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E. of  
The Internet  
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**Social Media (An Apology)**  
**draft-elders-social-media-apology-00**

Abstract

Oops, we did it again.

Status of This Memo

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## **1. Introduction**

Recently, you may have noticed a dramatic increase in the amount of opprobrium, outrage, hate speech and overall bile on your favorite social media channel.

The Elders of the Internet apologize unreservedly for this disruption.

Recently, our attention has been focused on keeping the United States government, Comcast, your local ISP and some guy at the coffee shop out of your bits [[RFC7258](#)].

As a result, we were caught unawares when the Internet became the sink for every poorly-considered argument, paranoid thought when you wake up in the dead of night, and shrieking nutjob you'd usually cross the street to avoid.

Combined with the magnification offered by "likes" and "retweets", along with the inevitable back-and-forth squabbling that ensures, the Internet is currently having a crippling effect on your ability to work, communicate productively, and - occasionally - breathe.

In retrospect, we should have known; USENET was a pretty clear warning. We will do better.

## **2. Mitigations**

To partially mitigate the effects of this phenomenon, a number of techniques can be used. Note that none of these is a "fix", and some undesirable effects (e.g., loss of sleep, appetite or democracy) may persist.

### **2.1. Meme-Only Diet**

Memes are a time-proven way to express disdain, mocking and other sentiments while maintaining an air of light humor. They can therefore be helpful in a transition away from full-throated, deeply-felt outrage.

In other words, they're the methadone of the Internet. Memes are only to be generated or consumed under advice of a doctor, as prolonged use might result in undesirable side effects (e.g., [[fourchan](#)]).

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## **2.2. Blocklists**

Blocklists are a proven means of avoiding undesirable content, and responsible social networks (looking at you, Facebook) implement them. They may be able to help you enjoy the sparse benefits of a social network without some of the worst side effects.

Recommending a specific blocklist is out of scope for this document, but we suggest starting with "Trump" and working outwards from there.

## **2.3. Abstention**

The most proven way to win is not to play. By abstaining from social media, you may find you have more time, a more authentic and meaningful engagement with life, and a corresponding lack of the desire to stock up on canned food and ammunition.

Other benefits may include more productive and authentic participation in genuine societal issues (as opposed to "using a hashtag" while binge-watching [[Netflix](#)]).

## **2.4. Whisky**

For those unable to leave social media or otherwise curtail their use.

## **3. Security Considerations**

The security of the Internet is the least of your problems. Buckle up, kids.

## **4. Informative References**

[fourchan]

Anonymous, "4Chan", n.d., <<https://www.4chan.org/>>.

[Netflix] Netflix, "Netflix", n.d., <<https://netflix.com/>>.

[RFC7258] Farrell, S. and H. Tschofenig, "Pervasive Monitoring Is an Attack", [BCP 188](#), [RFC 7258](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC7258, May 2014, <<https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc7258>>.

## **Appendix A. Membership Notes**

The Edlers of the Internet note with sorrow the passing of our former member, Stephen Hawking, aka "The Hawk." You will be missed.

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Applications for membership are now being accepted at the usual IPv6 address.

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