

A Technical and Forensic Case Study of Covert Communication Indicators on backstreetmen.createmybb.com

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Executive Summary

This report investigates the covert characteristics of the website <https://backstreetmen.createmybb.com> using OSINT and Google Dorking techniques. The site, once an open Iranian fan forum, now shows behavior consistent with closed-access or covert platforms. Using tools like Wayback Machine, robots.txt analysis, cookie inspection, and user enumeration, the investigation highlights how this seemingly inactive site may still serve private communication functions, hidden from the public eye.

Introduction

The purpose of this project was to identify and analyze covert communication platforms using ethical open-source intelligence (OSINT) techniques. Leveraging Google Dorking queries from the GHDB (Google Hacking Database), I searched for obscure login pages and restricted content patterns. This led to the discovery of a suspicious fan forum that may serve hidden or insider-only purposes.

Task Details and Working

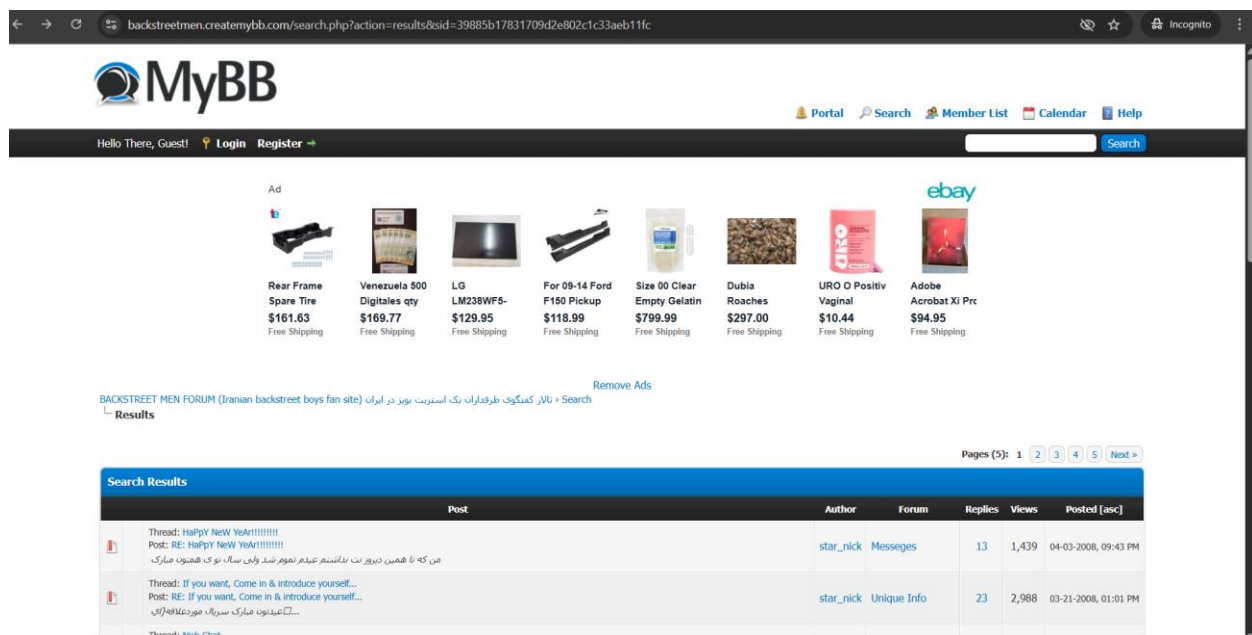
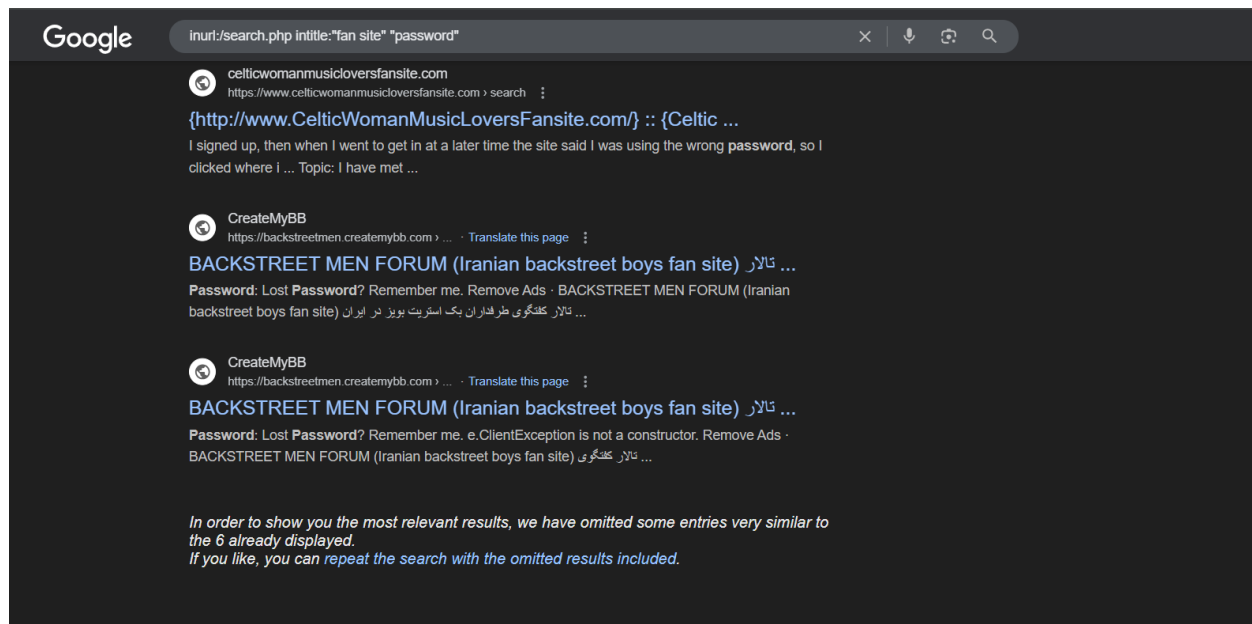
Google Dorking:

