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This is a discussion on "**Moderation**" in the Top Mud Sites **Tavern of the Blue Hand** forum :

When you start deleting messages from some posters and not from others, you enter a very slippery slope. When some posts get deleted, and then references to these posts in turn get deleted, sometimes with and sometimes without a comment about what was removed and why, it tends to skew the discussion, whether intentional or not. When a post of my own gets deleted, with an explanation that I find unsatisfactory, I have to wonder whether it's time to leave these Forums again....

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please click here**



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08-27-2007, 02:09 AM

#1

Molly

Senior Member

Join Date: Apr 2002
Location: Sweden
Home MUD: 4 Dimensions
Posts: 470



Moderation

When you start deleting messages from some posters and not from others, you enter a very slippery slope.

When some posts get deleted, and then references to these posts in turn get deleted, sometimes with and sometimes without a comment about what was removed and why, it tends to skew the discussion, whether intentional or not.

When a post of my own gets deleted, with an explanation that I find unsatisfactory, I have to wonder whether it's time to leave these Forums again.



08-27-2007, 07:47 AM

#2

Aeran

Member



Join Date: May 2005
Posts: 118



Re: Moderation

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Molly**

When a post of my own gets deleted, with an explanation that I find unsatisfactory, I have to wonder whether it's time to leave these Forums again.

That's very cryptic. What did the post contain that was removed,

and what was the explanation you got? Without that information it really isn't possible to discuss the issue. As it is this thread is a flame bait.

Keep in mind that the website has a new owner. As I understand it Lasher is new to forums and he probably hasn't gotten to know the moderators that well yet either. Perhaps there's just a need of more clear rules, or a special "dump forum" where deleted threads go.

It is clear though that some moderation is needed.



08-27-2007, 08:15 AM

#3

Lasher

Administrator



Join Date: May 2005

Name: Derek

Location: Orlando


Posts: 219



Re: Moderation

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Molly**

 *When you start deleting messages from some posters and not from others, you enter a very slippery slope.*

When some posts get deleted, and then references to these posts in turn get deleted, sometimes with and sometimes without a comment about what was removed and why, it tends to skew the discussion, whether intentional or not.

When a post of my own gets deleted, with an explanation that I find unsatisfactory, I have to

wonder whether it's time to leave these Forums again.

TMS can be a very unfriendly forum, frankly, always has been. On the "what is **free**?" issue alone I've received 5 private messages from people wanting to express an opinion but not wanting to post because they may or may not get flamed, accused of having an agenda, accused of having no clue, etc. The original poster of the Nodeka thread turned down the chance to repost his advertising for players note (with or without the "100% free" still in there) because it is "isn't worth the grief".

Nobody is interested in censoring anyone's opinion. Blatant personal attacks, flames that go around in circles yet add nothing new or constructive to a post will be snipped and a note sent to the poster. The thread in question here is the "What is **free**?" thread. Some good progress has been made there but when the list of posts is already 5 pages long there is no value to anyone interested in the subject reading someone telling Threshold to "shut up whining".

I believe this will make the TMS forums more inviting to a larger audience. If I'm wrong and it kills them, so be it.



08-27-2007, 09:02 AM


#4

Galleus

Member

Re: Moderation

Quote:

Originally Posted by
Lasher 



Join Date: Apr 2005
Posts: 31



I believe this will make the TMS forums more inviting to a larger audience. If I'm wrong and it kills them, so be it.

This is a really good attitude to take, and you should be openly commended for having the confidence and foresight to take a proactive stance on improving the quality of the forums.



08-27-2007, 09:24 AM

#5

cratylus
Banned

Join Date: Feb 2006
Posts: 153



Re: Moderation

Quote:

This is a really good attitude to take

I disagree.

However, explaining my disagreement in three separate threads has now resulted in my posts being deleted in three separate threads, so I guess I'll just take the hint and keep it to myself.

-Crat
LPMuds.net - Index



08-27-2007, 09:36 AM

#6

Lasher
Administrator



Join Date: May 2005
Name: Derek
Location: Orlando

Re: Moderation

Quote:

Originally Posted by
cratylus ➡
I disagree.

Posts: 219



However, explaining my disagreement in three separate threads has now resulted in my posts being deleted in three separate threads, so I guess I'll just take the hint and keep it to myself.

-Crat
LPMuds.net - Index

Would love to hear your thoughts on it so long as they're relevant to the thread. As I said, nobody is interesting in censoring your opinion, let's just keep it civil.

