

# Trolling

Welcome to this training lesson on **Trolling**. In this lesson, we'll look at the practice of **trolling**.

**Estimated Completion Time:** 5 minutes.

# Trolling

**What is Trolling?** *Trolling* is the name coined describing the process of posting inflammatory, racist, bigoted, or otherwise obscene comments online - generally on discussion blogs, comment sections, or tribute sites - purely to cause conflict, pain, trouble, or arguments between the *troll* (as they are known) and others.



# Trolling

**Trolling Example.** Below is a sample tribute site. One of the comments is from a **troll** - and in a few seconds, it will be highlighted.

*In loving memory of our angel - Jane  
& Citizen - taken from us far too  
early....*



**Please leave your memories and comments below:**

I knew Jane for many years. There was never a better friend. She was always there when I needed her. Rest in Peace.

To my dear sister - you will always be missed. My life will not be the same without you.

Jane was a STUCK UP B\*\*\*\*. She walked around like she OWNED the place.  
I AM GLAD SHE IS DEAD.



# Trolling

**Trolling Example #2.** Trolling is a crime of degrees - from the very serious to the merely annoying - and everywhere in between.

## Research Into Climate Change Factors That Affect Ocean Currents.

*By Jane Q Citizen*

### Comments:

Jane's argument was well presented, and backed by independent research. I do question her sources, however, related to the Southern Current around Antarctica.

Not all scientists would agree with Jane in terms of temperatures below 2000m. Other researchers have performed similar studies with different results.

Jane is in the pay of the OIL INDUSTRY. This study was falsified to show results that were favorable to her masters!

# Trolling

**Trolling.** Trolling is performed almost always anonymously. Hiding behind their anonymity, trolls seems to take pleasure in the pain they cause - but rarely have the courage to put their name to their comments.



## Trolling

**Ignore the Troll.** The first step in dealing with a troll is to ignore them. They want you to respond - they thrive on it. The angrier and more upset you are, the happier they are.

Trolls do not respond to reason, or logic - whether because they are incapable, or simply don't want to. They may not even believe what they are saying. They just want to shock and hurt, and will continue to do so if you engage them.





## Trolling

**Report the Troll.** If the troll is persistent, or just plain evil, report them to the site administrator - if you are unable to block the user yourself.

In serious cases, the police may need to be informed.



# Trolling

**Is Trolling Illegal?** The laws in relation to trolling are always evolving, and may differ in various countries and even states.

However, already, in many areas, trolling can be - and has been - prosecuted by the police. Police and other agencies have the ability to trace trolls - using information supplied from your ISP and the site itself, as well as from other parties.

Make no mistake. **You *can* go to jail for serious trolling.**





## Trolling

**Don't Do It.** If you have any inclination to add comments to any online forum, discussion site, chat, or any other electronic discussion forum, that could even remotely be construed as trolling - **don't do it.**

**As we've stressed in almost all other lessons - if you want to save yourself from possible criminal charges, and/or save others from hurt, pain, or embarrassment, don't post, send, forward or upload trolling, bullying, harassing, embarrassing, illegal, obscene, sexual images, content, or comments.**

Just don't do it. You can be traced, no matter how anonymous you may think you are.

Even if you do not face criminal charges, you may suffer in other ways. Losing a job. School suspensions or expulsions. Embarrassment.

**It's just not worth it.**

## Trolling

You've now completed this training lesson on **Trolling**. In this lesson, we looked at the practice of **trolling**.