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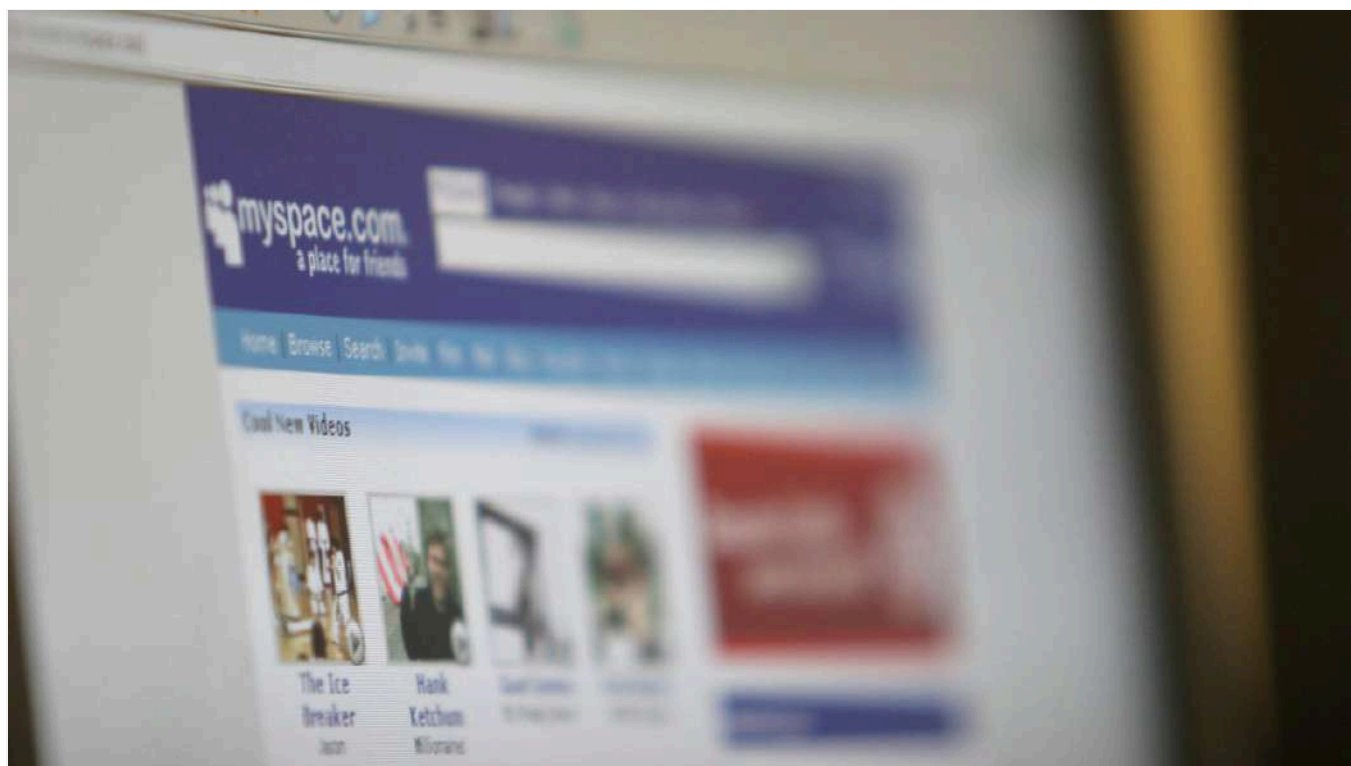
MySpace lost 12 years of music and photos, leaving a sizable gap in social network history

MySpace is making news in 2019 for all the wrong reasons.

By [Matt Binder](#) on March 18, 2019



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MySpace has confirmed that it has lost millions of songs, photos, and videos that were uploaded to the site over the past decade. Credit: NICHOLAS KAMM/AFP/Getty Images

It's 2019 and MySpace is newsworthy again. Unfortunately, it's for the worst of reasons: massive data loss.

On Sunday, news spread concerning a longtime data issue plaguing MySpace, a site that was once the internet's leading social network. Millions of songs, photos, and videos that were uploaded to the site before 2015 were [lost](#) during a data migration, according to MySpace, with no chance of recovery.

