

cock

And perhaps
balls

Teenagers Gaming Transparency Report

Cheese_Addict | u/pomato3008

Forward

The decision to make it clear that I am responsible for the creation of this Transparency Report was made to prevent any form of witch-hunting on various members of the Teenagers Gaming Mod Team.

However, given the situation, I believe that members of the Teenagers Gaming community deserve the basic respect of knowing how this community came to end. Therefore, I felt that it was necessary that such a Transparency Report was produced. Enjoy.

Abstract

In a simplified sense, the complete and utter erasure of Teenagers Gaming was never the intention of a single member of the Teenagers Gaming Moderation Team. Though it may be true thoughts of a hiatus were being passed around, never once did the thought of deleting the community once and for all ever cross the minds of any members of the moderation team.

As far as I know, moderation teams, whether Gaming, Reddit, or Discord, made decisions as a group, with voting systems (utilizing the reaction feature on discord) in place to ensure that a majority would control the outcome of a proposition. Proposals were typed in a designated proposal channel, and the opinions of each member of a team would be valued.

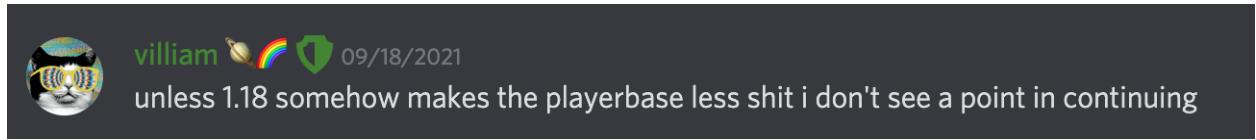
However, nearing the end of 2021, it became clear to me that the democratic nature of these mod teams was more fragile than I had assumed it to be, prompting my retirement.

The days that followed were filled with riveting discussions between members of the Teenagers Gaming mod team, as we did our best to argue against the closure of Teenagers Gaming. Substantial evidence was provided to suggest that such a closure was unnecessary, and there were other solutions to the supposed issue.

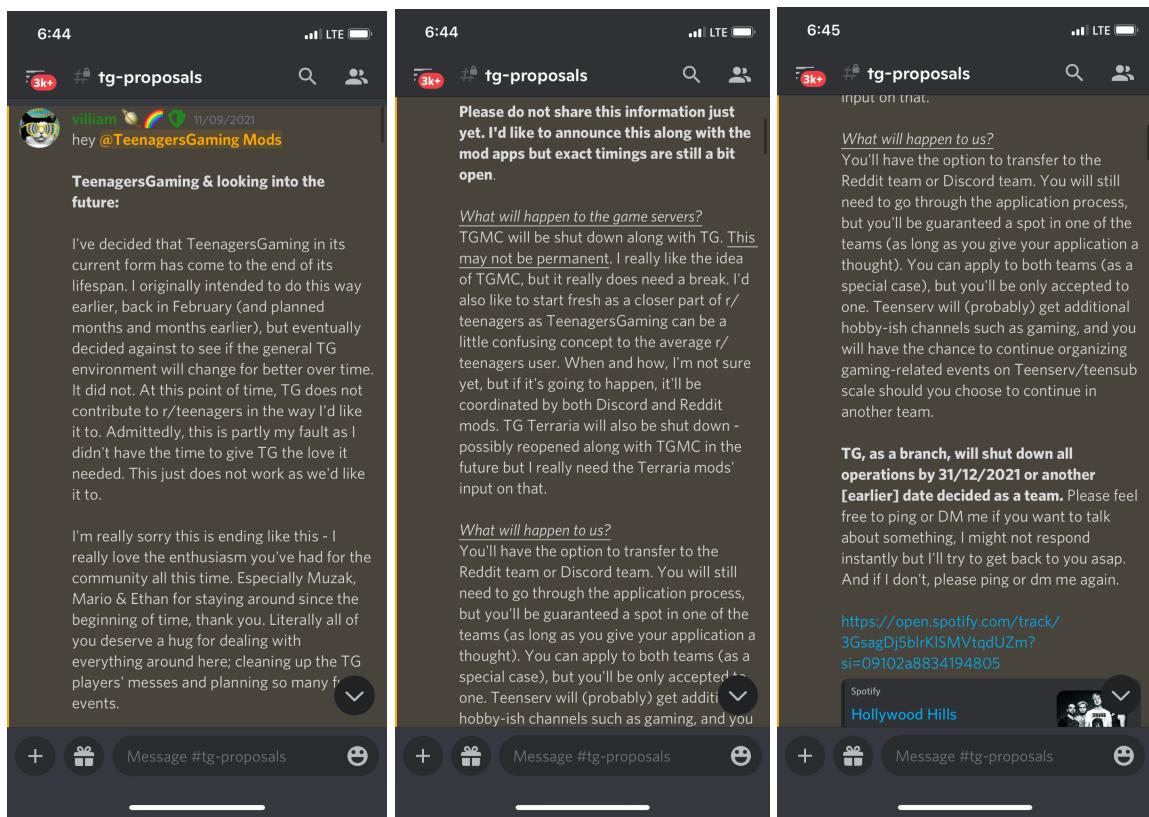
Unfortunately, considering you are reading this report at this point in time, our efforts proved futile, and we were unable to override the decisions of the person responsible.

