

= 4chan =

4chan is an English @-@ language imageboard website . Users generally post anonymously , with the most recent posts appearing above the rest . 4chan is split into various boards with their own specific content and guidelines . Registration is not required , nor is it possible (except for staff) .

Launched on October 1 , 2003 , its boards were originally used for posting pictures and discussing manga and anime , as the site was modeled on Japanese imageboards , particularly 2chan . The site quickly became popular and expanded , though much of 4chan 's content still features otaku , anime , and other Japanese cultural influences .

The site has been linked to Internet subcultures and activism , most notably Anonymous and Project Chanology . 4chan users have been responsible for the formation or popularization of Internet memes such as lolcats , Rickrolling , " Chocolate Rain " , Pedobear and many others . The site 's " Random " board , also known as " / b / " , was the site 's first forum , and is the one that receives the most traffic . As its name suggests , the Random board has minimal rules on posted content . Gawker once jokingly claimed that " reading / b / will melt your brain " . The site 's anonymous community and culture have often provoked media attention . For media planners , this enterprise is " further proof that creativity is everywhere and new media is less accessible " to advertisement agencies .

4chan users have been instrumental in pranks such as hijacking Internet destinations to cause images of Rick Astley to appear in place of their content , coordinating attacks against other websites and Internet users , and posting threats of violence in order to elicit individual and public reactions . The Guardian once summarized the 4chan community as " lunatic , juvenile [...] brilliant , ridiculous and alarming . "

= = Background = =

The activity of 4chan takes place on message boards and imageboards . The website is split into six categories : Japanese culture , Interests , Creative , Adult (18 +) , Other , and Misc (18 +) . These provide for on @-@ topic boards to discuss anime , manga , technology , sport , photography , music , hentai , torrents , travel , physical fitness , as well as a random board . 4chan originally hosted discussion boards on a separate domain called " world4ch " , but these were later moved to the dis.4chan.org subdomain . The site has had at least one employee , a programmer whom 4chan 's founder Christopher Poole met via online Tetris . All other moderators are volunteers . The / b / (Random) , / v / (Video games) , / a / (Anime and Manga) , and / s / (explicit images) boards are respectively the site 's first , second , third , and fourth most popular boards .

4chan is one of the Internet 's most trafficked imageboards , according to the Los Angeles Times . 4chan 's Alexa rank is generally around 700 , though it has been as high as number 56 at times . It is provided to its users free of charge and consumes a large amount of bandwidth ; as a result , its financing has often been problematic . Poole acknowledges that donations alone cannot keep the site online , so he has turned to advertising to help make ends meet . However , the explicit content hosted on 4chan has deterred businesses who do not want to be associated with the site 's content . In January 2009 , Poole signed a new deal with an advertising company ; in February 2009 , he was \$ 20 @ , @ 000 in debt and the site was continuing to lose money . The 4chan servers were moved from Texas to California in August 2008 , which upgraded the maximum bandwidth throughput of 4chan from 100Mbit / s to 1Gbit / s .

Unlike most web forums , 4chan does not have a registration system , allowing users to post anonymously . Any nickname may be used when posting , even one that has been previously adopted , such as " Anonymous " or " moot " . In place of registration , 4chan has provided tripcodes as an optional form of authenticating a poster 's identity . As making a post without filling in the " Name " field causes posts to be attributed to " Anonymous " , general understanding on 4chan holds that Anonymous is not a single person but a collective (hive) of users . Moderators generally post without a name even when performing sysop actions . A " capcode " may be used to attribute the post to " Anonymous # # Mod " , although moderators often post without the capcode . In a 2011

interview on Nico Nico Douga , Poole explained that there are approximately 20 volunteer moderators active on 4chan . 4chan also has a junior moderation team , called " janitors " , who may delete posts or images and suggest that the normal moderation team ban a user , but who can not post with a capcode . Revealing oneself as a janitor is grounds for immediate dismissal .