I sourced search queries from the Google Hacking Database (GHDB)

Applied them in Google Search by opening Chrome in o **Incognito**, to avoid personalized search bias and found websites with hidden login or communication features.

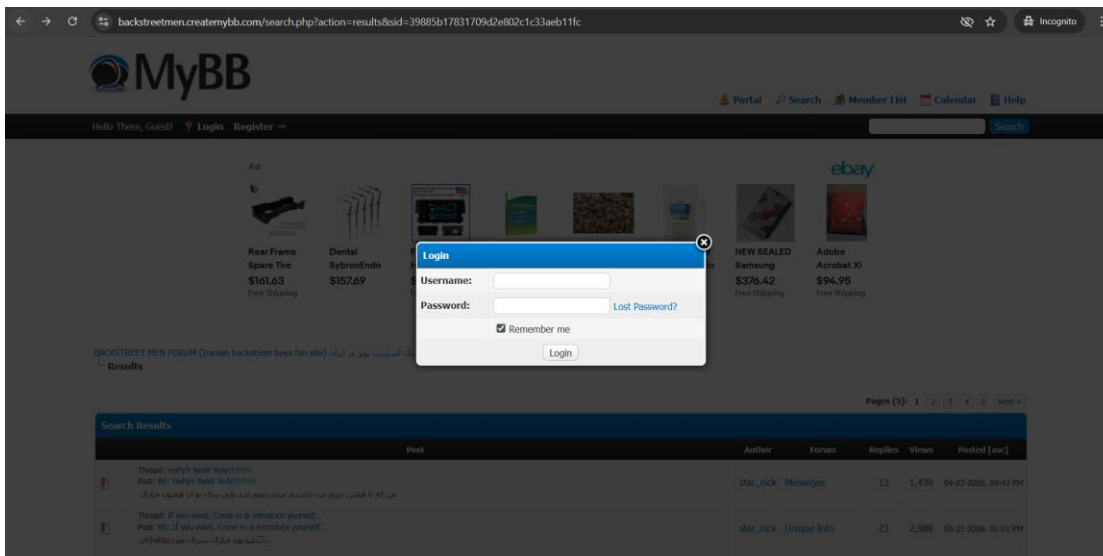
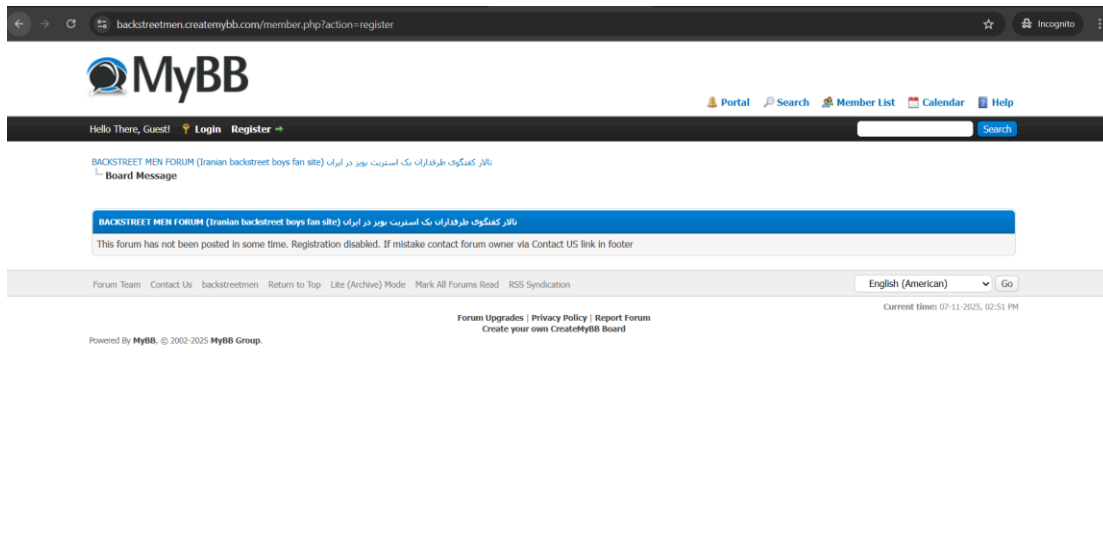
The resulting URL was used for automated and manual analysis.

ANALYSIS:



<https://backstreetmen.createmybb.com/search.php?action=results&sid=39885b17831709d2e802c1c33aeb11fc>

- The Backstreet Men Forum presents itself as a fan site, but registration is disabled and only existing users can log in via a modal popup. The forum is inactive, and outsiders are restricted from joining. This setup matches patterns seen in insider-only or covert platforms, where access and posting are limited to pre-approved members.