Finally, please do not interpret this as a statement from any members of the Teenagers Gaming Moderation Team (past and present) but myself.

Part 1



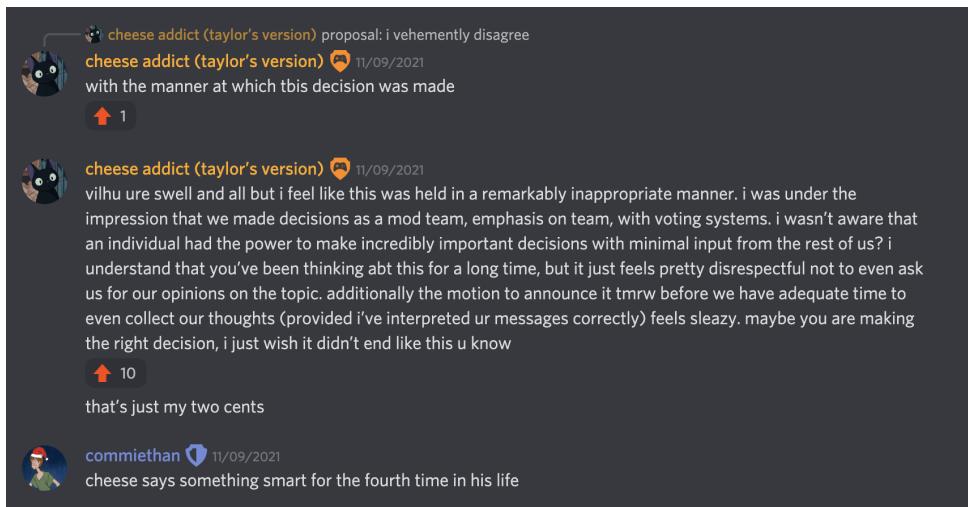
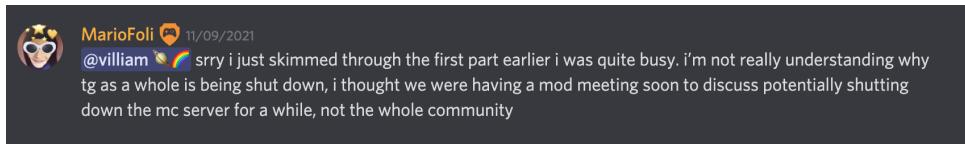
On the 18th of September, 2021, Vilhu, in the midst of a discussion regarding toxicity in the Teenagers Gaming community, made this statement. The statement wasn't taken seriously, and had no depth behind it, so at the time, it wasn't considered a genuine proposal. However, this has since proved to be nifty foreshadowing to later events.