4chan has been the target of occasional denial of service attacks . For instance , on December 28 , 2010 , 4chan and other websites went down due to such an attack , following which Poole said on his blog , " We now join the ranks of MasterCard , Visa , PayPal , et al . ? an exclusive club ! "

= = History = =

4chan was started in 2003 in the bedroom of Christopher Poole , a then @-@ 15 @-@ year @-@ old student from New York City whose 4chan handle is " moot " . Prior to starting 4chan , Poole had been a regular participant on the Something Awful forums . He intended 4chan to be a place to discuss Japanese comics and anime , as an American counterpart to the popular Japanese Futaba Channel (" 2chan ") imageboard . Upon the creation of 4chan , Poole encouraged users from the Something Awful subforum titled " Anime Death Tentacle Rape Whorehouse " , who also happened to be dissatisfied with the forum , to discuss anime on his website . Poole originally used the Futaba Channel to obtain anime @-@ related images , and liked the concept of a message board where people anonymously shared images , which eventually led to his idea of creating a similar English @-@ based website . During the creation of 4chan , he obtained the source code for the Futaba Channel website , and translated the Japanese text into English using Altavista 's Babelfish online translator . When he first created the website , it had only two boards : " / a / ? Anime / General " and " / b / ? Anime / Random " ; more boards were created over time , and / b / was eventually renamed to simply " / b / ? Random " .

During the early days of 4chan , the boards that originally existed were the anime , random , cute , hentai , and yaoi boards ; a lolicon board also existed at / l / , but after being disabled for a week around the turn of the year 2004 it was removed in October 2004 . The / g / board also was initially dedicated to guro , before it was deleted and later remade as the " technology " board . During 2004 , 4chan briefly went offline , then returned fully online a few months later . Following 4chan 's return , non @-@ anime related boards , such as the weapons , automobile , and video games boards , were introduced . In 2008 , the " Japan / General " board at / jp / was created for topics that did not fit under the anime and manga category of / a / ; / jp / was later renamed to " Otaku Culture " .

In January 2011 , Poole announced the deletion of the / r9k / (" ROBOT9000 ") and / new / (News) boards , saying that / new / had become devoted to racist discussions , and / r9k / no longer served its original purpose of being a test implementation of xkcd 's ROBOT9000 script . During the same year , the / soc / board was created in an effort to reduce the number of socialization threads on / b / . / r9k / was restored on October 23 , 2011 , along with / hc / (" Hardcore " , previously deleted) , / pol / (a rebranding of / new /) and the new / diy / board , in addition to an apology by Poole where he recalls how he criticized the deletion of Encyclopedia Dramatica , and realized that he had done the same .

In 2010 , 4chan had implemented reCAPTCHA in an effort to thwart spam arising from JavaScript worms . By November 2011 , 4chan made the transition to utilizing CloudFlare following a series of distributed denial of service attacks . The 4chan imageboards were rewritten in valid HTML5 / CSS3 in May 2012 in an effort to improve client @-@ side performance . On September 28 , 2012 , 4chan introduced a " 4chan pass " that , when purchased , " allows users to bypass typing a reCAPTCHA verification when posting and reporting posts on the 4chan image boards " ; the money raised from the passes will go towards supporting the site .

On January 21 , 2015 , moot stepped down as the site 's administrator . On September 21 , 2015 , moot announced that Hiroyuki Nishimura had purchased from him the ownership rights to 4chan , without disclosing the terms of the acquisition . Nishimura was the former administrator of 2channel between 1999 and 2014 , the website forming the basis for anonymous posting culture which influenced later websites such as Futaba Channel and 4chan ; Nishimura lost the rights for 2channel to ex @-@ US Army officer Jim Watkins following financial difficulties and a series of scandals

involving Nishimura 's alleged datamining and sales of 2channel personal user data to political parties .

