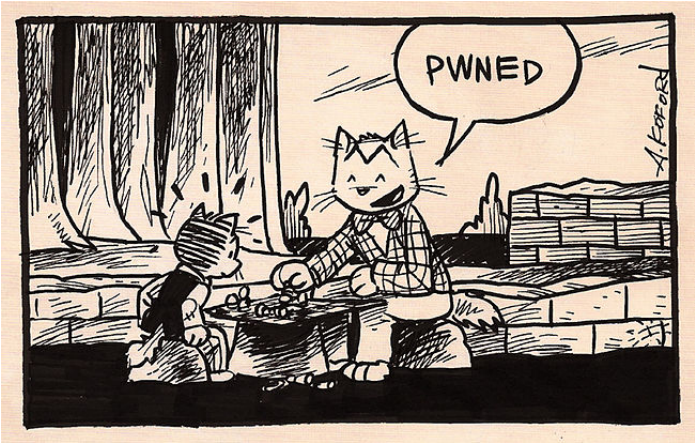# Pwn

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Pwn is a leetspeak slang term derived from the verb *own*,[1][2][3] as meaning to appropriate or to conquer to gain ownership. The term implies domination or humiliation of a rival,[4] used primarily in the Internet-based video game culture to taunt an opponent who has just been soundly defeated (e.g., "You just got pwned!").[5]

In script kiddie jargon, *pwn* means to compromise or control, specifically another computer (server or PC), website, gateway device, or application. It is synonymous with one of the definitions of hacking or cracking, including iOS jailbreaking. The Pwnie Awards are awarded by a group of security researchers.[4]

An example of the term in a *Laugh-Out-Loud Cats* comic strip

Popularity of the term among teenagers rose in the mid-2000s, with the spread from the Internet written form to use in spoken language.[6]

Contents

- 1 Pronunciations
- 2 In culture
- 3 See also
- 4 References
- 5 External links

Pronunciations

Because *pwn* is primarily used in written form, it has no single generally accepted pronunciation: renditions include /ˈoʊn/ ***OHN***, /ˈpwoʊn/ ***PWOHN***, /ˈpoʊn/ ***POHN***, /pəʔˈoʊn/ *pə'-**OHN***, /ˈpɔːn/ ***PAWN***, /piːˈoʊn/ *pee-**OHN***, and /ˈpwiːn/ ***PWEEN***. Originally, *pwn* and its variants were pronounced /ˈoʊn/ in the same way as the verb *own*, the tail of the *p* being "silent". A notable usage of this pronunciation can be seen in the Internet distributed series *Pure Pwnage* (pronounced "pure ownage" /ˈpjʊər ˈoʊnɪdʒ/).[7][8][9][10]

In culture

- Have I Been Pwned?, a website that reports Internet security breaches
- Pwn2Own, a contest
- Pwnage is the online identity of Samuel Anderson-Anderson, the protagonist in Nathan Hill's novel *The Nix* (2017)[11]
- Pwnsauce was the online identity of a leading hacktivist member of LulzSec.

See also

- Gosu
- Hacker (computer security)
- Internet slang
- iOS jailbreaking
- Lulz
- Owned
- PowNed
- Teh
- Über

References

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3. Ludlow, Peter; Wallace, Mark (2007). *The Second Life Herald*. MIT Press. p. 53. ISBN 0-262-12294-4.
4. Naone, Erica (November 2008). "The Flaw at the Heart of the Internet". *Technology Review*. **111** (6). pp. 62–67.
5. Peckham, Aaron (2007). *Mo' Urban Dictionary: Ridonkulous Street Slang Defined*. Andrews McMeel Publishing. p. 230. ISBN 0-7407-6875-1.
6. "Teen slang now following Internet shortcuts" (http://www.ctvnews.ca/teen-slang-now-following-internet -shortcuts-1.228337). *CTV News*. Canada. February 8, 2007. Retrieved October 16, 2017.
7. The word "pwnage" can be pronounced several different ways. The show's creators pronounce it "ownage". "'Pwn' was originally a typo of 'own', because the 'P' is near the 'O' on the keyboard. The person is still trying to say 'own'."
8. *TeamSpeak* chat (December 13, 2005)
9. "Encyclopedia: Definition of: pwn" (https://www.pcmag.com/encyclopedia/term/56903/pwn). *PC Magazine*. Retrieved October 16, 2017.
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11. Hill, Nathan (2017). *The Nix*. ISBN 978-1-5098-0783-3.

External links

- The dictionary definition of pwn at Wiktionary

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