As seen in the above images, on the 9th of November 2021, I woke up to a “proposal” from Vilhu to us, where he stated his position on the future of Teenagers Gaming. The message was not phrased in a manner that suggested it was up for debate, and prior to this proposal, there was no discussion of any sort involving anyone on the topic of closing Teenagers Gaming.

Part 2

As soon as the message was sent, all online moderators were quick to respond to the “proposal” with their own opinions. As one would expect, most were not at all in favour of the motion to end Teenagers Gaming. A certain moderator, who’s name I am choosing to omit, was the first one to voice a contrasting opinion, and despite the result, I am grateful to them for this.



The above images depict a select number of opposing arguments, chosen solely because most arguments were difficult to encapsulate within one screenshot, as they are often found within conversations with other moderators.

I would like to highlight that I no longer believe Vilhu is “swell and all”

Part 3

 cheese addict (taylor's version) vilhu ure swell and all but i feel like this was held in a remarkably inappropriate manner. i wa...
william 🌈 11/10/2021

i was under the impression that we made decisions as a mod team, emphasis on team, with voting systems.

Yes. That's how it's been for a long time and will continue to be - r/teenagers may not be democratic, but I value democracy in teamwork wherever I can.

i wasn't aware that an individual had the power to make incredibly important decisions with minimal input from the rest of us?

Now you are. While I value democracy, I usually value my own experience and thoughts over it. Especially when it comes to important decisions that have a major impact on the community. That's my job, after all.

i understand that you've been thinking abt this for a long time, but it just feels pretty disrespectful not to even ask us for our opinions on the topic

Fair.

additionally the motion to announce it tmrw before we have adequate time to even collect our thoughts (provided i've interpreted ur messages correctly) feels sleazy.

Also fair. Lumin is ok with a few more days of time to think.

This message was sent on the 10th of November 2021 in response to my message. Each point of mine was responded to in a manner I felt was disappointing to say the least. Upon reading this response, I came to the understanding that r/teenagers was not the democratic institution I had thought it to be. Contradicting statements regarding his supposed valuing of democracy created further confusion for the mod team, and ultimately, all that was achieved from our initial rebuttal was a few day's delay.

 @william 🌈 > i was under the impression that we made decisions as a mod team, emphasis on team, with voting systems. ...
Wtnautical 🌈 11/10/2021

could elaborate on/ tell us what you mean by

TG does not contribute to r/teenagers the way I'd like it to

It seems like a very undetailed reason for wanting to end TG, and I personally think we deserve to know the specific points of contention you have. At the very least it would help give us a more detailed understanding, particularly since we havent had an opportunity to discuss it. (edited)

 MarioFoli 🎮 11/10/2021

^ beyond just this

whats the endgame goal for tg / tgmc ? how is it different than what tg currently is ? why is the termination of the branch necessary to get to that goal ?