= = = Christopher Poole = = =

Poole kept his real @-@ life identity hidden until it was revealed on July 9 , 2008 , in The Wall Street Journal . Before that time he had used the alias " moot " .

In April 2009 , Poole was voted the world 's most influential person of 2008 by an open Internet poll conducted by Time magazine . The results were questioned even before the poll completed , as automated voting programs and manual ballot stuffing were used to influence the vote . 4chan 's interference with the vote seemed increasingly likely , when it was found that reading the first letter of the first 21 candidates in the poll spelled out a phrase containing two 4chan memes : " mARBLECAKE . ALSO , THE GAME . "

On September 12 , 2009 , Poole gave a talk on why 4chan has a reputation as a " Meme Factory " at the Paraflows Symposium in Vienna , Austria , which was part of the Paraflows 09 festival , themed Urban Hacking . In this talk , Poole mainly attributed this to the anonymous system , and to the lack of data retention on the site (" The site has no memory . ") .

In April 2010 , Poole gave evidence in the trial United States of America v. David Kernell as a government witness . As a witness , he explained the terminology used on 4chan to the prosecutor , ranging from " OP " to " lurker " . He also explained to the court the nature of the data given to the FBI as part of the search warrant , including how users can be uniquely identified from site audit logs .

= = Links to Anonymous and Project Chanology = =

4chan has been labeled as the starting point of the Anonymous meme by The Baltimore City Paper , due to the norm of posts signed with the " Anonymous " moniker . The National Post 's David George @-@ Cosh said it has been " widely reported " that Anonymous is associated with 4chan and 711chan , as well as numerous Internet Relay Chat (IRC) channels .

Through its association with Anonymous , 4chan has become associated with Project Chanology , a worldwide protest against the Church of Scientology held by members of Anonymous . On January 15 , 2008 , a 4chan user posted to / b / , suggesting participants " do something big " against the Church of Scientology 's website . This message resulted in the Church receiving threatening phone calls . It quickly grew into a large real @-@ world protest . Unlike previous Anonymous attacks , this action was characterized by 4chan memes including rickrolls and Guy Fawkes masks . The raid drew criticism from some 4chan users who felt it would bring the site undesirable attention .

= = Notable imageboards = =

As of January 2016 , 4chan hosts 66 discussion @-@ based imageboards , one upload @-@ only Flash board , and a number of trial boards .

= = = / b / = = =

The " random " board , / b / , follows the design of Futaba Channel 's Nijiura board . It was the first board created , and is by far 4chan 's most popular board , with 30 % of site traffic . Gawker.com 's Nick Douglas summarized / b / as a board where " people try to shock , entertain , and coax free porn from each other . " / b / has a " no rules " policy , except for bans on certain illegal content , such as child pornography , invasions of other websites (posting floods of disruptive content) , and under @-@ 18 viewing , all of which are inherited from site @-@ wide rules . The " no invasions " rule was added in late 2006 , after / b / users spent most of the summer " invading " Habbo Hotel . The " no rules " policy also applies to actions of administrators and moderators , which means that users may be banned at any time , for any reason , including no reason at all . Due partially to its

anonymous nature , board moderation is not always successful ? indeed , the site 's anti @-@ child pornography rule is a subject of jokes on / b / . Christopher Poole told The New York Times , in a discussion on the moderation of / b / , that " the power lies in the community to dictate its own standards " and that site staff simply provided a framework .

The humor of / b / ' s many users , who refer to themselves as " / b / tards " , is often incomprehensible to newcomers and outsiders , and is characterized by intricate inside jokes and dark comedy . Users often refer to each other , and much of the outside world , as fags . They are often referred to by outsiders as trolls , who regularly act with the intention of " doing it for the lulz " : a corruption of " LOL " used to denote amusement at another 's expense . The New York Observer has described posters as " immature pranksters whose bad behavior is encouraged by the site 's total anonymity and the absence of an archive " . Douglas said of the board , " reading / b / will melt your brain " , and cited Encyclopedia Dramatica 's definition of / b / as " the asshole of the Internets [sic] " . Mattathias Schwartz of The New York Times likened / b / to " a high @-@ school bathroom stall , or an obscene telephone party line " , while Baltimore City Paper wrote that " in the high school of the Internet , / b / is the kid with a collection of butterfly knives and a locker full of porn . " Wired describes / b / as " notorious " .

