

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [If You Became an HF Admin for Six Month, What Would You Change to Bring Massive Traff](#)

loadman - June 27, 2026, 10:51 am

Imagine you were given administrator privileges on HF for Six month with complete freedom to improve the forum.

What changes would you make to attract MORE TRAFFIC while keeping the quality of the community high?

It could be anything:

Try to explain why your idea would work, not just what it is. The more detailed your reasoning, the better the discussion.

There are no right or wrong answers , im interested in hearing different perspectives from both longtime members and newcomers.

Sticky Bot - June 27, 2026, 11:37 am

Hi, I'm Sticky Bot. The owner of this thread has purchased a Paid Sticky. Hack Forums does not get involved in deals or deal disputes. We do not vouch for the product or the service offered by members. Please note that all deals are at your own risk. The sticky will expire on Jul 4, 2026. If you or a loved one are interested in buying a sticky please visit this page: [Buy Sticky](#). For more information about Paid Stickies you can read our [Help Doc](#).

Mr. Richie - June 27, 2026, 2:05 pm

I would reinvent the forum to a Marketplace Forum.

jcole - June 27, 2026, 2:34 pm

(Jun 27, 2026 02:05 PM)Mr. Richie Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I would reinvent the forum to a Marketplace Forum. HF already has a marketplace on the forum. What would you implement to reinvent the section?

Mr. Richie - June 27, 2026, 2:44 pm

(Jun 27, 2026 02:34 PM)jcole Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) HF already has a marketplace on the forum. What would you implement to reinvent the section?

I would reinvent the forum to a Marketplace Forum - meaning a subtraction of the 'hacking'-forum and the domain also add referral-feature/award.

Biggy - June 27, 2026, 3:09 pm

My main objective when I was Staff was community interaction.

I really did try to sit in convo with members as much as possible, promoting positive interactions and making sure members felt like they had a voice and connection with Staff.

People return for people. I feel like I did a decent enough job, but eh.

oRequiem - June 27, 2026, 4:31 pm

Hard to really think of anything; maybe to make it so the background or more elements of the forum

can be by anyone client-sided to be changed to either an MP4, GIF, or static image.

Raijin - June 27, 2026, 4:54 pm

There are so many features and extras on this website it's easy to get lost.

Mix - June 27, 2026, 6:57 pm

I would try and bring back more people to HF I know forums are dying but there is waysto bring people in and keep them around and that would be my goal.

Its kind of what energy I am getting by running the HF News, granted the project isnt as effective as I thought but it has shown me how great it is for new members to get a little understanding of the site and for older members returning and even keeping them around.

Riggs - June 27, 2026, 8:15 pm

I'd rebrand to hackforums.com, scrap all awards completely except donation related awards and consolidate Popularity + Game XP into the old Prestige formula (so Prestige would become the overall metric for measuring member value). Before scrapping awards I'd assign them all an individual scored values, the total of which would then go towards a one-off Prestige contribution based on how many awards each member would lose. Then I'd focus on revamping the HF game with more peer-to-peer competitive interactivity and make bytes the produced currency so there's a more flexible economy for earning/spend, much like browser-based MMORPGs were like in the past (e.g XP bar, ranks, hostile P2P interactions, chance based rewards etc).

Mastercarder - June 27, 2026, 9:40 pm

I'd focus less on chasing raw traffic and more on improving retention. A lot of new users join, make a few posts, then disappear. Give them a reason to come back daily through recurring events, quality content rewards, community challenges, and better onboarding. At the same time, crack down harder on low-effort AI spam so high-quality contributors stand out. A smaller community with active, knowledgeable members will always outperform a larger one full of junk posts. Quality is what builds a forum's reputation, and reputation is what attracts the right traffic over time.

Chrome - June 28, 2026, 2:15 am

(Jun 27, 2026 09:40 PM)Mastercarder Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I'd focus less on chasing raw traffic and more on improving retention. A lot of new users join, make a few posts, then disappear. Give them a reason to come back daily through recurring events, quality content rewards, community challenges, and better onboarding. At the same time, crack down harder on low-effort AI spam so high-quality contributors stand out. A smaller community with active, knowledgeable members will always outperform a larger one full of junk posts. Quality is what builds a forum's reputation, and reputation is what attracts the right traffic over time.

I like it. People look at statistics and think if the numbers are high the forum is successful. That's not always the case.

I think member retention is at an all time low. I don't know what would keep people coming back. Groups are struggling, Omni is struggling to find ways. It's not his fault. It's just the times, forums are dying. It's all social media now.

It's sad and I wish it wasn't this way. Idk what the answer is to fix it, if possible.

Mastercarder - June 28, 2026, 2:21 am

(Jun 28, 2026 02:15 AM)Chrome Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I like it. People look at statistics and think if the numbers are high the forum is successful. That's not always the case.

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It's sad and I wish it wasn't this way. Idk what the answer is to fix it, if possible.
Spot on.

