Subject: Oops!
Posted by kerryg on Thu, 09 Apr 2009 18:22:30 GMT
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Hi gang. You caught me midway through a database issue, so you're going to see some garbled posts. Mea culpa, sorry about that.

Basically - I ran a script on the server to fix some issues and it wound up hashing some of the posts (a little knowledge is a dangerous thing!) so I'll be doing a re-load of the data once the NG comes back up and all our data eggs aren't in one basket. Apologies again!

- K

PS: this shouldn't delete or change anything you post on the forums while the NG's down.

Subject: Re: Oops!
Posted by kerryg on Thu, 09 Apr 2009 18:43:28 GMT
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Incidentally, reading the forum without logging in is "barebones" access - you get access to more features (who's online, notification of posts, private messaging) if you log in (they show up as options on the main page).

If you have any difficulty joining up and logging in, it might be because you're already technically a member here. To explain how you could have become a member without realizing it - when the NG posts are imported, the import script assigns each NG post to an existing forum member via the post's return email address. If there is no existing member with that email address it creates a new member, along with a "placeholder" password which can be re-set at your first forum login.

If that's the case for you, all you need to do to use your pre-existing account is to ask the server to reset your password. It'll send it to the email address it has on file for you. Wait a few minutes for the server to send you the new temp password, log in and change it to whatever you want. If you have any problems with login, just contact me and I'll sort it out.

[EDITED TO ADD: At the risk of stating the obvious - if you used thirty different return email addresses on the NG over the years, your posts will be respectively assigned to thirty different users, and if they were bogus email addresses the account can't be "claimed" - there's no valid address to send the reset info to. Little can be done about that at this point; if it becomes a priority, at some point in the future I'll see if something can be done about merging those posts into your main account.]

[Note - I probably don't need to say this, but PLEASE don't use valuable things like your bank PIN code or SS number (or a password you also use elsewhere - say for online banking!) as your passwords here! If you've done so, PLEASE GO CHANGE IT NOW! I can't see your passwords myself (although I *can* re-set them or assign a new one if you need me to) and I do my best to keep the place secure - but I *really* don't want to expose anyone to issues like identity theft if a diligent hacker should get in.]

- K