In fact, the moderation in the other thread was done by someone who has been pretty outspoken about generally agreeing with you on the "pay-vs-free" debate, but decided a small number of threads were heading down the path of flame war/personal attacks rather than offering anything to the subject at hand.

Not to wash my hands of the decision btw, it was discussed beforehand.



08-27-2007, 09:42 AM

#7

Molly


Senior Member

Join Date: Apr 2002
Location: Sweden
Home MUD: 4 Dimensions
Posts: 470



Re: Moderation

Quote:

Originally Posted by
Lasher 
*The thread in question here is the "What is **free**?" thread. Some good progress has been made there but when the list of*

posts is already 5 pages long there is no value to anyone interested in the subject reading someone telling Threshold to "shut up whining".

I believe this will make the TMS forums more inviting to a larger audience. If I'm wrong and it kills them, so be it.

Heh.
Thanks for the laugh, Lasher.
Incidentally I think you are doing very well so far. 😊

Just for the record though, that quote was not in any way part of the post from me that got deleted.

I admit however that the post in question would have been better off as a complaint to the Site Admin over Private Messages. Point taken. I'll try that next time instead.



08-27-2007, 10:06 AM

#8

Samson

Member



Join Date: Apr 2002
Location: California, USA
Home MUD: Alsherok
Posts: 166



Re: Moderation

I thin it's just going to take people a bit of time to get used to more active moderation. It's been allowed to slide now for so long that people just expect to have "complete freedom" when they're posting, even when that freedom turns into flamewar #37,413.



08-27-2007, 12:17 PM

#9

cratylus

Banned

Join Date: Feb 2006

Posts: 153



Re: Moderation

Quote:

Originally Posted by

Samson

I thin it's just going to take people a bit of time to get used to more active moderation. It's been allowed to slide now for so long that people just expect to have "complete freedom" when they're posting, even when that freedom turns into flamewar #37,413.

Since the posts are deleted, there's no way to argue about their propriety. I can only say that I believe my posts were appropriate, and that yanking them prevents me from being able to defend their propriety.

More than that, I now don't feel comfortable responding to offtopic throwaway assertions by other posters. I now have to let them stand, because challenging them means I'm offtopic and subject to deletion.

I suppose you could argue that if I don't post anything that is wrong, then I have nothing to fear. However, since the wrongness of the posts cannot be disputed after their removal, all that is left is that I was wrong, end of discussion.

Speaking for myself, this has a chilling effect on useful contributions to the site. You seem to be assuming



that deleted posts were non-contributory flames. I strongly disagree. Even where the posts discussed the suspected motivation of a poster, this was done with the poster's lusty participation in the debate. Good points were raised, and though the main focus of the thread was being left behind, my suggestion was to split the thread, not delete the tangent. Well, the result now is that the posts are gone and those who participated are (apparently) presumed to have all been engaged in violatory behavior.

I have a printout in ghostscript format. I've been doing this on occasion, figuring at least *I* would have a record of the discussion. I'd offer to post it so everyone could see what I'm talking about...but then that's exactly my point.

Should it really be necessary for people to set up private caches of threads so that their deleted words can be defended? That's a bad precedent, and tends to reward the unscrupulous.

I'm all for moderation. I engage in it. I don't advocate "complete freedom" when posting.

I'm stating that normal debate involves questioning premises and motives, it involves tangents and forks (to different threads, if necessary). Hose off contributions that edge past a railroad plot, and you turn me off. If that's ok with the site, then that's how the world will turn, I guess.

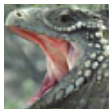
	-Crat LPMuds.net - Index
	
	

08-27-2007, 01:54 PM

#10

Samson

Member



Join Date: Apr 2002
Location: California, USA
Home MUD: AlsheroK
Posts: 166



Re: Moderation

Quote:

Originally Posted by
Lasher
In fact, the moderation in the other thread was done by someone who has been pretty outspoken about generally agreeing with you on the "pay-vs-free" debate, but decided a small number of threads were heading down the path of flame war/personal attacks rather than offering anything to the subject at hand.

Quote:

Originally Posted by
cratylus
Since the posts are deleted, there's no way to argue about their propriety.

That's just it. Here, on TMS, it isn't up to you to decide what's proper and what's not. Further, it seems the moderators are not interested in providing you with their reasons every time it happens. One could reasonably conclude that if you keep getting posts deleted, you're doing something the moderators don't like.

