EXHIBIT 15

Ladies: 8,000 Creeps on Reddit Are Sharing the Nude Photos You Posted to Photobucket

Max Read
Filed to: REDDIT
8 08 12 2:45pm

REDACTED

Have you ever uploaded a nudie shot to Photobucket — one of the web's largest, and oldest, image-hosting sites? If you did, you probably kept it private, right? So only its intended recipient could see it, and it wouldn't get found and spread all over the internet?

Yeah, there's a good chance some 8,000 creeps have seen your naked photo on Reddit.

Yesterday, inspired by the "hackers" who were able to access *Wired* writer Mat Honan's online accounts and fully wipe his MacBook, BuzzFeed's Katie Notopoulos took a look at the not-actually-hacking technique of finding private — and often nude — pictures on Photobucket by exploiting its privacy settings:

[I]f I put photos in a private or password-protected album, I can still send a direct link to an individual photo to my friend, and she won't need a password to view that photo. If she wants, she can pass along that link to any of her other friends and they can also view over the Photobucket site, no problem, regardless of how I set the privacy level on the album. [...] Problem is, the URLs Photobucket uses for these pictures use the photos' actual file names, and file names aren't that hard to guess. [...] That's where "fusking" programs come - you just enter the username and album name, and the fusking program will run through likely guesses and pull up any images it can find.

Notopoulos mentions having seen evidence of fusking on 4chan and other message boards where people discussed "hacking" or "stealing" finding Photobucket images. But you don't even need to go as deep as 4chan: there's a whole section on Reddit, with nearly 8,000 subscribers, dedicated to fusking — and another for people to make requests.

"r/photobucketplunder," (NSFW) as the subreddit is known, stands in the long and proud tradition of creepy and popular Reddit subsections like "r/jailbait" (which was finally taken down, over loud objections of "free speech," when it came out that child porn had appeared on the subreddit) and "creepshots." Every day, its most dedicated users (it has 7,808 subscribers, though readership is likely higher) post new albums of nude and otherwise sexual photographs found on women's Photobucket accounts, re-uploading the photos to image-hosting site Imgur in case the women figure out what happened and take theirs down. Many of the accounts are discovered by people trawling Photobucket for cute girls; others are posted in r/requestaplunder, a subreddit where anyone can ask r/photobucketplunder's fuskers to work their magic.

Reddit's Child Porn Scandal

Read more

Mecesh, one of the subreddit's moderators, says he'd take down the photos immediately if someone complained ("We don't want to be malicious. Most people here like the voyeuristic nature of it," he

told me over email). But no one ever has. The rules — posted on the page's sidebar — warn users against alerting the photographs' subjects that they've become unwitting pinup models for a few thousand Redditors: "Do not follow the usernames of the girls submitted to this subreddit. When you follow them it sends an e-mail to them notifying them they're being followed. This usually either makes them cancel their photobucket or make the album private which in turn makes it so we no longer get any pictures from them."

While making albums private doesn't prevent all fuskers, it does mean that your shots won't show up on Reddit. r/photobucketplunder doesn't allow its users to post photos from albums set to "private" — only the albums of women who don't realize or understand that anything they put on Photobucket is visible to anyone. This helps Mecesh (and, one imagines, other users) rationalize the whole endeavor: "We only allow submissions that are publicly accessible. We don't allow or encourage the hacking of private accounts. Everything posted here is available for public view, just not all of the women may realize that. If someone doesn't know by now that if they upload naked pictures to the internet that they are there forever does that make it wrong?"

Well, yes: setting up a forum to find, trade, and save on new servers private photographs that were mistakenly made public is wrong, even if it isn't illegal. "Don't share or steal people's private things" may be anathema to the internet, but it asks people to be decent, rather than paranoid. "Don't put private things in public places," as a moral imperative, blames victims and excuses the behavior of thieves and creeps.

