



**r/anime** • 6 yr. ago  
iBzOtaku



## Bringing fansubs back on MAL

Misc.

Last week, I [posted](#) an archive of MAL fansub data. Today, I'm sharing a [userscript](#) that displays the archived fansub info on MAL anime pages, exactly like it used to be before they removed it.

The script relies on an API ([source](#)) that I've built (and hosting). The API pulls data from the archive so this will only display fansub data that was on MAL until the archiving date (September 25, 2018). I won't be adding to this data. I made this to make my transition to anidb easier (their fansub ratings are lacking and I couldn't give up on MAL's ratings). And I'm sharing because why not :)

~~Note that, to keep the server from overloading, this script doesn't load the data automatically when you visit an anime page. You have to click the "load" link at the bottom to load the data. This way, the server is only bothered when you need the data. Sorry if this is annoying. I'm hosting the api on a \$5/month DigitalOcean server. No idea how much load it can handle (and how many of you will end up using the api regularly): see edit~~



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↑ 599 ↓

💬 86



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**mediumdeviation** • 6y ago •

On line 12 you're escaping the ID param. This is good, but you're already using prepared statement, so doing this will double escape the input. This is unlikely to actually be an issue because I assume the ID is a number and is unlikely to have quotation marks.

Also you're doing a query in a while loop where you could be doing a JOIN for efficiency. Again, unlikely to be an actual issue because I assume `showid` is unique so the query will likely only return zero or one row, but it's best to write better queries.

I think you underestimate how much power a \$5 DO server has. I think you can have the script automatically pull the data, especially if you add caching to both the server and the script.

⊖ ↑ 70 ↓ ...



**mrbull3tproof** • 6y ago •

Totally.

Like I know what you're talking about.



↑ 36 ↓ ...



**iBzOtaku** OP • 6y ago •

hahaha

not a programmer?

⊖ ↑ 15 ↓ ...



**mrbull3tproof** • 6y ago • Edited 6y ago •

No chance dude.

My primary school had 1 (one) old IBM computer, then untill age of 20 I didn't have any contact with PC's (well maybe a couple times I had a chance to play on my friend's one) and then we bought one for our home when I was 21 (we had to take finance on it even though it was bulit mainly with low end components)), I think, and still we had to use it not too much bc of electricity cost.

Unfortunatelyly we're coming from two different worlds where people have completely different life starts and chances but I guess it would be cool to learn some programming stuff when I was younger.

⊖ ↑ 8 ↓ ...



**iBzOtaku** OP • 6y ago •

If you're interested, you can start programming late in life as well. Its not that hard to get started.

↑ 5 ↓ ...



**iBzOtaku** OP • 6y ago •

I'm escaping because this is my first time doing prepared statements (this is my first public project). I did read people say I don't need *any* sanitization when doing prepared statements but I just felt like adding it wouldn't hurt.

I hate JOINS. I know I'm missing out on performance gains and efficiency but brushing up on JOINS for this project didn't seem necessary.

Again, I did read people benchmarking the \$5 server but seeing as how sloppy/inefficient my code is and knowing that I haven't done any indexing or other performance stuff on db side, I didn't want to risk downtime. Also, I have read about redis and other caching solutions but have 0 experience with them. I don't think I could setup any caching fast enough if the server went down.

Thanks you so much for reading the code and giving these suggestions.

⊖ ↑ 13 ↓ ...



**anttirt** • 6y ago •

Prepared statements are database-protocol-level constructs. This means that the variable is never actually substituted into the query *string* itself by anyone! Not by PHP, and not my MySQL either. Instead, the database software parses the query with the placeholders into an in-memory structure, and then uses the separately supplied parameters when actually executing the query.

The step where SQL injection vulnerabilities happen—string concatenation—is thus no longer present at all. Indeed this is the most foolproof way of fixing vulnerabilities: instead of trying to guard the vulnerable part, simply get rid of it entirely. :)

Because of this escaping prepared statement arguments provides no value, and can cause problems instead (for example quotes are not processed so you may end up with strings in the database that themselves contain quotes.)

↑ 19 ↓ ...



**ratchetfreak** • 6y ago •

Prepared statements separate data (the parameters) from code (the statement). Using concatenation to embed the (user supplied) parameters into statements is equivalent to using `eval()` on untrusted code. Made worse because the escape syntax in SQL isn't straightforward.

↑ 1 ↓ ...



**AnActualPlatypus** • 6y ago •

Every passing day I realize how much I'm starting to miss old-school, QUALITY fansubs. You know, when people used to put animations on attack lines in shounen anime. When they actually subbed the OP and ED.

⊖ ↑ 80 ↓ ...



**Zilveari** • 6y ago •

I was a QCer and timer for a time. There was nothing quite like rewatching the same episode a half dozen times looking for errors, or spending hours getting the timing of every line correct including scene timing and shifts.