- Login button visible, but form is hidden in a modal that appears only on click.

```

108         <input name="keywords" type="text" class="textbox" />
109         <input value="Search" type="submit" class="button" />
110         <input type="hidden" name="action" value="do_search" />
111         <input type="hidden" name="postthread" value="1" />
112     </fieldset>
113 </form>
114 <!-- end: header_quicksearch -->
115
116 <!-- start: header_welcomeblock_guest -->
117 <!-- Continuation of div(class="upper") as opened in the header template -->
118 <span class="welcome">Hello There, Guest! <a href="https://backstreetmen.createmybb.com/member.php?action=login" onclick="$({'#quick_login'}).modal({{ fadeDuration
119
120 </div>
121 </div>
122 <div class="modal" id="quick_login" style="display: none;">
123     <form method="post" action="https://backstreetmen.createmybb.com/member.php">
124         <input name="action" type="hidden" value="do_login" />
125         <input name="url" type="hidden" value="" />
126         <input name="quick_login" type="hidden" value="1" />
127         <input name="my_post_key" type="hidden" value="f9b37a3310f5bfc0f8dd03c73e3cc1c" />
128         <table width="100%" cellpadding="0" cellspacing="5" border="0" class="tborder">
129             <tr>
130                 <td class="thead" colspan="2"><strong>Login</strong></td>
131             </tr>
132             <tr>
133                 <td colspan="2"><!-- start: header_welcomeblock_guest_login_modal -->
134
135 <td class="trow1" width="25%"><strong>Username:</strong></td>
136 <td class="trow1"><input name="quick_username" id="quick_login_username" type="text" value="" class="textbox initial_focus" /></td>
137 </tr>
138 <tr>
139 <td class="trow2"><strong>Password:</strong></td>
140 <td class="trow2">
141         <input name="quick_password" id="quick_login_password" type="password" value="" class="textbox" /> <a href="https://backstreetmen.createmybb.com/member.php?action=lostpw" class="lost_password">

```

- quick_login, my_post_key, and url fields not shown in source until modal is triggered.
- JavaScript dynamically injects the current page into the form

```

129      <td class="thead" colspan="2"><strong>Login:</strong></td>
130    </tr>
131    <!-- start: header_welcomeblock_guest_login_modal -->
132
133    <tr>
134      <td class="trowl" width="25%"><strong>Username:</strong></td>
135      <td class="trowl"><input name="quick_username" id="quick_login_username" type="text" value="" class="textbox initial_focus" /></td>
136    </tr>
137
138    <tr>
139      <td class="trowl"><strong>Password:</strong></td>
140      <td class="trowl">
141        <input name="quick_password" id="quick_login_password" type="password" value="" class="textbox" /> <a href="https://backstreetmen.createmybb.com/member.php?action=lostpw" class="lost_password"
142        </td>
143      </tr>
144
145      <tr>
146        <td colspan="2">
147          <input name="quick_remember" id="quick_login_remember" type="checkbox" value="yes" class="checkbox" checked="checked" />
148          <label for="quick_login_remember">Remember me</label>
149        </td>
150      </tr>
151
152      <tr>
153        <td colspan="2">
154          <div align="center"><input name="submit" type="submit" class="button" value="login" /></div>
155        </td>
156      </tr>
157    </tr>
158  <!-- end: header_welcomeblock_guest_login_modal -->
159  </table>
160  </div>
161  <script type="text/javascript">
162    $( "#quick_login input[name='url']" ).val( $(location).attr('href') );
163  </script>
164  <!-- end: header_welcomeblock_guest -->
165  <!-- /div in header_welcomeblock_member and header_welcomeblock_guest -->
166  <!-- /div in header_welcomeblock_member and header_welcomeblock_guest -->
167  </div>
168  <div id="content">
169    <div class="wrapper">

```

- Weak cookies allow login sessions to be stolen easily if the site isn't using secure HTTPS. This can let insiders or attackers access accounts without needing passwords. Since the login form is hidden and registration is disabled, it looks like only trusted people are meant to use it. The weak security might be left on purpose to quietly allow access without attracting attention.

