

Politiwatch

WhoAreMyRepresentatives.org goes viral

Overview

Between Thursday December 29th and Friday December 30th, 2016, Politiwatch's WhoAreMyRepresentatives.org initiative went viral. It was initially submitted to Reddit's /r/InternetIsBeautiful, however it was rejected for being 'not beautiful and not unique.' After another moderator reviewed the submission, however, it was reinstated. It quickly gained velocity, hitting the front page of Reddit later that night (and receiving roughly 5200 upvotes). It was then picked up by Hacker News, holding their #1 spot for 12 hours and maintaining front-page status on their site for more than 24 hours. Additionally, it was shared on Twitter, and the link <https://whoaremyrepresentatives.org> was mentioned in hundreds of tweets. It was also shared on Facebook, generating a significant amount of activity there as well. Furthermore, the site was featured on ProductHunt.com, among other sites.

Google Rate Limiting

After going viral, the site quickly hit Google's rate limit. Politiwatch quickly reached out to Google, and they promptly increased the limit. There was only 15 minutes of downtime.

Later in the day, Google's rate limit was reinstated. A new API key was requested, and this proved to be successful.

Currently, the site has four API keys that are used in rotation.

WhoAreMyRepresentatives gave detailed representative data to over 200,000 people during its surge, and is maintaining steady traffic. (as of February 1st 2017)

Featured on ProductHunt.com:

<https://www.producthunt.com/posts/whoaremyrepresentatives>

Featured in Spanish useful website lists:

<http://eju.tv/2016/12/5-originales-sitios-web-que-pueden-ser-realmente-utiles/>

<http://nuevodia.com.ve/tecnologia/noticia173729.html>

<https://www.trucosapple.com/5-originales-sitios-web-que-pueden-ser-realmente-utiles/>

<https://www.iosmovil.com/5-originales-sitios-web-que-pueden-ser-realmente-utiles/>

Large amounts of attention on Reddit:

https://www.reddit.com/r/InternetIsBeautiful/comments/5kyn35/enter_y_our_address_and_out_everyone_who/?utm_content=full_comments&utm_medium=user&utm_source=reddit&utm_name=frontpage

<https://www.reddit.com/domain/whoaremyrepresentatives.org/>

Featured on LaunchFeed.com *link unavailable*

#1 on HackerNews.com: <https://news.ycombinator.com/item?id=13282847>

Featured on Progscape:

<http://www.progscape.com/?search=whoaremyrepresentatives.org>

Featured on Veterans Association Watchdog: <https://vawatchdog.org>

Featured on FreeThingy.com: <https://freethingy.com/who-represents-you-in-government/>

Shared by StartupDash:

<https://twitter.com/startupdash/status/814877754864898048>

Shared by LaunchDaily:

<https://twitter.com/LaunchDaily/status/814877156006359041>

Featured on Flipboard *link unavailable*

Featured on Feedly *link unavailable*

Featured on Lesen.io *link unavailable*

Featured on Uforio.com

Featured on BoingBoing.net: <https://boingboing.net/2017/01/03/find-out-who-represents-you-in.html>

Discussed on BackTalk: <http://backtalk.kinja.com/find-your-representatives-for-americans-1790708399>

Mentioned on Bustle: First, if you don't already know who your Congressional representative is, you'll want to look them up — there are a bunch of places to do this, but www.whoaremyrepresentatives.org offers the simplest and most straightforward interface. (<https://www.bustle.com/p/how-to-call-your-representative-urge-them-to-boycott-the-inauguration-31044>)

Featured on the homepage of Yahoo.com (briefly)

Mentioned on TimeOut: <https://www.timeout.com/newyork/blog/15-things-you-can-do-after-the-womens-march-to-stay-engaged-in-nyc-012417>

Featured on TimeOut: <https://www.timeout.com/usa/blog/check-out-this-site-to-easily-find-out-who-your-representatives-are-and-how-to-contact-them-012517#comments>

Responses

Various individuals also reached out to the official Politiwatch email, secure@politiwatch.org. Many were to request corrections to the data (a crowdsourced correction interface has now been implemented), however others were offers to contribute to the project or to meet in person.