But it is good practical advice. "You would be amazed at some of the information we come across here," mecesh writes. "We have found accounts where people have uploaded pics of personal checks, drivers licenses, credit cards, social security cards. It is unreal." I asked him what he thought people should do to prevent their photos from showing up on r/photobucket plunder. "If you care about your info getting out there, make your account private," he said, but acknowledged that not even that is foolproof. "To protect photos and info the number one suggested is don't upload them to the internet."

Once more, and this is very, very simple: If you don't want anyone to see nude photos of you, ladies, *don't share them via the internet.*Anywhere. When will people learn?

6   2   **Reply**

Max Read
8 08 12 3:00pm

Not that I don't understand this as good advice, but... isn't it a [REDACTED] thing to throw up our hands and say "welp, the creeps and thieves win, we should just assume everyone is an [REDACTED]

13   2   **Reply**

pricekx
8 08 12 3:12pm

How is it any different than saying if you don't want your car stolen, don't leave the keys on top of the visor? Yeah, the crooks might 'win', but it's still basic common sense in this day and age.

5   2   **Reply**

Max Read
8 08 12 3:14pm

I suppose I don't mind treating it as "common sense," but I do feel uncomfortable using it as an excuse — a kind of "well, these girls have no one else to blame." They did something dumb! But it's the other people who did something *wrong*.

3   **Reply**

pricekx
8 08 12 3:21pm

I agree with the not-blaming-the-victim mentality, and I don't think Octothorp had any blame in his/her comment. But come on. If your neighbor's car is stolen and he tells you they took the keys from the

visor, wouldn't a tiny part of you internally judge just a bit? The whole aspect of 'crime' is that a subset of humanity won't follow the rules—and common sense says the potential victims have got to take some responsibility in keeping their private property secured.

Sending naked pix to an individual is dangerous, but understandable. Even done it myself—but if anything happens I can also track down and punish the source pretty easily. But posting naked pix on a website is sending naked pix to a 3rd party company. My attitude is if you wouldn't send it to the companies support email, why would you feel protected sending it to their servers instead?

2   1   Reply

Jewnabomber
8 08 12 3:28pm

I don't see how copying material from a public directory is wrong. It's like walking around naked in public and then complaining that your privacy is being violated when people see you. I suppose it's a different story if it was password-protected, but the moderator you quoted in the article says that they don't allow pictures taken from private Photobuckets.

1   1   Reply

Max Read
8 08 12 3:31pm

Yeah. I mean, arguably, the whole idea of a legal system rests on the sense that people won't just always follow the rules and be good.

I guess one reason I have trouble is that I don't think we've really figured out what the rules for the internet are yet. And most parents and teachers and authority figures really have no clue, so kids aren't really learning "don't put your private shit online" until it's too late. That combined with the fact that there are a lot of people out there who are more than willing to place all the blame at the feet of the victim (It's a logical extension of the "information wants to be free"/pirate mentality, I think.) makes me think it's important to push back as much as possible — to try to hold photo-fusking creeps

accountable to whatever extent possible, but also teach people to avoid putting themselves in this position in the first place.

| Reply

Max Read
8 08 12 3:33pm

Well, the difference between putting stuff in a public directory and walking around naked is that the latter is something people have been doing (or prevented from doing) for millions of years while the former is a couple decades old at best. The social cues and legal structures that deal with public nudity are set in stone in a way privacy on the internet just isn't.

| Reply

pootthedestroyer
8 08 12 4:17pm

They really don't have anyone else to blame, though, because even if they lack the internet awareness/education to "know" that a complete stranger can get ahold of their photos, you can't seriously argue that they don't know - or shouldn't have known - how inherently desirable such photos were going to be to many, many strangers. They're well aware of their value; they wouldn't have taken them in the first place if they didn't. After that it's really just an inexcusable failure to connect the dots.

"Hmmm, I'm posting these incredibly desirable photos onto the internet, which is visited by millions of people, many of whom would probably enjoy seeing these if only for a cheap, momentary thrill, and also I kinda have no idea how computers or the internet work. SOUNDS GOOD."