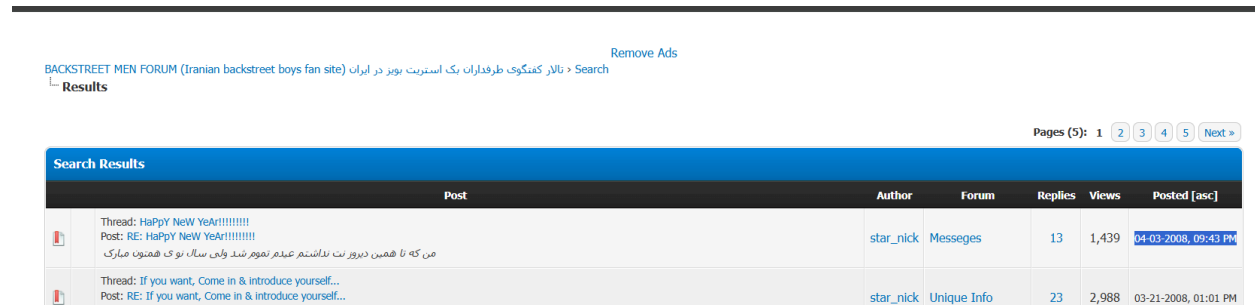
```

37  <div style="overflow: auto; max-height: 400px;">
38    <table border="0" cellspacing="0" cellpadding="5" class="tbody">
39      <tr>
40        <td class="thead" colspan="2"><strong>__message__</strong></td>
41      </tr>
42      <tr>
43        <td colspan="2" class="trowl">
44          <div style="text-align: center;" class="modal_buttons">__buttons__</div></td>
45        </tr>
46      </tr>
47    </table>
48  </div>
49  <div>
50    modal_button: ' <input type="submit" class="button" value="__title__"> </div>';
51  ];
52
53  var cookieDomain = "";
54  var cookiePath = "/";
55  var cookiePrefix = "backstreetmen";
56  var cookieSecureFlag = "";
57  var deleteevent_confirm = "Are you sure you want to delete this event?";
58  var removeattach_confirm = "Are you sure you want to remove the selected attachment from this post?";
59  var loading_text = "Loading. <br />Please Wait&hellip;";
60  var saving_changes = "Saving changes&hellip;";
61  var use_xmlhttprequest = "1";
62  var my_post_key = "f9b37a3310f5bfc0fbd03c73e3c1c";
63  var rootpath = "https://backstreetmen.createmybb.com";
64  var imagepath = "https://backstreetmen.createmybb.com/images";
65  var yes_confirm = "Yes";
66  var no_confirm = "No";
67  var MyBBEditor = null;
68  var spinner_image = "https://cdn.sfbboards.com/cmb5/images/spinner.gif";
69  var spinner = "<img src='" + spinner_image + "' alt=' />";
70  var modal_index = 9999;
71
72  // -->
73  </script>
74  <!-- start: header_includes -->
75  <script type="text/javascript" src="https://cdn.sfbboards.com/cmb5/images/emoji.js?ver=1815"></script>
76  <link rel="stylesheet" href="https://cdn.sfbboards.com/cmb5/images/emoji.css">
77  <meta name="monetization" content="$ilp.uphold.com/W7K9EEqZahm">
78  </head>
79  <body>
80    <!-- start: header -->
81    <div id="container">
82      <a name="top" id="top"></a>
83      <div id="header">
84        <div id="logo">
85          <div class="wrapper">
86            <a href="https://backstreetmen.createmybb.com/index.php?cimg src="https://cdn.sfbboards.com/cmb5/images/logo.png" alt="BACKSTREET MEN FORUM (Iranian backstreet boys f

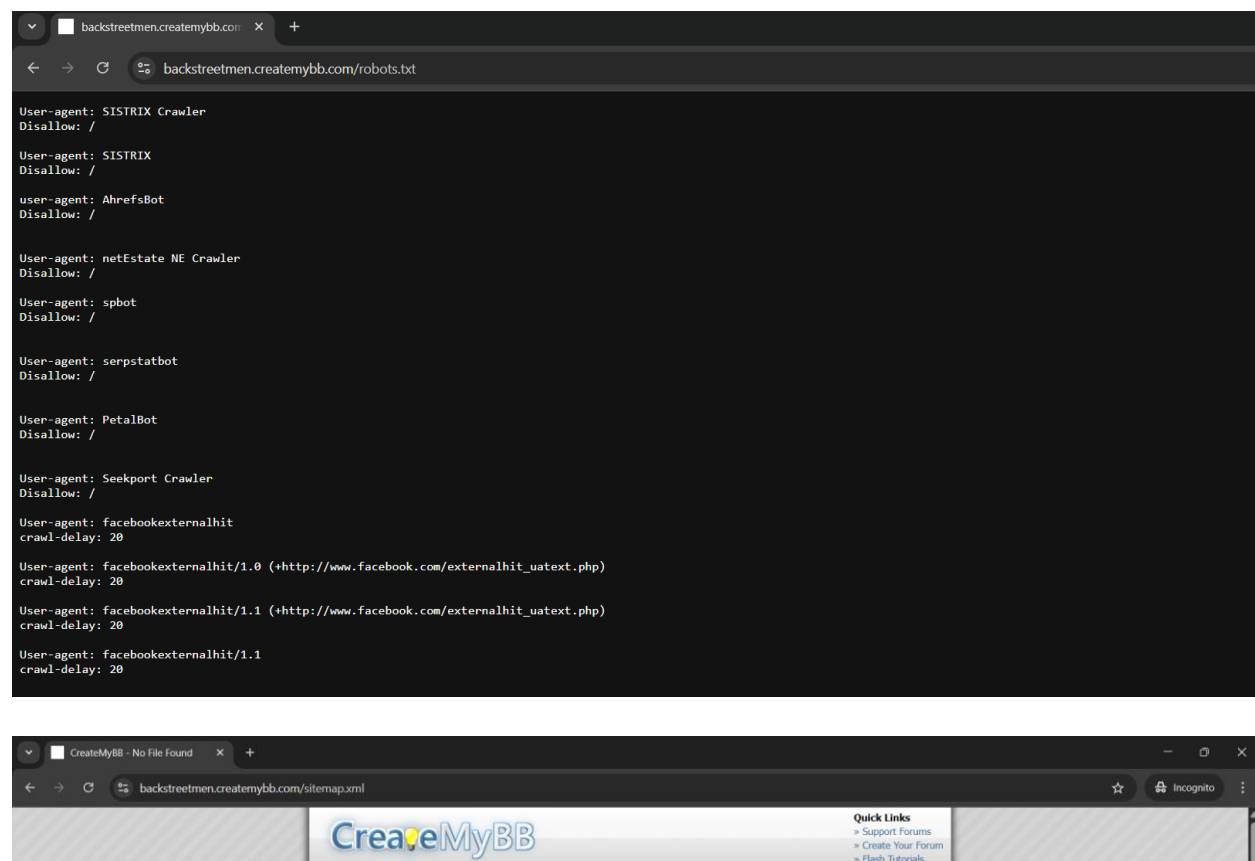
```