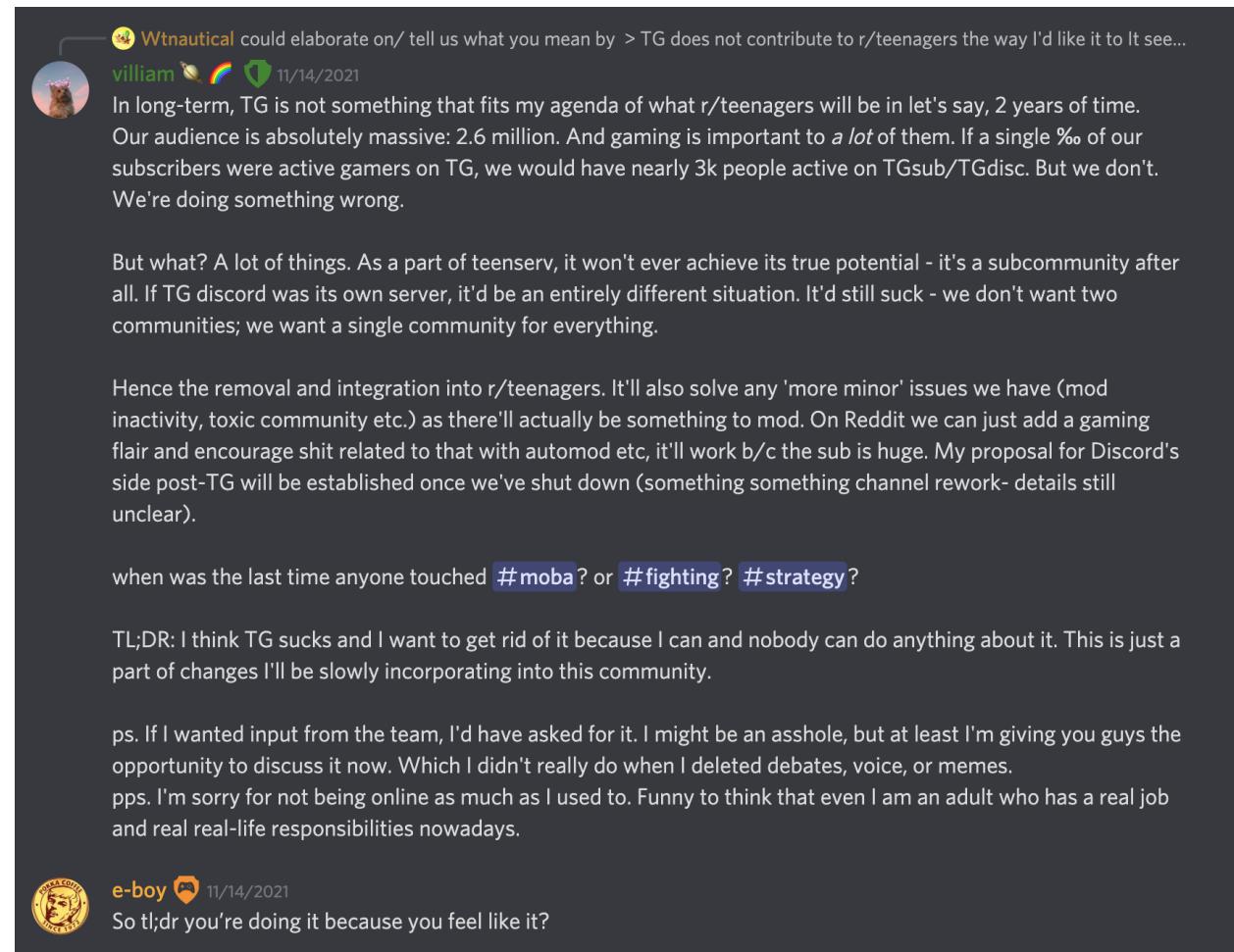
every single person here cares deeply about teenagers / tg, we all have tons of awesome memories on tg (n) and we all became moderators in part to help others have awesome memories on here. some of us thought that tgmc (not tg as a whole) was no longer fulfilling that role as well as it could, so we proposed a mod meeting to talk about it

i don't disagree with the fact tg needs some changes, but i don't think termination is the right way to go about this. (edited)

As expected, the confusion was met with further clarifying questions from other members of the team, as calls for elaboration as well as further transparency felt justified.

Part 4

Until the 14th of November 2021, there was no response from Vilhu, leaving the team in a state of disarray, as the fate of Teenagers Gaming seemed to hang in limbo. We couldn't tell if our responses had been successful in deterring the termination effects, or if at any moment Vilhu would make the announcement.