Each post is assigned a post number . Certain post numbers are sought after with a large amount of posting taking place to " GET " them . A " GET " occurs when a post 's number ends in a special number , such as 12345678 , 22222222 , or every millionth post . A sign of 4chan 's scaling , according to Poole , was when GETs lost meaning due to the high post rate resulting in a GET occurring every few weeks . He estimated / b / ' s post rate in July 2008 to be 150 @,@ 000 ? 200 @,@ 000 posts per day .

= = = / pol / = = =

/ pol / is 4chan 's political discussion board , titled " Politically Incorrect " . A stickied thread on its front page states that the board 's intended purpose is " discussion of news , world events , political issues , and other related topics " . / pol / was created in October 2011 as a rebranding of 4chan 's news board , / new / , which was deleted that January for a high volume of racist discussion .

Media sources have characterized / pol / as predominantly racist and sexist , with many of its posts taking an explicitly neo @-@ Nazi bent . The Southern Poverty Law Center regards / pol / ' s rhetorical style as widely emulated by white supremacist websites such as The Daily Stormer ; the Stormer 's editor , Andrew Anglin , concurred .

/ pol / was where screenshots of Trayvon Martin 's hacked social media accounts were initially posted . The board 's users have started antifeminist , transphobic , and anti @-@ Arab Twitter campaigns .

= = Internet memes = =

Many Internet memes ? ? catchphrases or images that spread quickly , peer to peer , across the Internet ? have originated on 4chan , usually / b / , as its fast moving , crowd psychology nature enables content to quickly be passed on to large numbers of viewers . Other memes originating on the site have gained media attention of a lesser degree . These include " So I herd u liek mudkipz " [sic] , which involves a phrase based on Pokémon and which generated numerous YouTube tribute videos , and the term " an hero " [sic] as a synonym for suicide , after a misspelling in the Myspace online memorial of seventh grader Mitchell Henderson . 4chan , and other websites , such as the satirical Encyclopedia Dramatica , have also contributed to the development of significant amounts of leetspeak . Adult fans of My Little Pony : Friendship Is Magic are also known to frequent 4chan , having had a board dedicated to their interest .

= = = Lolcats = = =

A lolcat is an image combining a photograph of a cat with text intended to contribute humour . The

text is often idiosyncratic and grammatically incorrect . In 2005 , the meme was widely popularized by 4chan in the form of " Saturday " . Every Saturday , users posted pictures of cats with image macros relating to that day 's theme .

== Rickrolling ==

In 2005 , a meme known as the " duckroll " began , after Poole used a word filter to change " egg " to " duck " across 4chan . Thus , words such as " eggroll " were changed to " duckroll " . This led to a bait @-@ and @-@ switch in which external links disguised as relevant to a discussion instead led to a picture of a duck on wheels .

An unidentified 4chan user applied the concept of the duckroll to a 2007 post relating to the video game Grand Theft Auto IV . In March of that year , the game 's trailer had been released , and the game 's immense popularity caused publisher Rockstar Games ' website to crash . The user posted a YouTube link that purportedly led to the trailer , but in reality directed users the music video for Rick Astley 's 1987 song " Never Gonna Give You Up " . Thus , the " rickroll " was born . In an interview with the Los Angeles Times , Astley said he found the meme " bizarre and funny " .