It's better when people do it for passion, as opposed to profit.

↑ 39 ↓ ...



**Antimager** • 6y ago •

Good typesetting is something that official subs will never implement (because it takes too much time? I really don't know). I don't really watch many airing show nowadays, but whenever someone posts a screenshot of a scene that just overlaps text over text, I get a fucking aneurysm. Can't imagine paying for official subs and getting a worse product. That's not how it should be.


⊖ ↑ 34 ↓ ...



**qgustavor** • 6y ago •

Their player support the same features as other players, so it's not a problem. I think the problem is that the demand is low and the cost is high. But there are some official subs that at least try being better: while Crunchyroll English subtitles [are like this](#) the Brazilian Portuguese [are like this](#).

⊖ ↑ 19 ↓ ...

 **TheCoreh** • 6y ago • Edited 6y ago •

My experience with Brazillian Crunchyroll subs has been that the typesetting is generally better, but the translations are generally worse.

For a dialogue-heavy series with complicated concepts like Monogatari, at least 30% of the time I have NO IDEA what the hell they're actually talking about because the subs basically devolve into giberish.


For other shows this is less noticable, but can be a problem during important exposition moments. On this season of Attack on Titan there were at least two instances where I had to switch to English during major plot relevant portions because the translations didn't make any sense. For some of the shows I also think they re-translate the English subs, for instance, they *also* got the whole "Internship"/"Workplace Experience" concepts backwards for My Hero Academia, which probably means they were translating the translation.

↑ 9 ↓ ...

 **Lunaristics** • 6y ago •

The only time I enjoyed the animations on attack lines was for One Piece. Every other group that did it for other shows are over the top, imo. Fairy Tale had some pretty good ones at times too. But they can be distracting.

↑ 0 ↓ ...

 **tiny\_nipples** • 6y ago •

Thanks a lot for doing this. Anime becoming BIG BUSINESS has given a lot of people selective amnesia regarding the blood, sweat and tears of fansubbers, but I'm glad you still remember.

⊖ ↑ 156 ↓ ...

 **Mr\_Moe** • 6y ago •

Pepperidge Farm remembers

⊖ ↑ 33 ↓ ...

 **Stergeary** • 6y ago •

Fansubs: Come for the translations, stay for the drama.

⊖ ↑ 12 ↓ ...

 **Mr\_Moe** • 6y ago •

Remember gg Code Geass? They still around? Good times

⊖ ↑ 4 ↓ ...

 **Stergeary** • 6y ago •

TL Note: Schneizel just made an illegal move...

↑ 3 ↓ ...

 **check\_my\_mids** • 6y ago •

code geass sundays were so fun.

↑ 2 ↓ ...



**ProfessorStein** • 6y ago •

I worked with them a little bit during it and posted on /a/ during it.

I miss the people involved.

↑ 2 ↓ ...



**ToastyMozart** • 6y ago • Edited 6y ago •

Bigshot anime-san forgettin' its roots, turning it's back on the internet 'hood.

↑ 12 ↓ ...



**Mystic8ball** • 6y ago •

This is going to be pretty much required for anyone who wants to watch older anime that never got a proper western release, thanks for the work!

⊖ ↑ 54 ↓ ...



**Kryomaani** • 6y ago •

Not to mention that for many newer releases that have official subs, a lot of the time the official subs are very sub-par (har har). Fansubbers generally put more effort into the translation and especially the typesetting and signs.

⊖ ↑ 37 ↓ ...



**Luxorcism** • 6y ago •

Even with some newer shows, everyone preferred the fansubs---like with Revue Starlight, the official HiDive subs were terrible. I switched to using the fansubs based on word-of-mouth and not a database like MAL's.

MAL's fansub listings would've been fantastic to have if the site were working during Starlight's run.

↑ 6 ↓ ...



**Mystic8ball** • 6y ago • Edited 6y ago •

Its a mixed bag to be honest, a good chunk of fansubs were good but there were a looooot shitty ones too. Shit like writing "you *baka*" instead of "you idiot" wasn't that uncommon. Hell I think the version of Full Metal Alchemist 2003 i saw back in the day kept honorfics despite them being out of place in such a western setting.

That's why this list is so important! People need a way to find out which fansubbed releases were good or bad.

⊖ ↑ 16 ↓ ...



**qgustavor** • 6y ago •

People need a way to find out which fansubbed releases were good or bad.

I used fansub.co a lot for that and now it's gone. I preferred it than user reviews because it seemed to be less biased.

↑ 7 ↓ ...



[deleted] • 6y ago •

i remember watching saints seiya someone said your power is like a donut compared to an ant.