Quote:

Originally Posted by

cratylus

I'm all for moderation. I

engage in it. I don't

advocate





"complete freedom" when
posting.

Your actions don't seem to support your words though. You engage in moderation, for reasons you feel appropriate, yes? Governed by a set of rules and conditions you've laid out?

I engage in it too. Now granted I am far more tolerant of letting things go off on tangents and allowing for heated debate to take place, and even a few snarky insults here and there. But as a general rule if that's all someone contributes to a site, they'll find their posts missing the next time I'm on. But that's policy which governs sites I admin or co-admin. It seems to have worked pretty well so far.

Lasher is not Synozeer. Synozeer seemed to be willing to let a lot more of this sort of thing stand, based on what I've observed over the years. Lasher appears to be working to clean things up here, and it's all fine by me. Even if that means some of my own posts get torched and I'm not told why. I think in the long run TMS has nothing but good to gain from keeping things in control.

It never ceases to amaze me how much MUD forum junkies seem to hate "the man" and fight so hard against moderation when that's the norm for just about every other forum I've ever seen.

		
08-27-2007, 02:26 PM		#11
<p>cratylus Banned</p> <p>Join Date: Feb 2006 Posts: 153</p> 	<p>Re: Moderation</p> <hr/> <p>Quote:</p> <div data-bbox="554 311 901 446" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"><p>That's just it. Here, on TMS, it isn't up to you to decide what's proper and what's not.</p></div> <p>I am aware of that. However, my opinion on the matter was solicited, and I expressed it. Not that it's any less obvious, but just a reminder: it isn't up to you either.</p> <p>Quote:</p> <div data-bbox="554 670 901 965" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"><p>Further, it seems the moderators are not interested in providing you with their reasons every time it happens. One could reasonably conclude that if you keep getting posts deleted, you're doing something the moderators don't like.</p></div> <p>That is a reasonable conclusion, yes.</p> <p>Quote:</p> <div data-bbox="554 1109 901 1356" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"><p>Your actions don't seem to support your words though. You engage in moderation, for reasons you feel appropriate, yes? Governed by a set of rules and conditions you've laid out?</p></div> <p>I engage in moderation. This involves moving violatory threads</p>	

or posts to an opt-in-only area. I find deletion to be unnecessarily harsh. I

don't remember ever actually deleting a post that wasn't mine, except

on procedural ground ("you posted this in a different thread already", for example) in a way that wasn't censorious.

I imagine some day I will indeed find myself deleting a post on content ground...perhaps one with illegal content.

But other than such a thing, deletion wouldn't be the first tool to come out of the box.

There's no need, most of the time.

Quote:

I engage in it too. Now granted I am far more tolerant of letting things go off on tangents and allowing for heated debate to take place, and even a few snarky insults here and there. But as a general rule if that's all someone contributes to a site, they'll find their posts missing the next time I'm on. But that's policy which governs sites I admin or co-admin. It seems to have worked pretty well so far.

Lasher is not Synozeer. Synozeer seemed to be willing to let a lot more of this sort of thing stand, based on what I've observed over the years. Lasher appears to be working to clean things up here, and it's all fine by me. Even if that means

some of my own posts get torched and I'm not told why. I think in the long run TMS has nothing but good to gain from keeping things in control.

You're ok with arbitrary post deletion, ok.

Now, perhaps you find my posts sufficiently uninteresting that it's ok with you not reading what was deleted. Whether it's a lack of curiosity, or an overarching support of authority regardless of the justification, you're just cool with it. Fine.

On the other hand, I *am* curious, and I *do* lack an overarching support of authority regardless of justification.

I usually find your posts interesting, and even when I think you are wrong (which apparently happens with greater frequency lately) I often still learn from reading your words. I would therefore be very curious to know what you'd written that was deleted. Since you have much experience in this field and I generally can gain something from your posts, it would be interesting for a number of reasons to be able to read posts from you that were removed from a thread by a moderator.

For that reason I think it would be a wonderful thing to have an opt-in only board, called "flames" or "offtopic" or "tangents" or whatever, where people who will not wilt at the sight of

vigorous, heated disagreement can read banished opinions.

Apparently you're still laboring under the impression that I am against moderation. I am, and have been, explaining that the deletions in question are not necessary, and per se make it impossible to debate their justification, and that is lame. You don't have to delete to moderate. Moderation in the exercise of moderation is a virtue.

Quote:

It never ceases to amaze me how much MUD forum junkies seem to hate "the man" and fight so hard against moderation when that's the norm for just about every other forum I've ever seen.

