Subject: To forum moderators: We are starting to be too harsh rejecting accounts
Posted by mirek on Sun, 24 Mar 2013 09:44:19 GMT
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I have got email from nick 'forfreedom' who got rejected (he has emailed some legit questions about U++, I have redirected him to the forum).

Looks like we have rejected legit user this time...

Mirek

Subject: Re: To forum moderators: We are starting to be too harsh rejecting accounts
Posted by unodgs on Sun, 24 Mar 2013 10:46:23 GMT
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mirek wrote on Sun, 24 March 2013 05:44I have got email from nick 'forfreedom' who got rejected (he has emailed some legit questions about U++, I have redirected him to the forum).

Looks like we have rejected legit user this time...

Mirek
Yes, that's a problem. Maybe this forum has newer version that supports captcha on registering new user. That would be the best solution I guess.

Subject: Re: To forum moderators: We are starting to be too harsh rejecting accounts
Posted by dolik.rce on Sun, 24 Mar 2013 10:55:42 GMT
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Hi,

Sometimes it is quite hard to tell whether it is a real user or spam. So far I've been following few simple rules that seem to identify the spammers:

1) The registration e-mail is @hotmail.com or @163.com
2) The birth date is three digits.

These should match majority of the spam, everything else can probably approved. If anyone observed more indicators, please comment.

Regarding point 1), emails can be set to be filtered automatically in the forum administration. Perhaps we should do that, I don't think there is many programmers using those. And it would save me quite a few emails per day from the account approval tool.

Best regards,
Honza

Subject: Re: To forum moderators: We are starting to be too harsh rejecting accounts
Posted by mirek on Sat, 30 Mar 2013 08:51:08 GMT
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Well, I do not know. I am starting to think that approving users and deciding who might be a spammer and who is not is more hassle than simply let them act and delete them later.

What would be nice is the option to delete all messages with user...

Mirek

Subject: Re: To forum moderators: We are starting to be too harsh rejecting accounts
Posted by lectus on Thu, 25 Jul 2013 20:55:19 GMT
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I think email verification and have a simple challenge like:

Quote:
int x = 2;
int y = 5;
int z = x * y;

What's the value of z?

is enough to prevent spamming bots (unless they can code in C++)

Subject: Re: To forum moderators: We are starting to be too harsh rejecting accounts
Posted by nlneilson on Thu, 25 Jul 2013 21:31:46 GMT
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mirek wrote on Sat, 30 March 2013 01:51
What would be nice is the option to delete all messages with user...

They have that on another forum which is handy and can ban that user.
But they also let anybody post without registering which is a PITA with all the spam from China to

sell ugg boots, louis vuitton, etc.

The U++ site has handled the spam very well.

Subject: Re: To forum moderators: We are starting to be too harsh rejecting accounts
Posted by dolik.rce on Fri, 26 Jul 2013 17:03:54 GMT
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There is a great function in newer versions of this forums. It allows to moderate first N posts of a new user. That would IMHO minimize the possibility of deleting legitimate user. But this feature is present in versions 3.0.1 and I'm not sure how difficult would it be to do the upgrade.

Honza

Subject: Re: To forum moderators: We are starting to be too harsh rejecting accounts
Posted by mirek on Sat, 27 Jul 2013 06:31:48 GMT
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dolik.rce wrote on Fri, 26 July 2013 13:03There is a great function in newer versions of this forums. It allows to moderate first N posts of a new user. That would IMHO minimize the possibility of deleting legitimate user. But this feature is present in versions 3.0.1 and I'm not sure how difficult would it be to do the upgrade.

Honza

My estimate is 3-5MD for the FUDforum upgrade; the problem is that the a) the current version is way too old b) it is installed in non-standard way, as the regular install/import has failed.

But I am afraid it has to be done soon....