A screenshot of a Reddit comment thread. The first comment is from user 'Wtnautical' (@Wtnautical) on 11/14/2021. They ask about the fate of TG. User 'villiam' (@villiam) replies, stating that TG is not something that fits their agenda and that their audience is massive (2.6 million). They mention that if TG were its own server, it would have nearly 3k active users. They conclude by saying they're doing something wrong. Below this, another user asks when the last time anyone touched #moba, #fighting, or #strategy. A user 'e-boy' (@e-boy) responds, saying they think TG sucks and want to get rid of it because nobody can do anything about it. They also mention they deleted debates, voice, and memes. They apologize for not being online as much and say they have real responsibilities. Their profile picture features a coffee cup and the text 'MAX COFFEE SINCE 1975'.

Wtnautical could elaborate on/ tell us what you mean by > TG does not contribute to r/teenagers the way I'd like it to It see...
villiam 11/14/2021

In long-term, TG is not something that fits my agenda of what r/teenagers will be in let's say, 2 years of time. Our audience is absolutely massive: 2.6 million. And gaming is important to *a lot* of them. If a single % of our subscribers were active gamers on TG, we would have nearly 3k people active on TGsub/TGdisc. But we don't. We're doing something wrong.

But what? A lot of things. As a part of teenserv, it won't ever achieve its true potential - it's a subcommunity after all. If TG discord was its own server, it'd be an entirely different situation. It'd still suck - we don't want two communities; we want a single community for everything.

Hence the removal and integration into r/teenagers. It'll also solve any 'more minor' issues we have (mod inactivity, toxic community etc.) as there'll actually be something to mod. On Reddit we can just add a gaming flair and encourage shit related to that with automod etc, it'll work b/c the sub is huge. My proposal for Discord's side post-TG will be established once we've shut down (something something channel rework- details still unclear).

when was the last time anyone touched **#moba?** or **#fighting?** **#strategy?**

TL;DR: I think TG sucks and I want to get rid of it because I can and nobody can do anything about it. This is just a part of changes I'll be slowly incorporating into this community.

ps. If I wanted input from the team, I'd have asked for it. I might be an asshole, but at least I'm giving you guys the opportunity to discuss it now. Which I didn't really do when I deleted debates, voice, or memes.
pps. I'm sorry for not being online as much as I used to. Funny to think that even I am an adult who has a real job and real real-life responsibilities nowadays.

e-boy 11/14/2021
So tl;dr you're doing it because you feel like it?

Feel free to interpret this response however you'd like.

Part 5

e-boy 11/14/2021
agreed

@villiam In long-term, TG is not something that fits my agenda of what r/teenagers will be in let's say, 2 years of time. ...
MarioFoli 11/14/2021
so what *will* teenagers be in 2 years time? what is your current vision for the integration of tg into teenagers & teenserv?

also we all understand you have irl responsibilities, all of us do too. i feel we just expected you to chat with us a bit, at least pretend like you respect us and the ungodly amount of time and effort we've put into this community

i'm extremely disappointed in how you've handled this, and i'm sure others are too. (edited)

commiethan 11/14/2021
I just don't quite understand why we have to go with the nuclear option first (especially with no consultation from team). We have a mod meeting coming up, you should at least allow us to discuss alternatives on how to fix the state of TG aside from removing the near decade-old community altogether.

e-boy So tl;dr you're doing it because you feel like it?
villiam 11/14/2021
Basically yes.
how to fix the state of TG aside from removing the near decade-old community altogether.
This has been done and tried ever since TGN, I'm not sure what makes this situation any different. I'm just doing what Caro, understandably, could not do.

Several moderators were quick to respond to this, and fortunately, they weren't met with days of stonewalling this time. It was clear that many were reaching their breaking points. Vilhu's determination to terminate Teenagers Gaming was made obvious to us, and the situation felt increasingly dire.

muzak23 11/14/2021
As a part of teenserv, it won't ever achieve its true potential - it's a subcommunity after all. If TG discord was its own server, it'd be an entirely different situation. It'd still suck - we don't want two communities; we want a single community for everything.
What is your specific plan for this? How could TG be an actual part of the subreddit?