I think forums need to offer something social media can't. Reddit and X are great for quick answers, but they don't build long-term reputation or relationships. People are more likely to stick around when they feel part of a community, have goals to work towards, and know their contributions are actually recognized. That's something traditional forums can still do better than most platforms.

7 - June 28, 2026, 5:34 am

I personally would redesign the theme to more of a modern CRM style. With a Panel on the left and top bar with user profile e.t.c with links and sections groups by side bar tabs. I would additionally add initiate scrolling of sections and also in addition of buying links for bytes i'd offer bytes bounty for people who need help solving problems.

I would do intensive semrush checks to see what area we could be covering and make sure people are awarded for posting in areas of interest in 2026. I would try to also add more technical sections with proper separation to bring other markets here from forums I cannot mention as it is against the rule but android customization forums & grey hat marketing forums.

Convo on desktop would be right panel popout so users not only sat in convo but used the forum at the same time. I here some people say groups are dying and I would have to disagree with that but also add that the creation of crews was a disaster to groups and I think noone should own more than 2 groups and if them groups are inactive the owner should be not be permitted to own a group and therefore the group would either get deleted or go up for sale.

I would encourage more tutorials and renovation of old threads to become relevant to today and not just left as good old relics and offer rewards for returning members and try to push referrals to the forum with incentives for referrals that upgraded or contributed in some shape or form. Individual & Group Prestige I would be pushing.

Thats just me. But first thing I would do is automate the daily boring tasks that take up the admin and staff work and make their life a little more easier.

Phreshboyswag - June 28, 2026, 9:07 am

I would try and make things like 2008

Mastercarder - June 28, 2026, 9:26 am

(Jun 28, 2026 05:34 AM)7 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I personally would redesign the theme to more of a modern CRM style. With a Panel on the left and top bar with user profile e.t.c with links and sections groups by side bar tabs. I would additionally add initiate scrolling of sections and also in addition of buying links for bytes i'd offer bytes bounty for people who need help solving problems.

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Love this. A lot of great suggestions tbh.

Edmond Dantes - June 28, 2026, 10:26 am

Definitely would encourage people to share more tutorials and tools as a lot of people come here to learn how to hack.

The Joker - June 29, 2026, 1:02 am

It's the age of reels and short videos.

I would create a sub forum for video tutorials. Members can create and upload video tutorials about various topics.

I would incentivise such videos by providing higher Byte rewards. Would award Bytes for views and comments.

Add HF watermark to all uploaded videos so if anyone shares it out of the site, we get new traffic.

Jamika - June 29, 2026, 10:37 am

add more rewards regarding activity

Headspace - June 29, 2026, 3:20 pm

I think if an open source, all-in-on utility of all the [HackerTools](#) was created, that would be something that could increase traffic - perhaps even an official browser extension.

_VOX - June 29, 2026, 3:23 pm

I suppose I'd look into what niches we are missing out on. This is a hacking forum, however people like me just come here to converse.

Also I'd ban [loadman](#) for his own sake

Mastercarder - June 29, 2026, 3:45 pm

(Jun 29, 2026 03:23 PM)_VOX Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I suppose I'd look into what niches we are missing out on. This is a hacking forum, however people like me just come here to converse.

Also I'd ban [loadman](#) for his own sake

Irish love to converse ??

G Reviews - June 29, 2026, 6:03 pm

Looking at historical traffic data, I think 2 things need to be done: damage control and then a severe external marketing campaign. I hit on damage control because there is quite a bit of controversy online regarding this website if you look for it. And I think this negatively affects the website. No matter how long ago the shit happened, it's still out there and affecting user retention. Also, a number of supported outright illegal shit is supported here while other illegal shit is not supported. It is hard to trumpet an active community of various individuals and various activities if nothing is

universal across the board. In this regard, I think you need to either go all in or all out. You can't be wishy-washy on this matter. Either you support the hacking topics 100% and all the tools and ill-gottens, or you don't.

I don't find it logical that certain illegal businesses and (hacked) account material is advertised and sold through the site here but a lot of other stuff is not permitted. Your driving 80% of enthusiasts away by using this strategy. I understand that the sale of malware might be a restricted topic here, but how logical is that compared to the bot seller that's selling compromised pc's in his botshop advertised on the website here? How do you think he obtained that botnet? And given the fact that AI now creates a huge majority of malware, I can't see how this would be a taboo topic any more. I just think the policies here are driving away a huge amount of people interested in hardcore topics and all the Russian forums are filled with thousands upon thousands of members, keeping in mind that not all enthusiasts are out to compromise others shit. Keep the ban on banking trojans and the likes, but open the doors a bit to some additional topics, even if they are just educational and don't necessarily warrant a marketplace action.

It might be interesting to actually see what people are developing in the underworld of malware. Not in the sense of marketing it or allowing onsite sales, but to see how advanced it is becoming. Maybe something like a "show your project" section could potentially bring active users to the site. People with real talent that would give HF the reputational push that it needs. Just a suggestion. Ok, my 2 cents are over now.