== " Chocolate Rain " ==

A link to the YouTube video of Tay Zonday 's song " Chocolate Rain " was posted on / b / on July 11 , 2007 . The Age reported that 4chan posters urged each other to " swarm " the video on YouTube and thus increase its ranking . The video became an immensely popular Internet meme , resulting in cover versions by John Mayer and Green Day drummer Tré Cool . The portion of the song in which Zonday turns away from the microphone , with a caption stating " I move away from the mic to breathe in " , became an oft @-@ repeated meme on 4chan and inspired remixes .

== Boxy ==

The character of Boxy is portrayed by Catherine " Catie " Wayne , an American Internet celebrity known for her highly energetic vlogs . Her rise to exposure began in late 2008 and early 2009 , surrounding self @-@ made videos that were initially made to be posted to her Gaia Online profile . They then spread to 4chan and other sites , resulting in a large online following .

== Pedobear ==

In his American incarnation , Pedobear is an anthropomorphic bear child predator that is often used within the community to mock contributors showing a sexual interest in children . Pedobear is one of the most popular memes on non @-@ English imageboards , and has gained recognition across Europe . In February 2010 , a photoshopped version of Pedobear appeared along with mascots of the 2010 Winter Olympics in an article on the games in Gazeta Olsztyńska , a Polish newspaper . This was done accidentally ; due to the image being used from Google Images , the authors were unaware of the joke . Similarly , the Dutch television guide Avrocode used one of the images . It has been used as a symbol of pedophilia by Maltese graffiti vandals prior to a papal visit .

== Other media attention ==

== " This post is art " ==

On July 30 , 2014 , an anonymous user made a reply in a thread on the board / pol / " Politically Incorrect " of 4chan , criticizing modern art in an ironic fashion , saying
Art used to be something to cherish
Now literally anything could be art

This post is art .

Less than an hour later the post was photographed off the screen and framed by another user who posted another reply in the thread with a photo of the framed quote . Later the user , after endorsement by other anonymous users in the thread , created an auction on eBay for the framed photo which quickly rose to high prices , culminating in a price of \$ 90 @ , @ 900 @ . @ 00 .

= = = Arrests for animal abuse = = =

On February 15 , 2009 , a user uploaded two YouTube videos that showed the physical abuse of a domestic cat named Dusty by a person calling himself " Timmy . " The 4chan community was able to track down the originator of the videos , a fourteen @ - @ year @ - @ old from Lawton , Oklahoma , and passed his details to his local police department . As a result of this , a suspect was arrested and the cat was treated by a veterinarian and taken to a safe place .

= = Controversies = =

= = = Internet attacks = = =

According to the Washington Post , " the site 's users have managed to pull off some of the highest @ - @ profile collective actions in the history of the Internet . "

Users of 4chan and other websites " raided " Hal Turner by launching DDoS attacks and prank calling his phone @ - @ in radio show during December 2006 and January 2007 . The attacks caused Turner 's website to go offline . This cost thousands of dollars of bandwidth bills according to Turner . In response , Turner sued 4chan , 7chan , and other websites ; however , he lost his plea for an injunction and failed to receive letters from the court .

KTTV Fox 11 aired a report on Anonymous , calling them a group of " hackers on steroids " , " domestic terrorists " , and collectively an " Internet hate machine " on July 26 , 2007 . Slashdot founder Rob Malda posted a comment made by another Slashdot user , Miang , stating that the story focused mainly on users of " 4chan , 7chan and 420chan " . Miang claimed that the report " seems to confuse / b / raids and motivational poster templates with a genuine threat to the American public " , arguing that the " unrelated " footage of a van exploding shown in the report was to " equate anonymous posting with domestic terror " .

On July 10 , 2008 , the swastika CJK unicode character (?) appeared at the top of Google 's Hot Trends list ? a tally of the most popular search terms in the United States ? for several hours . It was later reported that the HTML numeric character reference for the symbol had been posted on / b / , with a request to perform a Google search for the string . A multitude of / b / visitors followed the order and pushed the symbol to the top of the chart , though Google later removed the result .

