

8 December 2009

CODE OF CONDUCT

Preamble

This mailing list is provided to encourage discussion, dialogue, sharing, and collaboration of all things pertinent to the subject matter. We ask that you focus on related topics and unless specifically requested to do so, do not use this as a forum for reporting bugs to us. For that, please go through the direct support channels.

As a member of our community, you must participate responsibly. If you have any questions regarding our Code of Conduct guidelines given below, please contact any of our mailing list moderators via email.

Code of Conduct

Principle Guidelines

If you violate these guidelines, we reserve the right to terminate all subscriptions belonging to you without prior notice. We prefer to first advise users discovered or reported as violating the guidelines, however, clear and repeated violations will result in an immediate ban. Our failure to enforce this policy, for whatever reason, shall not be construed as a waiver of our right to do so at any time.

The following are the principle guidelines for the establishment and enforcement of our Code of Conduct:

Ensure a friendly atmosphere to our visitors and mailing list members.

Ensure the privacy of our members and that of others.

Comply with existing laws.

Encourage responsible use of our mailing lists and discourage activities which disrupt our community and reduce the value of our services to our visitors.

Encourage the freedom of expression and exchange of information in a mature and responsible manner.

What about free-speech?

While we are committed to the principles of free speech, certain activities may be damaging to the resources of both The Foundry and our communities and cannot be permitted under the guise of free speech. The resources of The Foundry are limited, and abuse of these resources by one user has a negative impact on the entire community.

Violations of the Code of Conduct

Our Code of Conduct isn't designed to cover everything. We may take action — issue a warning, ban your account(s) and/or IP addresses, delete/edit your post(s)/thread(s), etc. — if your conduct on the mailing list is counter-productive to the Code of Conduct's principle guidelines.

Unauthorized access / mailing list Security

The following actions are strictly prohibited:

Accessing, or attempting to access, the accounts of other users.
Exploiting, or attempting to exploit, bugs, vulnerabilities, or loopholes; whether they are disclosed or undisclosed.
Penetrating, or attempting to penetrate, security measures of The Foundry's software.

Username

Username must not be in violation of this Code of Conduct. We reserve the right to terminate accounts whose associated usernames are in violation of this Code of Conduct, or are otherwise deemed inappropriate and/or potentially offensive. Users may be invited to register under a new name at our discretion.

Ad Hominem

Ad Hominem comments/personal attacks towards anyone – staff, mailing list member, or a visitor who is likely to view it on the mailing lists – is subject to the message being deleted and action taken against the user, regardless of how pertinent or thoughtful the rest of the message might be.

Spamming

Unless in a thread designated as an area permitted for spamming, you may not spam. Spam includes, but is not limited to, the following:

Excessive off-topic threads.
Posting nonsensical messages.
"Flooding" the mailing list with similar meaning messages.
Inciting a mailing list war or riot.
Blatant advertising.
Messages without content.
Fraudulent activity (Pyramid schemes, chain letters, etc.).

Pirated Materials, Cracks, Keys, and Key-Generators

You may not encourage, post in support of, link to, or discuss activities, methods, and/or techniques involving piracy, cracks, keys and key-generators. In addition, the following are grounds for moderator action on your post and/or account:

Seeking help to create cracks, and key-generators.
Seeking missing files that are supplied with installation.
Admitting to possess pirated materials, cracks and key-generators.
Admitting to distribute pirated materials, cracks, keys and key-generators.
Admitting to the use of cracks and key-generators.
Uploading any such files to The Foundry sites.

Forgery or impersonation

Attempting to impersonate any person, including staff, using forged headers, instant messenger names, similar usernames, in an effort to deceive or mislead is prohibited.

Profanities

You may not use profanity. In addition to words included in the censor list, sexual remarks and slang may be considered profane when used in certain contexts.

Harassment

You may not use terms or audio/visual materials referring to ethnic/national origin, ideological/religious beliefs, gender, or sexual preference in a demeaning context.

We have no tolerance for discrimination. You are in violation of this rule if the nature of your post discriminates, promotes hate, promotes violence or advocates hatred or discrimination against individuals, groups, races, cultures or organizations because of their ethnic/national origin, skin colour or culture.

Porn/Sexually Offensive Materials

You may not post or link to pornography, sexually offensive or any such excessively obscene materials. If you are unsure whether what you wish to post may be in violation of this rule, please consult a moderator first before posting.

Illegal Use

You may not use our mailing lists for illegal purposes, in support of illegal activities, or encourage conduct that would constitute a criminal offence, as determined by the laws of the United Kingdom. We reserve the right to cooperate with legal authorities and/or injured third parties in the investigation of any suspected crime or civil wrongdoing.

Non-Disclosure Agreements

We will delete posts containing materials in breach of active Non-Disclosure Agreements. We reserve the right to cooperate with the companies in the investigation of any NDA breach.

Privacy

You may not post any form of real life information of a user unless the user has first permitted it by express consent. Examples of real life information include name, address, IP addresses, and phone numbers.

You may not distribute any form of real life information, email address, private/email Messages, and Instant Messenger messages ("Chatlogs") with intent to harass or in any demeaning manner as determined by a moderator, regardless of consent.

You may not disclose a user's unpublicized email address unless the user has first permitted it, either by actual consent or previously releasing said information.

Signatures

Signatures, whether facilitated by the mailing list software or by the user, may not violate any part of this Code of Conduct.

Email Addresses

You may not harvest email addresses from our mailing lists for any purpose.

You are required to keep your mailing list account's email address up-to-date. If a warning sent to the email address on record bounces, your account will be banned.

Moderation & Bans

You may not evade a ban. Doing so will drastically lengthen your ban. If you believe your actions were not in violation of this Code of Conduct, you can appeal your ban.

You may not publicly complain about or demand a reason for another user's ban, the deletion of a message, or the deletion/closure of a thread. Any discussion about warnings, bans, message deletion, thread deletion and thread closure should be done over private email between the person concerned and the moderators.

You may not post a message on behalf of a banned mailing lister.

Miscellaneous

You may not bait/troll users. Bait / Trolling is defined as posting with a clear intent to provoke anger, incendiary posts, and behaviour that results in other users violating the Code of Conduct.

You may not bait, insult, flame, or otherwise abuse a staff member. Staff members have to follow the same rules, and should you have a problem with a certain staff member, please contact a moderator or the mailing list Management Team.

You may not abuse your ability to post in HTML in HTML-enabled mailing lists. You may not post graphically-disturbing images as inline images (such that the images are displayed when users view your post).

You may not register multiple accounts with intent to violate any part of this Code of Conduct.