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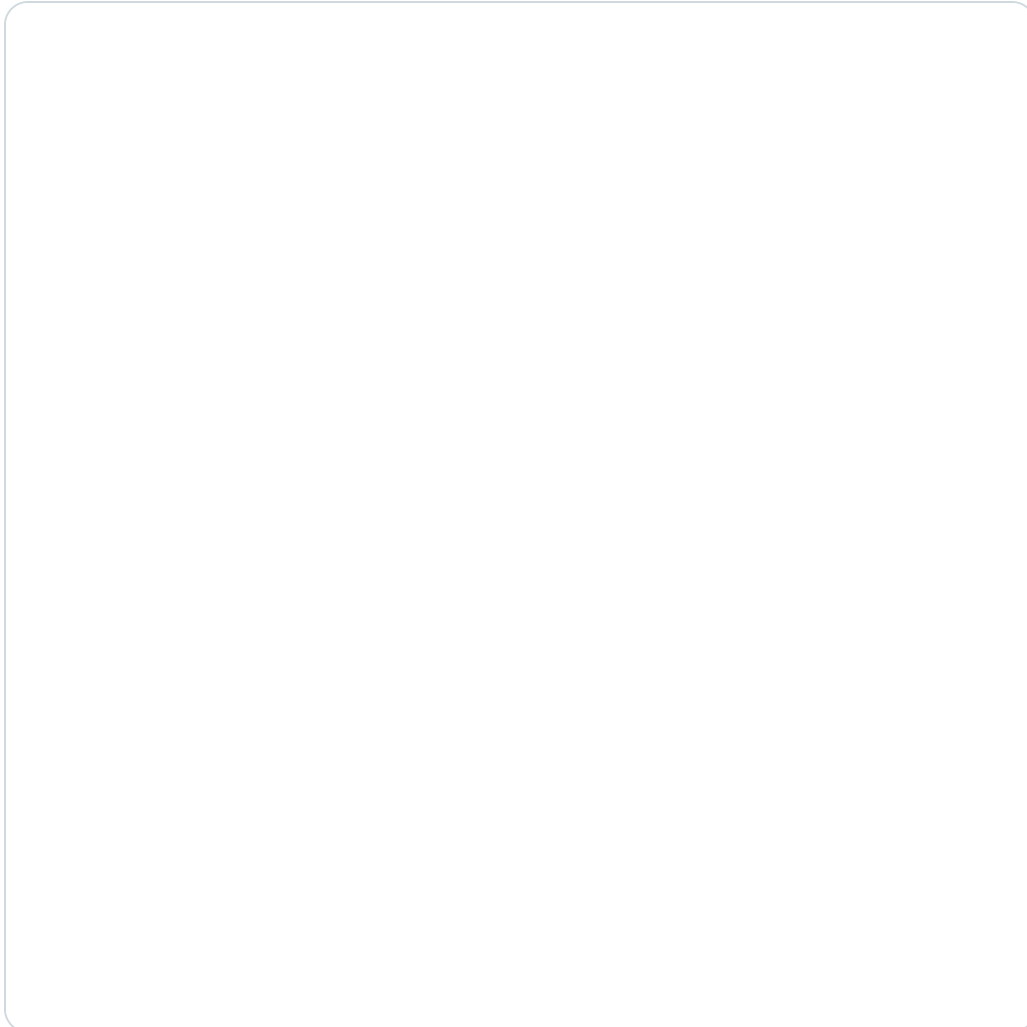
"As a result of a server migration project, any photos, videos, and audio files you uploaded more than three years ago, may no longer be available on or from MySpace," read a since-removed announcement on the website. "We apologize for the inconvenience."

Jason Scott

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reddit.com/r/technology/c... Just in case you're wondering how it's going.



4:45 PM · Mar 17, 2019



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Users who still visit MySpace had been [complaining](#) since at least February 2018 about the inability to play certain songs on the website's music player. At the time, however, users [claimed](#) that MySpace's support had told them the issue "was being fixed." The social network was quiet on the issue until recently [confirming the irreversible data loss](#) to Jason Scott of the Internet Archive.

MySpace now may be the butt of all social media jokes, but there was a time before Facebook, from 2005 to 2008, where it was the de facto social media website. In fact, MySpace was once the [number one website in the entire country](#).

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Myspace accidentally lost all the music uploaded from its first 12 years in a server migration, losing over 50 million songs from 14 million artists. x.com/textfiles/stat...

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Andy Baio

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I'm deeply skeptical this was an accident. Flagrant incompetence may be bad PR, but it still sounds better than "we can't be bothered with the effort and cost of migrating and hosting 50 million old MP3s."

6:16 AM · Mar 18, 2019



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According to MySpace's stats, the site at one time hosted 53 million songs spanning across 14.2 million artists. It had [hundreds of millions](#) of users, including artists and others.

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While some won't mind the deletion of millions of [emo songs](#) and [mirror-shots](#) from some of the internet's earliest influencers, it certainly is a huge loss. Years of audio and visuals detailing how people lived and interacted online have vanished. The internet is an integral piece of modern history and MySpace was a major part of that. There's a reason archivists preserve internet content.

SEE [The death of YouTube annotations marks an end for early interactive web](#)
ALSO: [video](#)



On that Reddit post from last year, users lamented the possible loss of their early lives. If a user grew up during the Facebook-era, those photos from a decade ago are still a click away. If a user was a teenager during the MySpace-era, those old pics from their youth are likely gone. There's an especially [sad comment](#) from a father who wanted to retrieve his deceased son's guitar recordings, which were once available to listen to on MySpace. Those audio files are gone now.

The early days of social networking had not yet instilled the idea that all the content we put online could one day just disappear. The cloud was new. People could pull up their band demo on any computer and play it anywhere! How could this technology that put all of our data everywhere one day result in our data being nowhere?

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This isn't the first time a piece of the early internet has been lost thanks to MySpace. In 2011, News Corp. [sold](#) MySpace to a media group that included [Justin Timberlake](#) as a stakeholder. The site [relaunched](#) in 2013 in an attempt to rebrand, leaning even more heavily into its music offerings. Without warning, MySpace [permanently wiped out](#) a decade's worth of users' blog posts, comments, and private [messages](#). Nearly six years later and under completely [new ownership](#), it looks like MySpace scrubbed most of the content it had left.

Facebook, Twitter, and most other popular social media platforms now give users much more control over exporting their data. When social networks do go bust, many tech companies now provide at least some notice so that its users can [save](#) their content.

Let MySpace in 2019 be the lesson: back up your personal files, because the internet is [still](#) proving to be quite ephemeral.