On Reddit we can just add a gaming flair and encourage shit related to that with automod etc, it'll work b/c the sub is huge.
Don't we do this?

when was the last time anyone touched moba? or fighting? strategy?
Yeah that one is fair. Personally I am in agreement of removing a fair number of TG channels, but definitely *not* all like you are suggesting.
Removing the whole branch is, for lack of a better term, lazy.

TL;DR: I think TG sucks and I want to get rid of it because I can and nobody can do anything about it. This is just a part of changes I'll be slowly incorporating into this community.
lol

ps. If I wanted input from the team, I'd have asked for it. I might be an asshole, but at least I'm giving you guys the opportunity to discuss it now. Which I didn't really do when I deleted debates, voice, or memes.
wait you're actually serious?

This has been done and tried ever since TGN, I'm not sure what makes this situation any different. I'm just doing what Caro, understandably, could not do.
I consider the change from TGN to TG to be a success, we created a lot of valuable moments and provided a good place to play games for years, though inactivity has reached a critical point. I get your experience with the merger was quite limited, but you seem to misunderstand that this was trying to strike down gaming or something? Plus the change was with a large amount of talking with us and caro. Yes, she did make the decision, but we discussed it and agreed on a better implementation and we did it with the mods' support.
Doing this without any of us agreeing is probably a sign there's issues. (edited)

i dont know yet. currently, I'd imagine something like this within 1-2 months.
What is the concrete plan with the subreddit integration, because just adding pinned posts or automod stuff is what we are already doing, and if we do it there, it would help TG as it is right now. I don't see what you could mean to integrate into the sub that wouldn't be helpful to us already (thus making a complete dissolution not really a good idea yet).

Part 6

After this brief skirmish, there was no response from Vilhu until the 30th of November. As one can assume, it was impossible to predict when, if ever, he would respond. As previously stated, we feared that he may just drop the announcement at any given point, an action I found hard to put past him. Of course, there was a sense of desperate hopefulness within the silence, ever hopeful that he would change his mind, and everything would go back to normal. Nevertheless, it wasn't to be.

muzak23 > As a part of teenserv, it won't ever achieve its true potential - it's a subcommunity after all. If TG discord was its own server, it'd be an entirely different situation. It'd still suck ...
Wtnautical 11/30/2021
@villiam 🐱🌈 ig you didn't see this but it's been here for 16 days without a response

villiam 🐱🌈 11/30/2021
no response is also a response - but noted

@villiam 🐱🌈 no response is also a response - but noted
Wtnautical 11/30/2021
My apologies, I was just following what you told us to do on the 8th
might not respond instantly but I'll try to get back to you asap. And if I don't, please ping or dm me again.
<https://open.spotify.com/track/3GisagD5birK1SMVtqdUZm?si=09f02a8834194805>

+ Message #tg-proposals

villiam 🐱🌈 11/30/2021
watch it

@villiam 🐱🌈 watch it
Wtnautical 11/30/2021
Sorry, I should have phrased that more politely. But if you don't want to respond to something or don't feel that it's worth responding to please tell us so that we don't get confused like this.

villiam 🐱🌈 11/30/2021
i forgot to respond pretty often but even more often i don't reply. but that is fair enough and i will try to keep that in mind

e-boy 11/30/2021
I mean I get not having a response to stuff sometimes, but unfortunately a consequence of being in a leadership position is that you really need to respond to things, especially internal matters.
Not responding to users is one thing, that isn't the end of the world although I personally believe in responding when reasonable
But the fact of the matter is that as a team lead you really do need to have a response, especially when making major changes
That's simply part of being any sort of leader

villiam 🐱🌈 11/30/2021
is this a joke
or am i missing something
if i decide something, let you guys know about it and take feedback on it, acknowledge the feedback, there's zero need for me to comment on passive-aggressive replies. i do not want your guidance on how to lead this community. if i want it, i'll ask for it. thank you very much and never fucking ever do that again.