Are you talking about me?

-Crat

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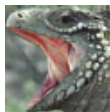


08-27-2007, 05:04 PM

#12

Samson

Member



Join Date: Apr 2002
Location: California, USA
Home MUD: AlsheroK
Posts: 166



Re: Moderation

Quote:

Originally Posted by **cratylus**
You're ok with arbitrary post deletion, ok.

No. I'm in favor of removing posts which don't belong where they are and are inappropriate under the rules of the site. Arbitrary post

deletion implies that someone is simply taking random shots at the forum and zapping things with no thought behind it. Which would be silly.

Quote:

Originally Posted by **cratylus**
it would be interesting for a number of reasons to be able to read posts from you that were removed from a thread by a moderator.

It might, but so far as I can tell it hasn't happened to any of mine. But the kind of person who goes digging through troll posts for the interesting stuff might not be the kind of person the community in question wants hanging around. Just a thought. Not directed specifically at you.

Quote:

Originally Posted by **cratylus**
I usually find your posts interesting, and even when I think you are wrong (which apparently happens with greater frequency lately) I often still learn from reading your words.

Now see, this right here is a matter of opinion. How am I "wrong" to support moderation in the name of civility if that's what the site administrators want? It's not my place to make those kinds of decisions anywhere I don't co-admin. It's also entirely your opinion that I'm "wrong" with

increasing frequency lately. I just happen to disagree with your stand on something 😊

Quote:

Originally Posted by
cratylus
... where people who will not wilt at the sight of vigorous, heated disagreement can read banished opinions.

You and I are in agreement on vigorous, heated disagreement. There have been several instances on my own sites where this has happened, people get defensive, but as long as it remains outside the realm of name calling and personal attacks, I'll let it stand. Even if it is off topic. I will attempt to nudge things back on track though. I have been known to lock topics, "unpublish" them, and yes, delete them. I see very little value in taking posts out of a thread and moving them somewhere else on the board. They're still inappropriate in my mind even if only admins can see them there. But I haven't had to do this very often.

Quote:

Are you talking about me?

I was speaking in general.

I still think the reason everyone is grating against moderation is because it's not "tradition" here. There does come a time when that needs to be set aside and new traditions formed. "The greater good" isn't a term of evil to be feared.


		
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08-27-2007, 09:29 PM

#13

Threshold
Senior Member



Join Date: Apr 2002
Home MUD: Threshold RPG
Posts: 621


Re: Moderation

Quote:

Originally Posted by

Lasher 

The original poster of the Nodeka thread turned down the chance to repost his advertising for players note (with or without the "100% free" still in there) because it is "isn't worth the grief".

I can totally sympathize with that feeling. I have stopped posting on TMS many times in the past because I got so sick of dealing with off topic, personal attacks from people who can't seem to tolerate the existence of professional mud admins.

Quote:

Originally Posted by

Lasher 

Nobody is interested in censoring anyone's opinion. Blatant personal attacks, flames that go around in circles yet add nothing new or constructive to a post will be snipped and a note sent to the poster.

...

I believe this will make the TMS forums more inviting to a larger audience. If I'm wrong and it kills them, so be it.

I actually think we are ALREADY seeing the payoff from this. The rapid moderation of personal attacks has helped keep contentious threads on topic, and

is already creating an environment where people are more interested in having discussions.

It is hard to have a discussion when you are constantly wondering how some random person is going to take offense and start flaming you personally. Having confidence that the moderators will quickly remove personal attacks makes me feel a lot more comfortable about having on topic discussions about game design, MUDding, and similar topics.

Earlier today, I was thinking about a game administration issue and actually thought "Hmm, I should post about that on TMS and see what other admins think." That was the first time in YEARS that TMS felt to me like a legitimate site where one could discuss issues of game design or administration.

That isn't a slam on Adam. He did a great job starting up this site and building it up for years. I think he just got overwhelmed by the hate mongering trolls that ruined the forums. But I really like what I see so far regarding the moderation of personal attacks.

Thank you Lasher, and thank you moderators.



08-27-2007, 09:40 PM

#14

Mina

Member

Join Date: Jan 2006
Location: USA
Posts: 244



Re: Moderation

Sometimes when moderating a forum, you end up removing posts that simply address the offending posts because then they stand alone kind of just dangling in space. That can jar the discussion

as well.