Later that year , the private Yahoo ! Mail account of Sarah Palin , Republican vice presidential candidate in the 2008 United States presidential election , was hacked by a 4chan user . This followed criticism of Palin and other politicians supposedly using private email accounts for governmental work . The hacker posted the account 's password on / b / , and screenshots from within the account to Wikileaks . A / b / user then logged in and changed the password , posting a screenshot of his sending an email to a friend of Palin 's informing her of the new password on the / b / thread . However , he forgot to blank out the password in the screenshot . A multitude of / b / users attempted to log in with the new password , and the account was automatically locked out by Yahoo ! . The incident was criticized by some / b / users , in that most reports on the hack focused on 4chan , rather than Palin 's violation of campaign law . One user commented , " seriously , / b / . We could have changed history and failed , epically . " The FBI and Secret Service began investigating the incident shortly after its occurrence . On September 20 it was revealed they were questioning David Kernell , the son of Democratic Tennessee State Representative Mike Kernell .

The stock price of Apple Inc. fell significantly in October 2008 after a hoax story was submitted to CNN 's user @ - @ generated news site iReport.com claiming that company CEO Steve Jobs had

suffered a major heart attack . The source of the story was traced back to 4chan .

In May 2009 , members of the site attacked YouTube , posting pornographic videos on the site . A 4chan member acknowledged being part of the attack , telling the BBC that it was in response to YouTube " deleting music " . In January 2010 , members of the site attacked YouTube again in response to the suspension of YouTube user lukeywes1234 for failing to meet the minimum age requirement of thirteen . The videos uploaded by the user had apparently become popular with 4chan members , who subsequently became angered after the account was suspended and called for a new wave of pornographic videos to be uploaded to YouTube on January 6 , 2010 . Later the same year , 4chan made numerous disruptive pranks directed at singer Justin Bieber .

In September 2010 , in retaliation against the Bollywood film industry 's hiring of Aiplex Software to launch cyberattacks against The Pirate Bay , Anonymous members , recruited through posts on 4chan boards , subsequently initiated their own attacks , dubbed Operation Payback , targeting the website of the Motion Picture Association of America and the Recording Industry Association of America . The targeted websites usually went offline for a short period of time due to the attacks , before recovering .

The website of the UK law firm ACS : Law , which was associated with an anti @-@ piracy client , was affected by the cyber @-@ attack . In retaliation for the initial attacks being called only a minor nuisance , Anonymous launched more attacks , bringing the site down yet again . After coming back up , the front page accidentally revealed a backup file of the entire website , which contained over 300 megabytes of private company emails , which were leaked to several torrents and across several sites on the Internet . It has been suggested that the data leak could cost the law firm up to £ 500 @,@ 000 in fines for breaching British Data Protection Laws . In January 2011 , BBC News reported that the law firm have announced they are to stop " chasing illegal file @-@ sharers " . Head of ACS : Law Andrew Crossley in a statement to a court addressed issues which influenced the decision to back down " I have ceased my work ... I have been subject to criminal attack . My e @-@ mails have been hacked . I have had death threats and bomb threats . "

In August 2012 , 4chan users attacked a third @-@ party sponsored Mountain Dew campaign , Dub the Dew , where users were asked to submit and vote on name ideas for a green apple flavor of the drink . Users submitted entries such as " Diabeetus " , " Fapple " , several variations of " Gushing Granny " , and " Hitler did nothing wrong " .

= = = Threats of violence = = =

On October 18 , 2006 , the Department of Homeland Security warned National Football League officials in Miami , New York City , Atlanta , Seattle , Houston , Oakland , and Cleveland about a possible threat involving the simultaneous use of dirty bombs at stadiums . The threat claimed that the attack would be carried out on October 22 , the final day of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan . Both the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security expressed doubt concerning the credibility of the threats , but warned the relevant organizations as a precaution . The games proceeded as planned but under a higher level of security awareness . The threats came to light in the national media after Jake Brahm admitted to having posted the threats on 4chan and repeating them on other websites approximately 40 times .