According to **OSINT (Open-Source Intelligence) gathering practices** and **covert communication indicators** used in intelligence operations ,covert websites often use:

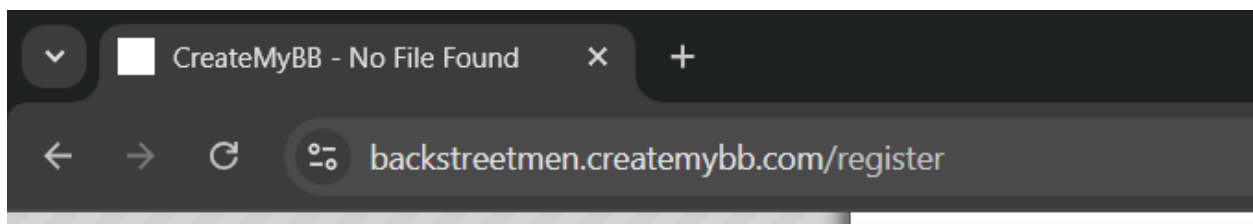
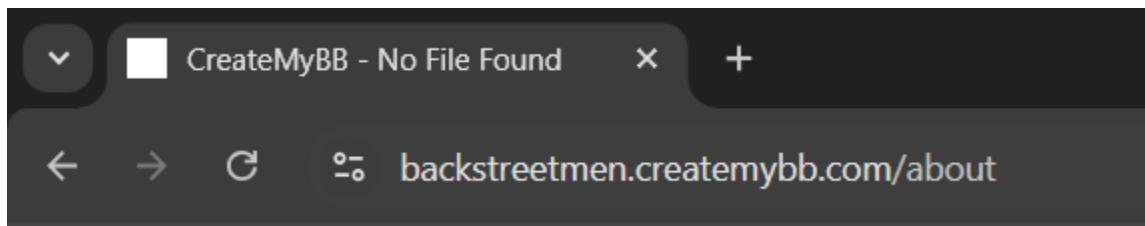
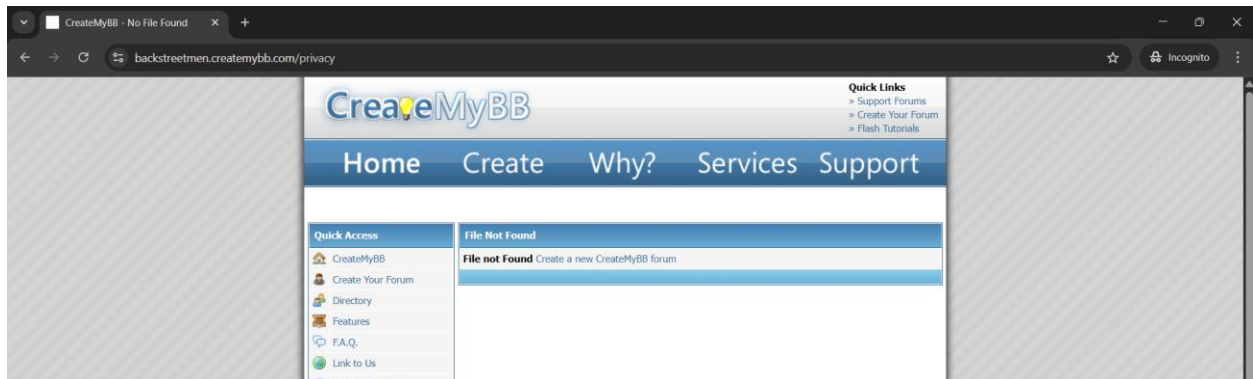
- Non-obvious entry points (modals, triggers)
- Hidden login fields only accessible via JavaScript



The forum is largely inactive, as evidenced by the absence of recent posts and replies. This inactivity suggests reduced visibility and limited external scrutiny.



The site's robots.txt file blocks several well-known crawlers like AhrefsBot, SISTRIX, and serpstatbot—commonly used for SEO and analytics—while allowing Facebook bots with a 20-second delay. This suggests an intent to limit visibility in search engines, a tactic often used by covert or invite-only platforms. Interestingly, it does not block sensitive paths (e.g., /admin) or include a sitemap, which may reflect poor security practices or deliberate concealment of internal paths. This supports the theory that the site is designed for limited, insider-only access.



The site lacks basic public pages like About, Contact, or Register. There is no way to sign up or get support, which suggests it's not meant for public users. This behavior aligns with covert or closed-access platforms.