Usually, from what I've seen, moderators will simply moderate because it is quick and easy to do before the thread is killed by flames or a tangent. If it's JUST a tangent, then moderators will often split the thread. Some forums will squash flame wars because they feel it contributes to a negative image on their site. People who are repeat offenders usually get moderated for a while, and then they start getting warnings via PM or a temporary freeze on their account.

This is pretty standard for most forum communities. It prevents posters from being "driven" from the forums by others who are willing to engage in un-ending flame wars.



08-28-2007, 06:45 PM

#15

ScourgeX

Member



Join Date: Aug 2002
Location: Midwest
Home MUD: Scourge of Time
Posts: 86



Re: Moderation

Quote:

Originally Posted by
Samson 
That's just it. Here, on TMS, it isn't up to you to decide what's proper and what's not. Further, it seems the moderators are not interested in providing you with their reasons every time it happens. One could reasonably conclude that if you keep getting posts deleted, you're doing something the moderators don't like.

It seems counterproductive for a moderator to not tell someone why

they were "moderated". The moderator wastes time deleting posts, and the "offender" wastes time writing a post to have it deleted because they don't understand what they are doing wrong.



08-28-2007, 09:14 PM

#16

Lasher

Administrator



Join Date: May 2005

Name: Derek

Location: Orlando

Posts: 219



Re: Moderation

Quote:

Originally Posted by
ScourgeX 
It seems counterproductive for a moderator to not tell someone why they were "moderated". The moderator wastes time deleting posts, and the "offender" wastes time writing a post to have it deleted because they don't understand what they are doing wrong.

I agree with this. If posts were moderated with no feedback to the poster then we need to fix that, it doesn't really achieve anything. Pure spam (the real "buy cialisvigraxanaxnow!" type spam) of course is just nuked along with the poster.

Keep in mind that if someone posts "Lasher Sucks!" and someone else replies "You know it isn't very constructive to post that!" then when the first comment gets snipped obviously the second will.

The only other exception, exact quote from the moderator section:

Quote:

Originally Posted by
Lasher

I did see people claiming to have had posts moderated with no notification. Not sure if that is correct, but if it is I think we should at least the first time or two drop someone a note saying what was moderated and why. If you find yourself in a position where the note would be "Same reason as the last X times" then the note can probably be skipped.

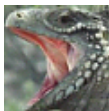


08-28-2007, 10:12 PM

#17

Samson

Member



Join Date: Apr 2002
Location: California, USA
Home MUD: AlsheroK
Posts: 166








Re: Moderation








Quote:




Originally Posted by
ScourgeX 

It seems counterproductive for a moderator to not tell someone why they were "moderated". The moderator wastes time deleting posts, and the "offender" wastes time writing a post to have it deleted because they don't understand what they are doing wrong.

Yes, I believe it would be counterproductive as well. Confusing and potentially offputting even. But certainly not necessary if a site admin deems it so. And apparently Lasher agrees with this, so I'd say we're all ok at this point, right?

		
08-29-2007, 12:12 AM		#18
<p>Newworlds Senior Member</p> <p>Join Date: Aug 2007 Name: NewWorlds Home MUD: New Worlds Posts: 309</p> 	<p>Re: Moderation</p> <hr/> <p>Quote:</p> <div data-bbox="554 311 901 550" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"><p>Originally Posted by Molly</p><p><i>When a post of my own gets deleted, with an explanation that I find unsatisfactory, I have to wonder whether it's time to leave these Forums again.</i></p></div> <p>Molly,</p> <p>I personally enjoy your opinions even if I do not always agree. I'd say stick around, if for no other reason than to provide another perspective and offer comments about your own mud which I found very unique and exciting in its genre when I reviewed it. Cheers for the game, if I was seeking a new mud, I certainly would give it a try!</p> <p>As to moderators, I can say from experience, moderating is a difficult job and tough to balance what should be allowed based on valued perspective and what should not because it is way off topic or inflammatory without proper cause (or whatever the forum rules dictate).</p> <p>Invariably, anytime something is deleted a person who spent time writing OR a person that finds a similar post not edited can be offended. With a new leader at the helm, I say give them a little more time to get their own system fleshed out.</p>	