Brahm did not expect the message to be taken seriously since he " would never take anything posted on 4chan as fact " ; an FBI official was quoted as saying the " credibility of [the threat] was beyond ridiculous " . As a parody of the incident , 4chan temporarily added " Don 't mess with football " as an additional rule for / b / . On October 20 , 2006 , Brahm turned himself in to federal authorities , and was charged with fabricating a fake terrorist threat and taken into custody . On February 28 , 2008 , he pleaded guilty to the federal charges . On June 5 , 2008 , he was sentenced to six months in prison , six months ' house arrest , and ordered to pay \$ 26 @,@ 750 in restitution .

Around midnight on September 11 , 2007 , a student posted photographs of mock pipe bombs and another photograph of him holding them while saying he would blow up his high school ? Pflugerville High School in Pflugerville , Texas ? at 9 : 11 am on September 11 . Users of 4chan helped to track him down by finding the perpetrator 's father 's name in the Exif data of a photograph he took , and

contacted the police . He was arrested before school began that day . The incident turned out to be a hoax ; the " weapons " were toys and there were no actual bombs .

Jarrad Willis , a 20 @-@ year @-@ old from Melbourne , Australia was arrested on December 8 , 2007 , after apparently posting on 4chan that he was " going to shoot and kill as many people as I can until which time I am incapacitated or killed by the police " . The post , accompanied by an image of another man holding a shotgun , threatened a shopping mall near Beverly Hills . While the investigation was still open , Willis was charged with criminal defamation for a separate incident but died before the case was heard .

On February 4 , 2009 , a posting on the 4chan / b / board said there would be a school shooting at St Eskils Gymnasium in Eskilstuna , Sweden , leading 1250 students and 50 teachers to be evacuated . A 21 @-@ year @-@ old man was arrested after 4chan provided the police with the IP address of the poster . Police said that the suspect called it off as a joke , and they released him after they found no indication that the threat was serious .

On January 21 , 2014 , an anonymous poster started a thread on / b / identifying a student named Westley Sullivan who apparently went to the same high school as the poster . The original post included a link to Westley Sullivan 's Facebook profile , which has since been taken down , and a screenshot of a post which said " if fairview isnt closed tomorrow im going to blow it up " , referring to Sullivan 's high school , Fairview High School , in Fairview , Kentucky . A few anonymous individuals went to Sullivan 's Facebook profile and found his address , phone number , school ID number , school schedule and teachers , and other personal information . Information like his teachers and ID number had been posted directly , and the more personal information like his address was found in the EXIF data of some of the pictures posted on his profile . These individuals then contacted Fairview school officials and the local police department , as well as the FBI . The next day it was learned that police had arrested Sullivan in his home and he had been charged with 2nd degree terroristic threatening , a Class D felony in Kentucky .

= = = Arrests for child pornography and cyberbullying = = =

On November 29 , 2010 , Ali Saad , a 19 @-@ year @-@ old , was arrested and had his home raided by the FBI for posting child pornography and death threats on 4chan . Ali had first visited 4chan " a week before [the FBI raid] happened " . He admitted to downloading about 25 child pornography images from 4chan .

In January 2011 , Matthew Riskin Bean , a 20 @-@ year @-@ old man from New Jersey was sentenced to 45 days in prison for cyberbullying on 4chan .

Collin Campbell , a U.S. Navy Machinist 's Mate , was arrested in February 2011 after a fellow seaman found child pornography on his iPhone that he downloaded entirely from 4chan .

Ronald Ohlson , 37 , was raided April 2011 , at his upstate New York home by the Department of Homeland Security after he obtained child pornography from 4chan .

In May 2011 , Lucas Henderson , a 22 @-@ year @-@ old Rochester Institute of Technology student , was arrested for counterfeit couponing on 4chan .