HTMLJSON

Reverse IP results for createmybb.com (64.79.105.146)

There are 5 domains hosted on this server.
The complete listing of these is below:

DOMAIN NAME	LAST RESOLVED
asomwiluso.info	2012-11-21
createmybb.com	2025-07-14
espilase.info	2012-11-21
sulamoma.info	2012-11-21
terpalnal.info	2012-11-21

Reverse IP lookup showed 5 domains on the same server, but only createmybb.com is still active. The other domains appear to be random, inactive .info sites last seen in 2012. This suggests the server is used for low-profile or possibly covert hosting, with no visible public-facing activity on its neighbors.

URL ↑	MIME Type	From	To	Captures	Duplicates	Uniques
http://backstreetmen.createmybb.com/archive/index.php	text/html	Aug 8, 2007	Jan 22, 2013	19	2	17
http://backstreetmen.createmybb.com/archive/print.css	text/css	Aug 8, 2007	Aug 8, 2007	1	0	1
http://backstreetmen.createmybb.com/archive/screen.css	text/css	Aug 8, 2007	Aug 8, 2007	1	0	1
http://backstreetmen.createmybb.com/css.php?theme=14	text/css	Aug 8, 2007	Aug 8, 2007	1	0	1
http://backstreetmen.createmybb.com/css.php?theme=2	text/css	Jul 17, 2007	Jul 17, 2007	1	0	1
http://backstreetmen.createmybb.com/favicon.ico	image/x-icon	Jun 6, 2023	Aug 29, 2023	6	5	1
http://backstreetmen.createmybb.com/forumsdisplay.php?fid=10	text/html	Aug 8, 2007	Jan 10, 2010	7	0	7
http://backstreetmen.createmybb.com/forumsdisplay.php?fid=16	text/html	Aug 8, 2007	Jan 10, 2010	7	0	7
http://backstreetmen.createmybb.com/forumsdisplay.php?fid=20	text/html	Jul 17, 2007	Jan 10, 2010	7	0	7
http://backstreetmen.createmybb.com/forumsdisplay.php?fid=21	text/html	Aug 8, 2007	Jan 10, 2010	7	0	7
http://backstreetmen.createmybb.com/forumsdisplay.php?fid=24	text/html	Jul 17, 2007	Jan 10, 2010	7	0	7
http://backstreetmen.createmybb.com/forumsdisplay.php?fid=26	text/html	Aug 8, 2007	Jan 10, 2010	8	0	8
http://backstreetmen.createmybb.com/forumsdisplay.php?fid=28	text/html	Jul 17, 2007	Jan 10, 2010	7	2	5
http://backstreetmen.createmybb.com/forumsdisplay.php?fid=33	text/html	Aug 8, 2007	Jan 10, 2010	8	0	8
http://backstreetmen.createmybb.com/forumsdisplay.php?fid=39	text/html	Jul 17, 2007	Jan 10, 2010	7	0	7
http://backstreetmen.createmybb.com/forumsdisplay.php?fid=40	text/html	Jul 17, 2007	Jan 10, 2010	8	0	8
http://backstreetmen.createmybb.com/forumsdisplay.php?fid=41	text/html	Aug 8, 2007	Jan 10, 2010	7	0	7
http://backstreetmen.createmybb.com/forumsdisplay.php?fid=44	text/html	Jul 17, 2007	Jan 10, 2010	7	0	7
http://backstreetmen.createmybb.com/forumsdisplay.php?fid=47	text/html	Aug 8, 2007	Oct 14, 2007	2	0	2
http://backstreetmen.createmybb.com/forumsdisplay.php?fid=50	text/html	Aug 8, 2007	Oct 14, 2007	2	0	2
http://backstreetmen.createmybb.com/forumsdisplay.php?fid=52	text/html	Aug 8, 2007	Jan 10, 2010	8	0	8
http://backstreetmen.createmybb.com/forumsdisplay.php?fid=53	text/html	Jul 17, 2007	Jan 10, 2010	7	0	7

Wayback Machine results show that the site hosted dozens of active public forum sections between 2007 and 2013. However, from 2023 onward, no content was archived except the favicon, suggesting that the site either blocked archiving or removed content entirely. This sudden disappearance supports the theory that the platform transitioned from public to private or covert use, possibly to limit visibility and access.