1
holy shit i am glad my new meds have killed my emotions

After a prompt, Vilhu finally returned to the channel, and had this exchange with an undisclosed moderator, and then with ABlazingEBoy. Once again, feel free to interpret this however you'd like.

Part 7

It was upon waking up to the previous exchange did I come to the realization that I wanted nothing to do with a moderation team where this was the sort of attitude our superior treated us with.

muzak23 11/30/2021
Vilhu please don't think I'm being hostile here, but writing "i do not want your guidance on how to lead this community" is not how r/teenagers has been run, and I really hope I don't see it go that way. We all are here with a common purpose here, we just want to give teens a safe, fun place to hang out, with TG being specifically for games. We're not trying to attack you, we want to work with you! We wantaddress your concerns, and make the community the best it can be, whatever form it ends up taking. If you want to discuss specifics of your plan we'd love to discuss it! Thanks. (edited)

villiam 11/30/2021
i do not

My disdain was further exemplified by this brief exchange between muzak23 and Vilhu, where it became incredibly clear to me that our opinions held no value to Vilhu, and at this point, there was nothing we could say to sway him.

MarioFoli 11/30/2021
so your plan right now is to shut tg and all servers down, have every tg mod retire or switch to another branch, then what? what's like, the plan for everything after that? i feel like this would have been a lot easier of a transition if we had a plan for the actual transition

Brainytiggy 11/30/2021
^
It would be really nice to know what the plan is. I haven't been active over the last few months but I still think shutting down tg is a bad idea and I don't really think anyone other than you finds it a good idea so can we get an explanation on why you think it's a good idea please?

cheese addict (taylor's version) 11/30/2021
idk why you're demanding respect whilst simultaneously disrespecting each and every one of us

December 1, 2021

Brainytiggy ^ It would be really nice to know what the plan is. I haven't been active over the last few months but I still think shutting down tg is a bad idea and I don't really think anyone other...
villiam 12/01/2021
these msgs sum it up p much <https://canary.discord.com/channels/143821685726904320/830169052412117022/907403909935562782>
<https://canary.discord.com/channels/143821685726904320/830169052412117022/909145248066846801>
I haven't made any detailed plans yet b/c 1) we'll want to give time for the tg community to dissolve 2) after that, we can start thinking what'd be the best way to incorporate gaming themes into r/teenagers. == I have a long-term goal, a long-term plan - a lot of details can change in a month or three.

Once again, more clarification was asked for, as well as a somewhat snide comment from me that I struggle to regret. By this point, we had reached December 2021, and we still felt like no progress had been made. Fortunately, a slightly deeper insight into Vilhu's plans were provided, I suppose.

Part 8

Until the new mods announcement was made, we were all under the impression that the closure of Teenagers Gaming would be announced along with this, giving us a period of time to have a sending off party. Yet when the announcement came out, there was a distinct lack of any Teenagers Gaming related information, excluding the lack of new Teenagers Gaming mods. My retirement was supposedly imminent, so I dared to poke the tiger with the stick, and privately ask Vilhu for an update.

The screenshot shows a messaging interface with two messages. The first message is from 'Cheese_Addict' on December 22, 2021, asking for updates on TG + retirement. The second message is from 'Vilhu' on December 23, 2021, stating they will handle the retirement along with others scheduled at the end of the month, noting the TG server contract ends on the 31st.

December 22, 2021

Cheese_Addict 12/22/2021
updates on tg + retirement pls?

December 23, 2021

Vilhu 12/23/2021
i'll handle your retirement along with others scheduled at the end of this month! tg server contract is ending on the 31st

As seen, his final plan, despite our best efforts, was to close Teenagers Gaming, without any warning for the general userbase mind you, on the 31st of December 2021.

To all the people I've met along the way,

Thank you.

With love,

Cheese_Addict