To that, I say, "your judgment is bad and you should feel bad." I'm strongly in favor of dumb people being punished for their mistakes, and here, it seems like the very mild punishment of shame might go a long way towards correcting future stupid behavior. For me, the math works.

All of this becomes moot, of course, if they really don't care who sees

their naked photos - which I hope (but do not expect) will be the prevailing sentiment sooner rather than later.

1   1   **Reply**

Max Read
8 08 12 6:00pm

I'd feel more comfortable thinking that way if I thought that "we" (society, I guess) were adequately preparing people to deal with the internet in their lives. But I don't think we are — I understand that you know the internet very well, but a lot of people, even young people, don't. They *don't* understand how or why Photobucket is easily accessible, or that there are creeps out there looking for nudes on it. And no one has ever taught or shown that to them! If there was an Internet Class in schools, I'd think that "tough shit" was almost an appropriate response. But it's hard to take personal responsibility when those responsibilities are never outlined to you in the first place.

1   **Reply**

notromney
8 08 12 2:58pm

wow, I really hope gawker doesn't find out about r/spaceclop.

5   **Reply**

Max Read
8 08 12 3:00pm

r/spaceclop is actually A.J.'s favorite subreddit.

1   **Reply**

esskay
8 08 12 2:59pm

it's the internet. i think those girls asked for it. i don't think i'm trolling here.... but seriously, uploading photos of yourself like this... to photobucket?!

Max Read
8 08 12 3:03pm

Not everyone has the same kind of "training" or education about the internet. Just because some people (you and I) know that it's a terrible idea to upload nude photos of yourself to a public image-hosting site doesn't mean that everyone does!

esskay
8 08 12 3:07pm

oh absolutely. i don't mean to sound callous... some small part of me feels bad about the younger generations on the internet (i am only 28, just fyi)... they may not think before posting. i mean, all of us are guilty from time to time. but a lot of the younger generation has grown up after the internet-boom, and it's like... oxygen to them. not some mind-blowing sharing device that it is.

purplegloves
8 08 12 3:07pm

Even the Photobucket terms of use mention this issue, though.
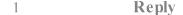
From http://photobucket.com/terms :

"Be aware, however, just because something is marked 'private', we can't guarantee that only the people you invite will see it. Even if you mark something 'private', users may be able to find the direct URL for an image through other search mechanisms, then share or link to it outside the Site."

It's also worth noting that the terms of use explicitly forbid uploading nudity in the first place.

Max Read

8 08 12 3:11pm

Yeah, but I think there's still a kind of knowledge gap even among young people who've grown up on the internet — there are people who really get it, and people who still don't quite understand the consequences of something like this. And it worries me for a bunch of reasons!

1   Reply

Max Read

8 08 12 3:13pm

C'mon, though, how many people actually read terms of service? (Not that they shouldn't.)

1   Reply

Dismissed

8 08 12 3:16pm

The consequences are going to change as this generation grows up though.

There's going to be a point where there are more people *with* nude or compromising photos publicly available than without, and the entire social dynamic is going to have to change accordingly.

To put it more simply; these kids just don't see it as such a big deal anymore. And pretty soon they're going to be the ones in charge.

5   Reply

Max Read

8 08 12 3:17pm

Yeah, that's maybe true! I still don't feel great about ignoring or forgiving the creeps because I figure it won't be a big deal in a few years.

Reply

MrvinTheMarshn
8 08 12 3:22pm

perhaps we need a new class in our school system...internet sex ed...the do's and don'ts of the internet and your sex life

then again..I'm perfectly happy with looking at nude pictures of random girls, so long as it's not my daughter...I'll be sure to make sure she's not a moron about the internet...or I'll at least try

5   Reply

ragepanda
8 08 12 3:24pm

Have you tried emailing any of these women Max? It seems like for at least some of them, they'd be easy to track down.