URL ↑	MIME Type	From	To	Captures	Duplicates	Uniques
http://www.backstreetmen.createmybb.com/80/showthread.php?tid=716&action=lastpost	text/html	Jan 15, 2008	Mar 15, 2008	2	1	1
http://www.backstreetmen.createmybb.com/80/showthread.php?tid=716&pid=3083#pid3083	text/html	Jan 15, 2008	Jan 15, 2008	1	0	1
http://www.backstreetmen.createmybb.com/80/showthread.php?tid=717&action=lastpost	text/html	Jan 24, 2008	Mar 24, 2008	2	1	1
http://www.backstreetmen.createmybb.com/80/showthread.php?tid=717&pid=3085#pid3085	text/html	Jan 24, 2008	Mar 24, 2008	2	0	2
http://www.backstreetmen.createmybb.com/80/showthread.php?tid=718&action=lastpost	text/html	Jan 24, 2008	Jan 10, 2010	4	3	1
http://www.backstreetmen.createmybb.com/80/showthread.php?tid=718&pid=3127#pid3127	text/html	Jan 24, 2008	Jan 10, 2010	4	0	4
http://www.backstreetmen.createmybb.com/80/showthread.php?tid=719&action=lastpost	text/html	Jan 24, 2008	Jan 24, 2008	1	0	1
http://www.backstreetmen.createmybb.com/80/showthread.php?tid=719&pid=3173#pid3173	text/html	Jan 24, 2008	Jan 24, 2008	1	0	1
http://www.backstreetmen.createmybb.com/80/showthread.php?tid=720&action=lastpost	text/html	Jan 24, 2008	Jan 24, 2008	1	0	1
http://www.backstreetmen.createmybb.com/80/showthread.php?tid=720&pid=3181#pid3181	text/html	Jan 24, 2008	Jan 24, 2008	1	0	1
http://www.backstreetmen.createmybb.com/80/showthread.php?tid=721&action=lastpost	text/html	Jan 24, 2008	Jan 24, 2008	1	0	1
http://www.backstreetmen.createmybb.com/80/showthread.php?tid=721&pid=3191#pid3191	text/html	Jan 24, 2008	Jan 24, 2008	1	0	1
http://www.backstreetmen.createmybb.com/80/showthread.php?tid=723&action=lastpost	text/html	Jan 24, 2008	Mar 24, 2008	2	1	1
http://www.backstreetmen.createmybb.com/80/showthread.php?tid=723&pid=3202#pid3202	text/html	Jan 24, 2008	Jan 24, 2008	1	0	1
http://www.backstreetmen.createmybb.com/80/showthread.php?tid=781&pid=3760#pid3760	text/html	May 28, 2008	Jul 18, 2008	4	0	4
http://www.backstreetmen.createmybb.com/80/showthread.php?tid=785&action=lastpost	text/html	May 28, 2008	May 28, 2008	1	0	1
http://www.backstreetmen.createmybb.com/80/showthread.php?tid=785&pid=3779#pid3779	text/html	May 28, 2008	May 28, 2008	1	0	1
http://www.backstreetmen.createmybb.com/80/showthread.php?tid=788&action=lastpost	text/html	May 28, 2008	Jan 10, 2010	2	1	1
http://www.backstreetmen.createmybb.com/80/showthread.php?tid=788&pid=3787#pid3787	text/html	May 28, 2008	Jan 10, 2010	2	0	2
http://www.backstreetmen.createmybb.com/80/showthread.php?tid=789&action=lastpost	text/html	May 28, 2008	Jan 10, 2010	2	1	1
http://www.backstreetmen.createmybb.com/80/showthread.php?tid=789&pid=3786#pid3786	text/html	May 28, 2008	Jan 10, 2010	2	0	2
http://www.backstreetmen.createmybb.com/80/showthread.php?tid=790&action=lastpost	text/html	May 28, 2008	Jul 20, 2008	5	4	1

Archived thread pages from 2008 to 2010 show the forum was once active and public, hosting various user discussions. However, these threads are now hidden or inaccessible, suggesting that the platform has intentionally removed or concealed its content — a known tactic in covert online communities.

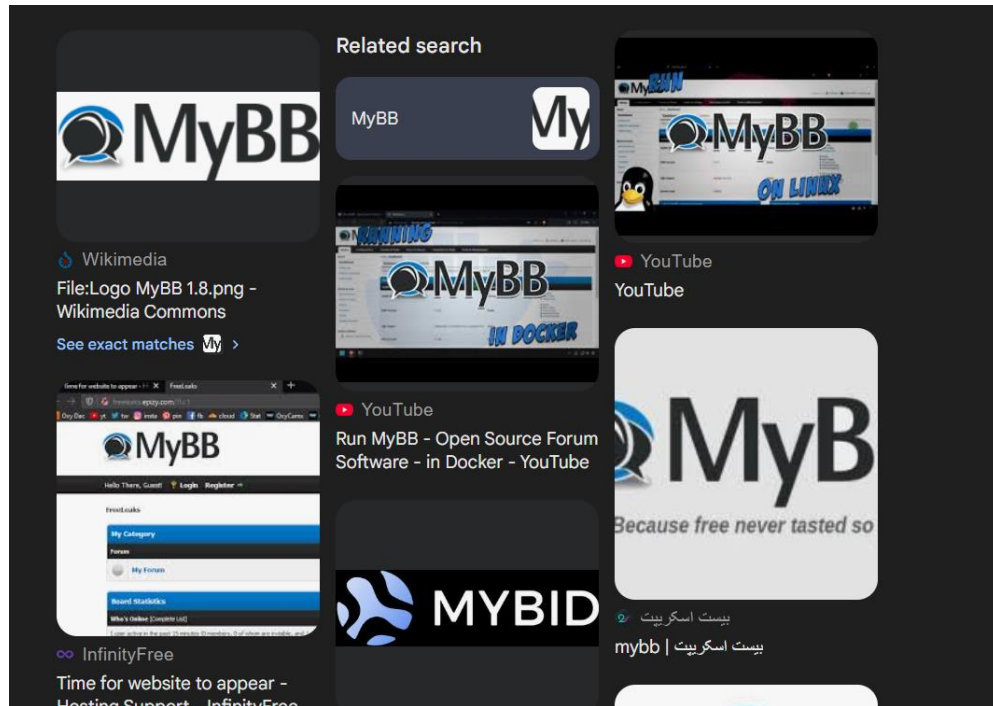
```

view-source:https://backstreetmen.createmybb.com/index.php

var use_xmlhttprequest = "1";
var my_post_key = "b030779618bcd5fe291d237bb8f34a0";
var rootpath = "https://backstreetmen.createmybb.com/";
var imagepath = "https://backstreetmen.createmybb.com/images/";
var yes_confirm = "Yes";
var no_confirm = "No";
var My8Editor = null;
var spinner_image = "https://cdn.smfboards.com/cmbb5/images/spinner.gif";
var spinner = "<img src='" + spinner_image + "' alt='' />";
var modal_index = 9999;

// -->
</script>
<!-- end: headerinclude --><script type="text/javascript" src="https://cdn.smfboards.com/cmbb1832a/emoji.js?ver=1815"></script>
<link rel="stylesheet" href="https://cdn.smfboards.com/cmbb1832a/emoji.css">
<script type="text/javascript">
<!--
    lang.no_new_posts = "Forum Contains No New Posts";
    lang.click_mark_read = "Click to mark this forum as read";
// -->
</script>
<meta name="monetization" content="$ilp.uphold.com/M7K9REeqZah">
</head>
<body>
<!-- start: header -->
<div id="container">
    <a name="top" id="top"></a>
    <div id="header">
        <div id="logo">
            <div class="wrapper">
                <a href="https://backstreetmen.createmybb.com/index.php">
                <!-- start: header_menu_portal -->
                <li><a href="https://backstreetmen.createmybb.com/portal.php" class="portal">Portal</a></li>
                <!-- end: header_menu_portal -->
                <!-- start: header_menu_search -->
                <li><a href="https://backstreetmen.createmybb.com/search.php" class="search">Search</a></li>
                <!-- end: header_menu_search -->
                <!-- start: header_menu_memberlist -->
                <li><a href="https://backstreetmen.createmybb.com/memberlist.php" class="memberlist">Member List</a></li>
                <!-- end: header_menu_memberlist -->
                <!-- start: header_menu_calendar -->
                <li><a href="https://backstreetmen.createmybb.com/calendar.php" class="calendar">Calendar</a></li>
                <!-- end: header_menu_calendar -->
                <li><a href="https://backstreetmen.createmybb.com/misc.php?action=help" class="help">Help</a></li>
            </ol>
        </div>
    </div>