Mirek

Subject: Re: To forum moderators: We are starting to be too harsh rejecting accounts
Posted by mirek on Mon, 14 Oct 2013 07:05:47 GMT
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Well, after receiving a couple more emails about failed attempts to register to the forum, I have turned the feature off.

I guess it is better to moderate spam and spammers out that to scare new users

Mirek

Subject: Re: To forum moderators: We are starting to be too harsh rejecting accounts
Posted by mirek on Mon, 14 Oct 2013 07:06:51 GMT
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(of course, long term solution is fudforum upgrade. I will try to reserve those MDs of work soon, certainly any volunteers capable of helping me with the process are welcome).

Subject: Re: To forum moderators: We are starting to be too harsh rejecting accounts
Posted by nlneilson on Tue, 25 Mar 2014 17:19:20 GMT
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Getting more spam lately.
For new users could the initial post/s be put in some que and checked before putting it on the forum?

Some other forums do it that way.

Subject: Re: To forum moderators: We are starting to be too harsh rejecting accounts
Posted by Klugier on Tue, 25 Mar 2014 17:34:23 GMT
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Hello,

For me the weakest point of the registration form is following part:
"
Please enter the code shown below:
.##.....##..####..##....##..##.....##.
.##.....##...##...##...##...##.....##.
.##.....##...##...##..##....##.....##.
.#########...##...#####.....##.....##.
.##.....##...##...##..##....##.....##.
.##.....##...##...##...##...##.....##.
.##.....##..####..##....##...#######..
"

This is trivial for bots. Personally, I think that ultimate++ should use image istead of chars.

Sincerely,
Klugier

Subject: Re: To forum moderators: We are starting to be too harsh rejecting accounts
Posted by mirek on Wed, 26 Mar 2014 07:19:45 GMT
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Well, the problem with forum is that we are using existing software and we are sort of stuck with this particular forum (FUDforum).

Current version of FUDforum seems to have all that we need. I really would like to make upgrade and in fact I am working on it - but I have hard time overcoming some glitch in the process that prevents me to do so. I have posted my problem to FUDforum

http://fudforum.org/forum/index.php?t=msg&th=123452& start=0&

but so far no reply (as you can see).

If there is anybody with good LAMP knowledge willing to help to upgrade the forum, that would be highly appreciated. In any case, we need to be careful about the process, so what I require is that first this has to be done on non-production machine (your/mine local) and the process ironed out first.

For those wishing to help, the complete forum dump can be found here:

http://www.ultimate.org/forum/FUDforum_23_03_2014_06_27.fud. gz

(it is not current, but to test process it is good enough).

Mirek

Subject: Re: To forum moderators: We are starting to be too harsh rejecting accounts
Posted by andreincx on Wed, 26 Mar 2014 07:41:11 GMT
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Hello Mirek,

Link to the forum dump file doesn't work. It should be ultimatepp.org instead of ultimate.org.

Best regards,
Andrei

Subject: Re: To forum moderators: We are starting to be too harsh rejecting accounts
Posted by mirek on Wed, 26 Mar 2014 07:45:24 GMT

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Thanks, fixed.

Mirek

Subject: Re: To forum moderators: We are starting to be too harsh rejecting accounts
Posted by mirek on Sat, 29 Mar 2014 14:19:15 GMT
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Note about forum upgrade (if there is somebody else playing with the forum dump):

I have now identified the first issues that prevented me to import the forum. It looks like there was theme id mismatch, which I have fixed by

update fud_users set theme = 1;

next issue encountered was incompatibility with new MySQL while doing forum consistency check, fixed by adding q("UNLOCK TABLES") into adm/consist.php line 299.

Subject: Re: To forum moderators: We are starting to be too harsh rejecting accounts
Posted by nlneilson on Sat, 29 Mar 2014 18:17:30 GMT
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mirek wrote on Sat, 30 March 2013 01:51What would be nice is the option to delete all messages with user...
Mirek

It is useful and a time saver.

If that was a request made to FUDforum they might include it in the next version.