretty neat. I think this can be very beneficial regarding new sign-ups.

Omniscient - January 15, 2026, 1:20 pm

I realize since HF is 18+ now I should do an age verification/confirmation popup. :(

Clue - January 15, 2026, 2:26 pm

(Jan 15, 2026 02:20 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I realize since HF is 18+ now I should do an age verification/confirmation popup. :(Can you do face scan to prove age too please

m0hx - January 15, 2026, 3:50 pm

Yay that's a welcome change :3 see how it goes but never go back to fully blocking all threads from guests, maybe allow few sections such as lounge or site news etc.

Hopefully u don't have to restrict them again and actually improves traffic :3

Mix - January 15, 2026, 10:45 pm

I hope this change will allow a few new members who are guests to sign up and join in with the thread they came here to see. I will be interested to see if thread views go up as well. I will keep an eye on the stats the next few weeks and see if this change shows much.

Jamika - January 16, 2026, 6:16 am

(Jan 15, 2026 02:01 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Since HF began you were required to join to read threads. Today I have allowed guests to view threads. I have had some advertising wishing for this as they are hoping their stickies and threads will get more exposure (which they will).

I'm going to see how this goes for a week or so but I have a plan to actually write a plugin which will restrict guests to viewing only the first post of any thread. Currently guests see full threads and replies. I still want to encourage registrations.

Let's see how this goes.

Thank you.

Nice move , hope this will lead to more registration ?

SUI-3183372 - January 16, 2026, 9:08 am

(Jan 15, 2026 02:01 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I have a plan to actually write a plugin which will restrict guests to viewing only the first post of any thread.I like that.

I think it could also be beneficial to restrict guests to viewing x many threads per day. After viewing x threads, they're returned to a state similar to what guests have always dealt with, with prominent messaging encouraging the guest to sign up.

Omniscient - January 16, 2026, 9:14 am

You guys do realize that every major site basically requires registration now.

Anyways, changes...

Skorp - January 16, 2026, 11:10 am

I like this change, it's better than random people just making spam accounts to view the content they want to see and perm leave. Hopefully whoever signs up to HF now, the % will be tad bit lower on them just spam joining to view content and be an actual productive member here.

xadamxk - January 16, 2026, 5:28 pm

Not going to lie, I thought non-members could view threads.

Seems like a good addition!

Bullup - January 17, 2026, 2:25 am

(Jan 16, 2026 10:14 AM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) You guys do realize that every major site basically requires registration now.

Anyways, changes...

The biggest greyhat forums (which have 11-13 times the traffic HF does) actually allow all to be viewed, exept links and attachments in threads, for that you need to sign up. Maybe that's an idea to do as well?

Tyr - January 17, 2026, 2:58 am

(Jan 15, 2026 11:45 PM)Mix Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I hope this change will allow a few new members who are guests to sign up and join in with the thread they came here to see. I will be interested to see if thread views go up as well. I will keep an eye on the stats the next few weeks and see if this change shows much.

This is really what I am hoping for too.