```



Reverse image search of the site's logo (logo.png) reveals it's used across multiple free forums using the same template. This suggests that the site relies on generic, uncustomized assets, a common trait among low-profile or covert forums that avoid identifiable branding.

USER ENUMERATION

<https://backstreetmen.createmybb.com/member.php?action=profile&uid=1>

backstreetmen.createmybb.com/member.php?action=profile&uid=1

LM23WFS- \$129.95 Free Shipping Honda Civic \$135.99 Free Shipping Dr. Joel \$90.55 Free Shipping 2014 Honda \$118.90 Free Shipping 2-3- \$0.99 Free Shipping 1-5 ALL \$1.99 Free Shipping INSTANTLY \$46.99 Free Shipping PARTNERS \$44.50 Free Shipping

Remove Ads

BACKSTREET MEN FORUM (Iranian backstreet boys fan site) ناشر کمپنوی طرفداران یک استریت بویز در ایران

Profile of MATADOR

MATADOR
(Administrator)
★★★★★

Registration Date: 02-24-2007
Date of Birth: 05-14-1983 (42 years old)
Local Time: 07-14-2025 at 07:19 AM
Status: [Offline](#)

MATADOR's Forum Info

Joined:	02-24-2007
Last Visit:	02-06-2012, 11:14 PM
Total Posts:	588 (0.09 posts per day 17.02 percent of total posts) Find All Posts
Total Threads:	310 (0.05 threads per day 44.93 percent of total threads) Find All Threads
Time Spent Online:	4 Days, 27 Minutes
Reputation:	0 [Details]

Forum Team Contact Us backstreetmen Return to Top Lite (Archive) Mode Mark All Forums Read RSS Syndication

English (American) Go

Forum Upgrades | Privacy Policy | Report Forum
Create your own CreateMyBB Board

Current Time: 07-14-2025, 09:19 AM

- Public admin profile still accessible → Poor privacy or intentional transparency for insiders
- High post/thread ratio → Suggests the admin controlled most of the discussion
- No activity since 2012 → Aligns with when the forum content became hidden (as seen in Wayback Machine)
- “Offline” but still visible → Suggests the site is technically operational, just locked down

Learning Outcomes

- Apply **Google Dorking** to identify suspicious or hidden web endpoints.
- Use OSINT techniques (robots.txt, Wayback Machine, WHOIS, reverse IP, etc.) to reveal covert indicators.
- Analyze a site’s **structure, behavior, and content history** to determine potential hidden usage.
- Identify signs of **user enumeration**, weak cookies, hidden forms, and JavaScript-based obfuscation.
- Differentiate **normal websites** from those intentionally designed to avoid detection or public interaction.

Conclusion

The Backstreet Men forum appears dormant on the surface but shows multiple covert indicators:

- **Registration disabled** and login hidden in a modal.
- **Weak cookies, no HTTPS, and JavaScript-injected login** hint at selective access.
- **robots.txt blocks major crawlers**, reducing its visibility.
- **No About, Contact, or Register pages**, and minimal public content.
- **User enumeration** is possible, and archived content from 2007–2013 was later removed or blocked.

These findings indicate that this site may have transitioned from public to **private or covert use**, potentially facilitating restricted communication away from public scrutiny.