		
08-29-2007, 03:29 AM		#19
<p>Molly Senior Member</p> <p>Join Date: Apr 2002 Location: Sweden Home MUD: 4 Dimensions Posts: 470</p> <p></p>	<p>Re: Moderation</p> <hr/> <p>Thanks for the kind words, Newworlds, but my Mud has very little to do with this discussion. 😊</p> <p>I guess most of us will learn the lesson, just by banging our head at the wall enough times. The lesson I've learned myself so far is, that attacks directed at a group of people apparently are acceptable by the moderators, whereas attacks directed against a single person aren't.</p> <p>I cannot say I am quite comfortable with that, but then again, banging your head at the wall isn't really constructive either.</p> <p>I frequent other Forums, where flames are unheard of even in heated discussions, not because of heavy moderation, but because the posters there all respect each other. Maybe that is the root of the problems here.</p>	
		

08-29-2007, 09:44 AM		#20
<p>Detah New Member</p>  <p>Join Date: Aug 2007 Posts: 14</p> <p></p>	<p>Re: Moderation</p> <hr/> <p>Quote:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px;"> <p>Originally Posted by Samson </p> <p><i>No. I'm in favor of removing posts which don't belong where they are and are inappropriate under the rules of the site. Arbitrary post deletion implies that</i></p> </div>	

someone is simply taking random shots at the forum and zapping things with no thought behind it. Which would be silly.

I disagree with everything you said. Not because you are being illogical. I think your reasoning is logical and correct. The problem is that your original premise is false. There are no rules for this site. I searched using the forum's search engine using every conceivable word for 'rules', 'abuse', 'language', 'faq', 'vulgar', 'foul', 'posts', I also manually searched the forums for a Rules section or thread and I navigated through the forum faq. There are two items there which could be considered 'rules', 'What are moderators' and 'Why have some of the words in my post been blanked'. It is clear from these two items that a) moderators can edit and delete posts and b) it is insinuated that foul language will be censored. It does NOT state any other guidelines or rules for forum behavior. It seems completely illogical to have no rules but enforce some set of undisclosed rules. Is the goal to utterly confuse the posters? Is the goal to alienate the posters?

I will now intentionally take Samson's words out of context.... (my apologies in advance to Samson, but his words here perfectly make my point when taken out of his context) Arbitrary post deletion is exactly what is going on here. I think it is unfair and just plain cruel of the forum owners to make the posters guess what the rules are, or worse, have to 'learn' the rules by trial and error. If I spend 15 minutes crafting a

post, then I do not want that time spent for nothing because a moderator creates a new rule and imposes it by deleting my post. [If the rules are not posted, how can anyone be sure that new rules are not created which are unfavorable. I would like to enter this forum with eyes wide open. That does not seem possible if no rules are stated but some are enforced. I do not see how this is a valid model for a forum to run in.] This wastes everyone's time. It is very inefficient for all. Aren't forum rules important enough that they should be clearly marked so everyone has a chance to know them before posting?

If the rules are posted somewhere on this site, then please make it more obvious. I did everything that a reasonable person could be expected to do, to find the forum rules. I just cannot find them.

Detah@Arcania



08-29-2007, 09:52 AM

#21

cratylus

Banned

Join Date: Feb 2006

Posts: 153



Re: Moderation

Quote:

The lesson I've learned myself so far is, that attacks directed at a group of people apparently are acceptable by the moderators, whereas attacks directed against a single person aren't.

I've noticed that some unflattering statements about people are allowed to stand, and some unflattering statements

about people are not. It's not always easy to tell when one or the other will happen. I'm still working on sussing out a pattern.

Whether it's pattern-based or actually random, my frustration continues to rise at its arbitrariness.

I was told in a chat that Lasher is very hypocritical because he forbids X but does X, but I don't think that hypocrisy is the deal. I think that there is a multiheaded ill-organized mess of moderation that occurs when rules are not explicitly laid out governing permitted content.

I think Lasher might *seem* hypocritical when he, for example, engages in offtopic banter in a thread that has had posts deleted for offtopic banter.

But in fact the problem is that his moderators are exercising editorial authority on their own scripts, and enforcing their own rules and interpretation of unwritten "understandings" on some people, but not on others.

The whole thing is just disgusting and while I continue to exercise the patience being asked for while things get worked out, I think perhaps it is not too much to ask that discretionary deletions and editings happen only

in **extreme** cases *until* the formal written policies exist.

Seems only fair that patience is asked of one group, restraint be expected of the other.

-Crat
LPMuds.net - Index



08-29-2007, 09:59 AM

#22

Lasher

Administrator



Join Date: May 2005

Name: Derek

Location: Orlando

Posts: 219



Re: Moderation

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Detah**



If the rules are posted somewhere on this site, then please make it more obvious. I did everything that a reasonable person could be expected to do, to find the forum rules. I just cannot find them.