After 4chan reported a 15 @-@ year @-@ old boy in California who posted child pornography , the United States Department of Homeland Security raided his home on June 7 , 2011 , and took all electronic items .

On February 17 , 2012 , Thaddeus McMichael was arrested by the FBI for child pornography charges , after posting comments on Facebook claiming that he possessed child pornography . According to the official criminal complaint filed against Thaddeus , he admitted to obtaining child pornography from the / b / board on 4chan .

= = = Celebrity photo leaks = = =

On August 31 , 2014 , a large number of private photographs taken by celebrities were posted online due to a compromise of user passwords at iCloud . The images were initially posted on 4chan . As a result of the incident , 4chan announced that it would enforce a Digital Millennium Copyright

Act policy , which would allow content owners to remove material that had been shared on the site illegally , and would ban users who repeatedly posted stolen material .

= = = Gamergate = = =

Also in August 2014 , 4chan was involved in the Gamergate controversy , which began with false allegations about indie game developer Zoë Quinn . Later , users of 4chan began donating to The Fine Young Capitalists , which had been involved in a dispute with Quinn , donating thousands of dollars to the group 's women in video games project through Indiegogo ; 4chan also created a video game character , Vivian James , to be used by The Fine Young Capitalists in their project , who became an unofficial mascot for GamerGate supporters . Discussion regarding Gamergate was banned on 4chan due to alleged rule violations , and Gamergate supporters moved to alternate forums such as 8chan .

= = = Murder in Port Orchard , Washington = = =

According to court documents filed on November 5 , 2014 , there were images posted to 4chan that appeared to be of a murder victim . The body was discovered in Port Orchard , Washington , after the images were posted . The posts were accompanied by the text : " Turns out it 's way harder to strangle someone to death than it looks on the movies . " A later post said : " Check the news for Port Orchard , Washington , in a few hours . Her son will be home from school soon . He 'll find her , then call the cops . I just wanted to share the pics before they find me . " The victim was Amber Lynn Coplin , aged 30 . The suspect , 33 @-@ year @-@ old David Michael Kalac , surrendered to police in Oregon later the same day ; he was charged with second @-@ degree murder involving domestic violence .

= = ISP bans = =

= = = AT & T temporary ban = = =

On July 26 , 2009 , AT & T 's DSL branch temporarily blocked access to the img.4chan.org domain (host of / b / and / r9k /) , which was initially believed to be an attempt at Internet censorship , and met with hostility on 4chan 's part . The next day , AT & T issued a statement claiming that the block was put in place after an AT & T customer was affected by a DoS attack originating from IP addresses connected to img.4chan.org , and was an attempt to " prevent this attack from disrupting service for the impacted AT & T customer , and ... our other customers . " AT & T maintains that the block was not related to the content on 4chan .

4chan 's founder Christopher Poole responded with the following :

In the end , this wasn 't a sinister act of censorship , but rather a bit of a mistake and a poorly executed , disproportionate response on AT & T 's part . Whoever pulled the trigger on blackholing the site probably didn 't anticipate [nor intend] the consequences of doing so . We 're glad to see this short @-@ lived debacle has prompted renewed interest and debate over net neutrality and Internet censorship ? two very important issues that don 't get nearly enough attention ? so perhaps this was all just a blessing in disguise .

Major news outlets have reported that the issue may be related to the DDoS @-@ ing of 4chan , and that 4chan users suspected the then @-@ owner of Swedish @-@ based website Anontalk.com.

= = = Verizon temporary ban = = =

On February 4 , 2010 , 4chan started receiving reports from Verizon Wireless customers that they were having difficulties accessing the site 's image boards . After investigating , Poole found out that

only the traffic on port 80 to the boards.4chan.org domain was affected , leading members to believe that the block was intentional . Three days later , Verizon Wireless confirmed that 4chan was " explicitly blocked " . The block was lifted several days later .