↑ 3 ↓ ...



meninosousa • 6y ago •

i know this was already mentioned (and answered by OP) but yeah, stop being a pleb and move to anidb

the fansub rating was never a thing (even in the anime scene) since everybody knew that gg was trolling, UTW/SS/Eclipse/FF/etc were the best and HorribleSubs were the...is there a word for them? so at the end of the day, (almost) nobody rated fansubs.

The approach of MAL, on the other hand, was to rate every fucking thing, to the point of even rate the compatibility of anime lists between users. Sorry to tell you but MAL is dead and their excuse of dropping the fansub scene is shit. But right now their approach is actually good since the fansubs ratings are actually helpful, since right now you have a lot.

So you have 2 options:

keep the pleb system, the dying MAL.

or, if you are interested, i guess you can try to import that data (which could really useful) to aniDB. you can try to talk with them on their IRC or anywhere else. That data is useful, even if just for fun

⊖ ↑ 19 ↓ ...



prid13 • 6y ago •

I'd very much like to use aniDB but am appalled by the UI and huge amount of information thrown at my face. I need something a little bit more manageable, and friendlier, lol

↑ 2 ↓ ...



dmmetra • 6y ago •

Thank you for all you've done. When I saw that MAL was removing the fansub data I too wanted to save it so I asked a friend of mine to try to collect and organize the data but then MAL removed everything. It was only thanks to you archiving the info that he was able to finish organizing it and since you're sharing your work on this I'll share his.

[Here](#) is a link to his work. It's just a text file organized by show with their fansub groups and fansub ratings.

And [Here](#) is a link to his Github if anyone wants to use it for any other fansub info.

⊖ ↑ 5 ↓ ...

 **iBzOtaku** OP • 6y ago •

Thanks. I'll look into it.

↑ 1 ↓ ...

 **mutsuto** • 6y ago •

I'm not used to not using greasyfork for userscripts, if you make a revision how can I update my script other than manually?

⊖ ↑ 4 ↓ ...

 **iBzOtaku** OP • 6y ago •

I don't intend to update the script but yes, if anything changes, you'll have to do it manually. I'll let you know if anything changes.

⊖ ↑ 3 ↓ ...

 **mutsuto** • 6y ago •

Ty for your work. [I've added it to my list.](#)

↑ 2 ↓ ...

 **mutsuto** • 6y ago •

I had another though.

I think the script should check for the `date first aired` of the anime page we're on, and if it's after the date when the fansub database backup was made then it should give an error message saying that [and avoid pinging your server for data that isn't there] where the list would be shown.

Also, on pages older than that date but have zero fansubs in the database there should be a separate error message saying there were none on record or what have you.

---

Another idea might be to import data from AniDB's extensive fansub documents. But that's a whole other thing that's not needed for this.

Just an idea, but I mainly wanted to mention the above 2.

⊖ ↑ 1 ↓ ...

 **iBzOtaku** OP • 6y ago •

I considered methods to avoid pinging the server needlessly but turns out the server can handle the traffic just fine.

As for anidb, sorry but I don't intend to extend this tool. I only created it to help me move on to anidb.

↑ 2 ↓ ...

 **mutsuto** • 6y ago •

Ok, I've just used it for the first time and I already have feedback.

[I forgot it looked like this.](#)

Because, I use the [MAL Enhancement](#) which [allows you to hide non-english fansubs](#) from the display hugely compacting the list.

Would it be feasible to make your script compatible with this other script + option? Is that possible. Else, build this very feature into your script?

⊖ ↑ 1 ↓ ...



**iBzOtaku** OP • 6y ago •

I can look into changing my script. You want an option to hide non English stuff?

⊖ ↑ 2 ↓ ...



**mutsuto** • 6y ago •

Yea.

I'm aware that saved settings / tick boxes can be a pain w/ userscripts, so changing the settings via something in the actual code itself would be good with myself [like this](#) -> [this](#), like enabling an additional subroutine by changing a variable from `0` -> `1`, or `0` ->

English ?

↑ 1 ↓ ...

⊕ 6 more replies



**JoJo\_Pose** • 6y ago •

Excellent work dude. I was willing to stick with MAL through all the issues theyve been having - but this? Removing such a useful section by choice was such a shit move.

↑ 4 ↓ ...



**PogCheese** • 6y ago •

Thanks a lot

↑ 3 ↓ ...



**[deleted]** • 6y ago •

nice

↑ 8 ↓ ...



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**andehh\_** • 6y ago •

Works great, thanks.

↑ 5 ↓ ...



**\_Clever\_Username\_** • 6y ago •

Thank you for this :)

↑ 3 ↓ ...



**[deleted]** • 6y ago •

Much appreciated <3

⊖ ↑ 3 ↓ ...



**iBzOtaku** OP • 6y ago •

nice username :)

⊖ ↑ 2 ↓ ...