Detah@Arcania

Fair point. Very valid. The **first** time. Second, third, fourth time? By then you already know.

There's a new team (newly active team at least) in place and we are working on it. So we can either close the forums while it's done or leave it as it is knowing that most people will use their own judgement, perhaps erring on the side of caution, and the forums can still be productive.

Do you have a MUD?
 Do you have a rule that says "Do

not hack my server?".

Do you have a rule that says "Do not hunt me down, drive to my house and paint my car Orange?".

This is a forum for discussion and promotion of MUDs. Discussions will get heated, but there is no room for blatant personal attacks adding absolutely nothing constructive to the discussion or posts that have no purpose other than to provoke someone. If someone needs a "rule" to see this then we'll provide it, but if that person decides TMS isn't the place for them in the meantime I can live with that too.

If you're referring to the "f--k" example yesterday, nobody was moderated, nobody was scolded, code wasn't working that now is.



08-29-2007, 10:00 AM

#23

Brody
Moderator






Join Date: Apr 2002
Location: North Carolina
Home MUD: OtherSpace
Home MUD: Chiaroscuro
Home MUD: Necromundus
Posts: 1,344



Re: Moderation

There hasn't been active (or fully effective) moderation on this site in quite a long time, primarily because it never has had a real set of rules. It's safe to accept that the current moderator staff will be working up a set of guidelines and rules to live by for public consumption. Until then, rather than shutting the site down while we sort out the rules, I think it's a necessary evil that moderation will seem arbitrary - at least moderation is happening and the guidelines will be made available as soon as possible.

	<p>Thanks for your patience and understanding!</p> <p>  </p> <p style="text-align: right;">  </p>
---	---

08-29-2007, 10:10 AM

#24

Lasher

Administrator



Join Date: May 2005

Name: Derek


Location: Orlando

Posts: 219



Re: Moderation

Quote:

Originally Posted by **cratylus** 

I was told in a chat that Lasher is very hypocritical because he forbids X but does X, but I don't think that hypocrisy is the deal. I think that there is a multiheaded ill-organized mess of moderation that occurs when rules are not explicitly laid out governing permitted content.

*I think Lasher might *seem* hypocritical when he, for example, engages in offtopic banter in a thread that has had posts deleted for offtopic banter.*

"You were told", "It might seem" .. convenient and courageous ways to put words into someone else's mouth while you get to be the author.

Keeping a 200+ post thread 100% on-topic is impossible. There was a brief and lighthearted banter which was quickly ended. Nobody was attacked, nobody was provoked, nobody was accused of anything and the discussion was back on track within minutes.

If you don't see the difference, **truly** don't see the difference between that and the posts of yours that were removed, then we will never agree, your frustration level will continue to rise and you can move on safe and secure in the knowledge that you're not wasting any more of your time on a forum so poorly run.



08-29-2007, 10:10 AM

#25

KaVir

Legend




Join Date: Apr 2002
 Name: Richard
 Location: München
 Home MUD: God Wars II
 Posts: 1,493



Re: Moderation

Quote:

Originally Posted by **cratylus** 
But in fact the problem is that his moderators are exercising editorial authority on their own scripts, and enforcing their own rules and interpretation of unwritten "understandings" on some people, but not on others.

When I was a moderator on the Advanced Mud Concepts forum, I wrote up a set of guidelines in a sticky post describing what was expected and what was acceptable - and although I was fairly strict about enforcing those guidelines, I don't recall every receiving complaints about my moderation.

I do think it would be beneficial to have a list of general posting guidelines for the site. Any forums with stricter posting guidelines could then add them as a sticky thread post.

		
08-29-2007, 10:10 AM		#26
<p>scandum Member</p>  <p>Join Date: Jun 2004 Posts: 107</p>	<p>Re: Moderation</p> <p>Quote:</p> <div data-bbox="554 311 901 1125"><p>Originally Posted by Samson </p><p><i>It might, but so far as I can tell it hasn't happened to any of mine. But the kind of person who goes digging through troll posts for the interesting stuff might not be the kind of person the community in question wants hanging around. Just a thought. Not directed specifically at you.</i></p><p><i>Now see, this right here is a matter of opinion. How am I "wrong" to support moderation in the name of civility if that's what the site administrators want? It's not my place to make those kinds of decisions anywhere I don't co-admin. It's also entirely your opinion that I'm "wrong" with increasing frequency lately. I just happen to disagree with your stand on something</i></p></div> <p>I feel you Samson, I truly do, your wisdom is touching. But why practice this grand wisdom within the small boundaries of an online forum?</p> <p>We should do this big, ya know, the real deal. Lets sterilize all trolls, possibly euthanize the worst cases, or just get rid of them all, and the degenerates while at it, in</p>	

the name of civility. We should appoint me as the fearless leader, and I'd hand out the task of 'moderating' the population at large to a few, possibly incapable, but highly motivated individuals who like to moderate just for the sake of moderating, or simply because they realize the greatness of the work ahead.