Reply

Max Read
8 08 12 3:25pm

A lot of them remove or delete their Photobucket albums pretty quickly. The only one whose contact information I was able to track down hasn't responded to me yet.

Reply

Max Read
8 08 12 3:26pm

I don't think this is such a bad idea! Parents are pretty good at teaching their kids common sense about stuff like not leaving car keys in the ignition when they park their cars — but a lot of them (right now, and for the next couple decades, I'd guess) aren't very good at teaching their kids common sense about the internet. Or about sex, for that matter. So the places where the two overlap can be massive blind spots for kids, and a class might actually help.

2   Reply

ForRealzies

8 08 12 3:37pm

I know of a grade nine teacher in Manitoba who has an internet/mobile phone component in his class. Students learn to text/email, some basic photography and (I think) most importantly, online etiquette.

I learned watching my classmates fuck up. In a small town, word (and pictures) travel fast.

1   Reply

Max Read

8 08 12 3:38pm

That's such a good idea — not just learning etiquette but even learning the basic ways the internet *works*, technically, politically, business-ly, etc.

4   Reply

aaron1s

8 08 12 4:09pm

I don't think it's my job or responsibility to train or educate people on the dangers of the internet.

It is not our fault that society leaves people unprepared for the dangers of putting things online in unsecured locations like this.

If there was enough concern about it, then we should probably look into an internet training class where people are prepared for what to expect out of being online. If you'll note, no one is there to admonish credit card companies who hand out applications and credit cards to 18+ year old kids who then bury themselves in debt. But it still happens every day.

Be responsible and learn about the dangers of being online.

1   1   Reply

CarolinaNevaFina
8 08 12 4:22pm

What the fuck Max? Do you need special training to understand that if you stick your dick in an electrical socket, it might not be a good outcome? Do we need special training to know to lock our front doors at night? Not to write our passcodes on the back of ATM cards? Are you seriously attempting to make an excuse for the feral minded bimbos of America who want to play the victim card because they have no fucking brain?

1   **Reply**

celosia
8 08 12 4:34pm

So if a woman is doing a striptease in her bedroom for her partner and doesn't realize that there is a tear in the bedroom curtain that provides a view for the whole neighborhood, she's a "feral-minded bimbo" that deserves to have her privacy violated by Peeping Toms? Stop blaming the victims and take some fucking responsibility for being a misogynist creep.

1   **Reply**

VictorScope
8 08 12 5:07pm

If he teaches them to hold the phone horizontally while shooting video, he is truly doing God's work. Maybe there's hope for the future after all.

1   **Reply**

Max Read
8 08 12 5:55pm

Well. Given that society is made up of you, and us, and everyone else it *is*, totally, our fault that young people (in this case mostly young women) are unprepared for the dangers.
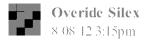
There should be more concern for it! And there are tons of people out there admonishing credit card companies for those applications.

Reply

Max Read
8 08 12 5:56pm

The most important lesson of all.

Reply

Overide Silex
8 08 12 3:15pm

Do people still not realize, If you don't want it to spread use a freaking Polaroid, never put it on a computer, never post it, never email it, never never never. I do not give a crap how secure you think your setup is, NASA CIA FBI WHITE HOUSE, all of which have infinitely better security than any web based anything, have all been hacked at some point.

Oh also, web cam, skype ect yea do that and people can record it and have it spread anyway. SO don't do that either.

If you do any of the above and you are the result of something like this, well you did it all to yourself. Posting on the internet, like these people did, is akin to going into a room of rapists and putting on a chastity belt and taking a sleeping pill and passing out naked thinking you won't be raped. Like really?

1   1   Reply

Max Read
8 08 12 3:16pm

Really, from a common-sense perspective, Polaroid is the only way to go with noodz.

1   Reply

Overide Silex
8 08 12 3:17pm

Yea and even that can be spread if the idiot you give it to decides to.
But it is the most secure you can get.

Frankly in person no camera is the best option lol