

Title: Most of us know this by now, but it's a good reminder...

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Created 2021-10-03 12:01:10 UTC

Permalink: /r/TheGloryHodl/comments/q0gdg4/most\_of\_us\_know\_this\_by\_now\_but\_its\_a\_good/

Url: /r/Wallstreetbetsnew/comments/ljxa5/identifying\_bots\_paid\_shills\_trolls\_and\_useful/

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The current market situation with \$GME has raised widespread awareness regarding the presence of bots, paid shills, trolls, resident bears and useful idiots. This guide should help you identify each of these disseminators of Fear, Uncertainty and Doubt.

**Bots** - To identify a bot all you need to do is check their comment history. They will usually repeatedly post a comment or set of comments into multiple threads at a very obvious time interval. The content of their post will of course be negative. They generally do not respond to replies. The accounts are often, but not limited to new accounts. Here is an example of a bot account pushing silver check the comment history u/4joey1 .

See below for purchased accounts.

**Paid Shills** - They can be a lot harder to identify as they often operate from purchased accounts. Keep an eye out for accounts that have been inactive for several weeks or months that suddenly start posting in WSB and other affiliated subs with no previous history in the community. Their messages can range from spreading subtle doubt to lamenting their terrible and life ruining decision to invest in X stock.

As well as trying to alter the sentiment toward X stock they may try to divert attention away from it by suggesting 'better investment choices' that promise fast returns. Lazy attempts to appeal to instant gratification are often obvious.

Other telltale signs include a completely unwarranted interest in the financial security of strangers, particularly emotional posts and sloppy counter arguments that only rebuff one element of DD whilst ignoring the bigger picture. Shallow DD referencing hearsay that doesn't withstand the smallest level of scrutiny is commonplace. Check out u/mapyman to get a good idea of what shill posts look like from a purchased account.

**Trolls** - The typical wind up merchant that will try to push your buttons by being particularly negative or pessimistic about something that others are passionate about. They will often just jump on the opposition bandwagon for the lols. They sometimes pose as the above to make fun of your responses. They may not ever reveal their identity as a troll, but their comment history often betrays them. Do not feed the troll. No amount reasoning will make a troll yield.

**Resident Bears** - These guys often have a vested interest in culturing negative sentiment around a stock. They will hold short positions and puts and would love nothing more than you're favourite long position to come crashing down. Again check their comment history, it will quickly reveal what type of investor they are.

**Useful idiots** - These guys differ from the others because they aren't being negative for fun or because they have a vested interest. They have simply been swept up in what they perceive as the prevailing consensus. That perception is generated by the other four classes of FUD spreader. They are often completely unable to distinguish fact from fiction and are easily scared away from siding with anything that attracts labels like "conspiracy" or "fake news". Reality to these people is exactly how it is presented to them by the telescreen. For them, there is no greater truth than that delivered by a news anchor or mainstream media establishment.

In isolation, each of the above are mostly harmless. Together they can create an avalanche of negative sentiment and culture that is self sustaining and devastating.

A good case study is the r/gme\_meltdown sub. An amalgamation of all of the above, trolls in particular. An organic and self sustaining well of negativity. Of course they mostly brand themselves as realists.

Thanks for reading. If you have anything to add, please let me know in the comments. I want this to be as comprehensive as possible. None of this is a 'conspiracy theory.

Please bare in mind that not everyone who disagrees with you is a bot or a paid shill. There are genuine folks who have spent time and effort to produce valid counter points to your DD, these people deserve to be heard and their points duly considered.

Edit:Both of the Reddit users mentioned here were referenced in a Yahoo finance article about silver. u/4joey1 has since been edited out. Make of this what you will.

<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/silver-to-the-moon-says-redditor-but-others-on-wall-street-bets-differ-160221386.html>

Addendum of suspicious accounts:

u/4joey1

u/mapyman

u/cryptopayroll