We'd have heaven on earth in no time. I swear, it'd be the solution to all of man's problems, and even better, when we fix the problem at the root, moderation for all online forums would no longer be required because everyone left would be a sweet and obedient little forum user, the grandest of grand wet dreams of every forum admin.

Send me a PM to work out the details?



08-29-2007, 10:22 AM

#27

cratylus

Banned

Join Date: Feb 2006
Posts: 153



Re: Moderation

Quote:

If you don't see the difference, truly don't see the difference between that and the posts of yours that were removed, then we will never agree

That there is a difference between your sense of humor and mine is beyond doubt.

I suggest that the primary difference is yours is never in danger of moderation.

As to your sarcastic reference to my cowardice (does that count as flaming?), if it pleases you I'll

allocute to full responsibility
for the statements, since I will not "out"
someone I was chatting with.
Let me rephrase it then.

I might have thought that Lasher is very
hypocritical because he forbids X but does X,
but
I don't think that hypocrisy is the deal. I think
that
there is a multiheaded ill-organized mess of
moderation that occurs when rules are not
explicitly laid out governing permitted
content.

I think Lasher might *seem* hypocritical
when he,
for example, engages in offtopic banter in a
thread that has had posts deleted for offtopic
banter.

-Crat
LPMuds.net - Index



08-29-2007, 10:43 AM

#28

Newworlds

Senior Member


Join Date: Aug 2007
Name: NewWorlds
Home MUD: New Worlds
Posts: 309



Re: Moderation

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Molly**

 *I frequent other Forums,
where flames are unheard
of even in heated
discussions, not because
of heavy moderation, but
because the posters there
all **respect** each other.
Maybe that is the root of
the problems here.*

I'm inclined to agree with this.
There seems to be a lot of ego with
many of us who are either Admins
ourselves or staff members of

muds or moderators. I do believe though and have seen both in private messages and in public posts that Lasher is really working hard to bring everything together with his new team and I will give him the chance to do so and try to be a positive part of this development following Molly's suggestion of respect.

In fairness to Crat, he does sometimes seem a bit crass, but I believe that is his sarcasm and perhaps this is the case with many of us. I think we forget sometimes that we are all on the same team, as it were, and that is to make a community of staff and players that want to enjoy MUD style games and MUD style environments.



08-29-2007, 10:48 AM

#29

Lasher

Administrator



Join Date: May 2005

Name: Derek


Location: Orlando

Posts: 219



Re: Moderation

Quote:

Originally Posted by
Newworlds 
In fairness to Crat, he does sometimes seem a bit crass, but I believe that is his sarcasm and perhaps this is the case with many of us. I think we forget sometimes that we are all on the same team, as it were, and that is to make a community of staff and players that want to enjoy MUD style games and MUD style environments.

Well said. I think most would agree we'd like to attract more people to MUDs in general. On this forum we are like the proverbial family

in-fighting constantly, except on this forum the whole world can see our discussions if they choose to look.

What impression of MUDs does an interested third party coming to the forum from Google because they happened to search on "Gold Dragon" (or whatever) come away with?



08-29-2007, 10:56 AM

#30

Lasher

Administrator



Join Date: May 2005

Name: Derek

Location: Orlando

Posts: 219



Re: Moderation

Quote:


Originally Posted by
cratylus 
*As to your sarcastic
reference to my cowardice
(does that count as
flaming?),*

It could, and if a moderator finds themselves thinking they would moderate my post if it were from someone other than me then please, moderate it, and give me the same reason why you would give anyone else.

The only way I can really know if our moderation is 'fair', 'appropriate', 'just right', 'heavy handed' or whatever is to experience it. As Brody stated, it's going to take some time to find the right balance and we can only ask for patience in the meantime.



Post Reply

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All times are GMT -4. The time now is **08:03 AM**.

-- TMS - Dark

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