**[deleted]** • 6y ago •

Thanks ^^

↑ 2 ↓ ...



**u/g0atmeal** • 6y ago •

I'm uninformed, what information is this category? Is it just a list of fansubs that viewers have suggested?

⊖ ↑ 2 ↓ ...



**iBzOtaku** OP • 6y ago •

Yes. Fansubs for each anime used to be rated by the users.

↑ 2 ↓ ...

⊕ 2 more replies



**dragon1412** • 6y ago •

from someone without prior knowlege on how to use USerscript, can anyone teach me how to use this please

⊖ ↑ 2 ↓ ...



**iBzOtaku** OP • 6y ago •

which web browser are you using?

⊖ ↑ 2 ↓ ...



**dragon1412** • 6y ago •

Firefox, I have Greasemonkey installed but don't know how to proceed

⊖ ↑ 2 ↓ ...



**iBzOtaku** OP • 6y ago •

I'm using tampermonkey on chrome so I'm not used to Greasemonkey but I think this is how I tested it:

- click Greasemonkey icon
- click new user script in the menu
- for some reason, the menu closes on my side so just click on the icon again and click on an unnamed script button, click edit
- paste all code from [github](#) in the new editor that just opened
- save with ctrl+s or save button on top left
- load a MAL anime page. it should work. if you already have a page open, refresh

↑ 4 ↓ ...

⊕ 2 more replies



**betamods2** • 6y ago •

exactly what I wanted

Sad that this feature is gone from the site, will make finding preferred groups for future anime way more annoying and lower exposure for newer groups

Cheers

⊖ ↑ 2 ↓ ...



**iBzOtaku** OP • 6y ago •

anidb is a decent alternative for this. they don't have as much data as MAL but what they have is much more detailed. And their comments (on subs) are much better (if you can find any) then what you would find on MAL.

↑ 1 ↓ ...



**def\_monk** • 6y ago •

If you start to run into constraints due to server load, consider formatting the dump as JSON and making [dynamodb](#) table out of it. Their free tier would likely cover all the requests you could want for something like this, and if not, pricing afterwards is still cheap as hell.

⊖ ↑ 1 ↓ ...

**iBzOtaku** OP • 6y ago •



I was planning on looking into firebase as an alternative although I have never used it. How is this different from that?

⊖ ↑ 1 ↓ ...



**def\_monk** • 6y ago •

Firebase's free tier may also work, but is probably overkill. Firebase is a NoSQL real-time database: the idea is if the database gets updated, you can immediately and automatically update the data in your application as well. If you fleshed this out to be a full system with voting on subs or submitting new ones, it might be useful, but without that, the realtime updates are useless. Google does have non-realtime alternatives as well though.

Dynamo is not a realtime database. It is just a NoSQL database. You store JSON objects with keys, and retrieve them similarly: give a key, get some data. That means you can't do joins, but you can also structure your data much differently in general.

Both have decent free tiers, though dynamo does offer a lot more data storage.

⊖ ↑ 1 ↓ ...



**iBzOtaku** OP • 6y ago •

I'll look into both. I need to learn firebase one day because its a popular tool.

↑ 1 ↓ ...

⊕ 2 more replies



**iBzOtaku** OP • 6y ago •

Google does have non-realtime alternatives as well though

What are they?

↑ 1 ↓ ...

⊕ 2 more replies



**ofei006** • 6y ago •

If you aren't getting too much traffic, maybe consider hosting on free tier heroku?

⊖ ↑ 1 ↓ ...



**iBzOtaku** OP • 6y ago •

Does that require a credit card?

⊖ ↑ 1 ↓ ...



**ofei006** • 6y ago •

Nope

⊖ ↑ 1 ↓ ...

 **iBzOtaku** OP • 6y ago •

Thanks. I'll look into it.

↑ 1 ↓ ...

 **pm\_your\_pantsu** • 6y ago •

Dafuq

↑ 1 ↓ ...

⊕ **[deleted]** • 6y ago •

⊕ **[deleted]** • 6y ago •

 **jimmydorry** • 6y ago •

Just move to the superior aniDB :)

⊖ ↑ -2 ↓ ...

 **Shibouya** • 6y ago •

I made this to make my transition to anidb easier (their fansub ratings are lacking and I couldn't give up on MAL's ratings).

⊖ ↑ 24 ↓ ...

 **jimmydorry** • 6y ago •

I saw, and am disputing the claim that anything of MAL's is superior.

Thanks though. :)


⊖ ↑ -2 ↓ ...

 **iBzOtaku** OP • 6y ago •

Don't know if MAL is superior because I've never used anidb until now. I'm just used to MAL so its hard to give up right away.


↑ 3 ↓ ...

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**What fansub group do these subtitles belong to?**

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