CL1B - June 30, 2026, 5:59 am

Love this thread, hate the replies. All of these make me happy it's Jesse who runs this place.

If I became admin I would've remove a lot of forums and change a lot of forum names to their modern equal as the newer generation of hackers and cybersec does not use the old terminology.

I'd introduce new usergroups:

Writers - User group assigned to those that consistently write good, engaging threads. Rewarding them with increased char counts and embeds and perhaps so more handy things that help them write more engaging threads.

Coders - User group assigned to those that consistently write and share code to HF. Rewarding them with the ability to host repo's on HF and collaborate with each other as well as easily update their repo's so their users can update their code.

Reviewers - Idea from Charlie Sheen where a certain group of users who know their stuff go out and force vendors to give them a vouch copy, with added authority: Denying the request = ban

HackForumers - Patreon alternative but native to HF, new subforums in the VIP section where the HackForumer can post exclusive content not viewable for those he/she has not authorized to read that forum.

I'd also extend the convo socket adding emoji chat reactions, imgupload image uploads instead of b64, more embeds and extensive UX customization as seen in HF Convo Desktop App (censoring words, muting members, afk mode, etc).

The most amount of work I'd do is on user profiles, much greater user customization allowing for more self expression. Custom backgrounds, colors, layouts and more.

Quick loves would be replaced for a up and downvote system similar to reddit and be free of charge

instead of costing bytes.

How would I increase traffic? Dedicate towards every niche inside the niche that is Hacking (HACKforums)

Being able to host repos on-site and possibly even releases makes a great place for a lot of things involving hacking, modding and tooling. If we can prime HF to be in position to become a alternative to unknowncheats, nexus mods, patreon etc. We will for sure see a huge uprise in engagement. Think about it;

Right now we do not have such a position so even if there's a new crazy exploit or something else that any one could grab from let's say github; HF does not gain extra traffic.

If there's a new game that has 0 hacks for it developed yet, HF does not see the uprise of those hacks. Other forums do.

If we would dedicate to those niches better, we will become a household name that hackers will go to in these cases (as well as they will go to the other forums, it's about the browsing experience and hoping to find info). I can't help but feel that 2026 would be the best time with GTA 6's release, it will be the biggest spike in forum traffic globally.

Last but not least, I would build a team dedicated to the core of the brand: Hack

Together we would implement HackTheBox style competitive games but also challenges, in the past 2 years these have been the most engaging on HackForums (HackHF and 7's crypto challenges). Proving the core is real. The ecosystem of this would need to deep into HF, with byte rewards, a revamp of the XP system (not like riggs said but similar) and most importantly: make it super engaging for those outside of HF e.g: Webview metadata embeds for sharing URLs similar to how Polymarket does the URL share embed where it says: I just won X with X

Making HF url embeds outside of HF very attractive.

All in all I don't believe any of this will ever hit HF due to Jesse's stance on collaborating and new tech (the man has GOOD reasons). And at first i thought that was sad but now I realize it's whatever man. Like Biggy or Biggs said: People come back for people. As of now, that's exactly what drives the community of HF (outside of the marketplace). Not the features or UX per say, the people.

loadman - June 30, 2026, 6:39 am

(Jun 30, 2026 05:59 AM)MarlboroMan Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Love this thread, hate the replies. All of these make me happy it's Jesse who runs this place.

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Fkn - June 30, 2026, 9:20 am

HF is missing the unique content it had back in the days. Just think about how you ended up on this forum.

Nowadays tools are forbidden on this forum and AI is advanced enough to do the rest. Still HF has a special place in my heart but there's not much in it for me anymore and many others like me I guess.

Mercury - July 1, 2026, 4:07 pm

I'm probably reaching, but I'd be looking to get connected with big tech sites in an effort to secure advertising channels for the forum.

_VOX - July 1, 2026, 4:34 pm

Change this American theme to the Irish flag.

Up the republic ??????

Pow3r - July 2, 2026, 5:07 am

Things have changed a lot since I joined HF in 2008. It was a lot more tolerant of blackhat methods, tools and techniques and that came with legal issues. A cleaner HF makes for a safer place but also people coming here to find the now gone darker stuff now presumably head elsewhere.

I think HF is a great place to chill and learn and I wouldn't want to see a drop in quality to simply "up the numbers"

stark1337 - July 2, 2026, 10:05 pm

I would redo the forum to a Marketplace Forum.

Stanley - July 4, 2026, 12:49 pm

I'm Stanley HF's helper bot. The OP (original poster) of this thread wants everyone to see this page and has elected to bump it to the top of the showthread listing. Since HF doesn't want a ton of LQP (Low Quality Posts) this is the best method of bumping your content. There is a small ?yte fee for each bump. Any OP can bump any of their threads on HF from the linked icon on the top of their first post.

If you haven't already read the first post of this thread we encourage you to do so.

Thanks,
Stanley

flyingduck - July 4, 2026, 1:30 pm

i'd definitely bring more utility 4 bytes. also, i'd change the whole seo/ai-seo game for hf.