

# Hacker News

**Hacker News** (sometimes abbreviated as **HN**) is a social news website focusing on computer science and entrepreneurship. It is run by the investment fund and startup incubator Y Combinator. In general, content that can be submitted is defined as "anything that gratifies one's intellectual curiosity."<sup>[1]</sup>

The word hacker in "Hacker News" is used in its original meaning and refers to the hacker culture which consists of people who enjoy tinkering with technology.

# History

The site was created by Paul Graham in February 2007.<sup>[2]</sup> Initially called Startup News or occasionally News.YC., it became known by its current name on August 14, 2007.<sup>[3]</sup> It developed as a project of Graham's company Y Combinator, functioning as a real-world application of the Arc programming language which Graham co-developed.<sup>[4]</sup>


At the end of March 2014, Graham stepped away from his leadership role at Y Combinator, leaving Hacker News administration in the hands of other staff members.<sup>[5][6]</sup> The site is currently moderated by Daniel Gackle who posts under the username *dang*.<sup>[7]</sup> Gackle co-moderated Hacker News with Scott Bell (username *sctb*) until 2019 when Bell stopped working on the site.<sup>[8]</sup>

## Vision and practices

The intention was to recreate a community similar to the early days of Reddit.<sup>[2][9]</sup> However, unlike Reddit where new users can immediately both upvote and downvote content, Hacker News does not allow users to downvote content until they have accumulated 501 "karma" points. Karma points are calculated as the number of upvotes a given user's content has received minus the number of downvotes.<sup>[2]</sup> "Flagging" comments, likewise, is not permitted until a user has 30 karma points.<sup>[10]</sup>

<b>Launched</b>	February 19, 2007 as <i>Startup News</i>
<b>Current status</b>	Online
<b>Written in</b>	<u>Arc</u>

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<div> <a href="#">Hacker News</a> <a href="#">news</a> <a href="#">comments</a> <a href="#">about</a> <a href="#">ask</a> <a href="#">jobs</a> <a href="#">submit</a> <a href="#">login</a> </div>	
<div> <div>1. <a href="#">Sir Terry Pratchett has died at the age of 84</a> (<a href="#">gmpoertha.com</a>) 3443 points by <a href="#">moby</a>, 1 hour ago   150 comments</div> <div>2. <a href="#">Fantasy author Pratchett dies aged 84</a> (<a href="#">bbc.co.uk</a>) 3433 points by <a href="#">gryphon</a> 1 hour ago   145 comments</div> <div>3. <a href="#">My Nephew, the Defiant Drug Lord</a> (<a href="#">news.com</a>) 3131 points by <a href="#">Theora</a> 1 hour ago   1 comment</div> <div>4. <a href="#">BBC publishes full Neil Armstrong rules</a> (<a href="#">bbc</a>) (<a href="#">bbc.com</a>) 402 points by <a href="#">michael</a> 1 hour ago   12 comments</div> <div>5. <a href="#">Protest for US Christian Catechism Nations full Citizenship</a> (<a href="#">theatlantic.com</a>) 384 points by <a href="#">tbf</a> 1 hour ago   10 comments</div> <div>6. <a href="#">Foreign L&amp;L&amp;L</a> (<a href="#">github.com</a>) 3779 points by <a href="#">caroline</a> 1 hour ago   100 comments</div> <div>7. <a href="#">Show HN: Custom News Tab -page for Firefox</a> (<a href="#">github.com</a>) 350 points by <a href="#">kayman</a> 1 hour ago   12 comments</div> <div>8. <a href="#">Show HN: RealProblems.com - The Product Hunt for problems</a> (<a href="#">realproblems.com</a>) 344 points by <a href="#">kayman</a> 1 hour ago   12 comments</div> <div>9. <a href="#">BBC: Rules on Net Neutrality Regulations</a> (<a href="#">bbc.com</a>) 324 points by <a href="#">kayman</a> 1 hour ago   10 comments</div> <div>10. <a href="#">How to Implement a Programming Language in JavaScript</a> (<a href="#">medium.com</a>) 300 points by <a href="#">michael</a> 1 hour ago   8 comments</div> <div>11. <a href="#">Kismet: Join the Docker Family</a> (<a href="#">docker.com</a>) 280 points by <a href="#">michael</a> 1 hour ago   12 comments</div> <div>12. <a href="#">Michael Lewis Reflects on Flash Days a Year After Bitch Wall St. To His Core</a> (<a href="#">cnn.com</a>) 250 points by <a href="#">kayman</a> 1 hour ago   10 comments</div> <div>13. <a href="#">Kismet to Google Code Project Meeting</a> (<a href="#">google.com</a>) 240 points by <a href="#">michael</a> 1 hour ago   10 comments</div> <div>14. <a href="#">Free Math-Calculus - Gilbert Strang 2001</a> (<a href="#">pdf</a>) (<a href="#">pdf</a>) 230 points by <a href="#">michael</a> 1 hour ago   100 comments</div> <div>15. <a href="#">State School (HS, K&amp;L) is hiring an iOS Developer</a> (<a href="#">freelanceschool.com</a>) 1 hour ago</div> <div>16. <a href="#">Moving 1 and 10 registers with 10</a> (<a href="#">medium.com</a>) 120 points by <a href="#">michael</a> 1 hour ago   10 comments</div> <div>17. <a href="#">Microstate: based in WebOS, and WebOS</a> (<a href="#">michael.com</a>) 110 points by <a href="#">michael</a> 1 hour ago   10 comments</div> <div>18. <a href="#">L&amp;L: Kismet \$1,000 in Fight with L&amp;L</a> (<a href="#">michael.com</a>) 100 points by <a href="#">michael</a> 1 hour ago   10 comments</div> <div>19. <a href="#">Open source Web Page: 10 to 100 Adapter</a> (<a href="#">michael.com</a>) 100 points by <a href="#">michael</a> 1 hour ago   10 comments</div> <div>20. <a href="#">Algorithmic Launches with More Than 100 Algorithms on the Marketplace</a> (<a href="#">michael.com</a>) 1 hour ago</div> <div>21. <a href="#">The day I was Defeated by Google</a> (<a href="#">michael.com</a>) 100 points by <a href="#">michael</a> 1 hour ago   10 comments</div> <div>22. <a href="#">Fusion on: Parents: The Effect of Fusion</a> (<a href="#">michael.com</a>) 100 points by <a href="#">michael</a> 1 hour ago   10 comments</div> <div>23. <a href="#">Google Things: Street view to Mount Everest Region</a> (<a href="#">michael.com</a>) 100 points by <a href="#">michael</a> 1 hour ago   10 comments</div> <div>24. <a href="#">Google and the rise of the high-tech economy</a> (<a href="#">michael.com</a>) 100 points by <a href="#">michael</a> 1 hour ago   10 comments</div> <div>25. <a href="#">Google startup: accelerators have matched service charges on top of matched capital</a> (<a href="#">michael.com</a>) 100 points by <a href="#">michael</a> 1 hour ago   10 comments</div> </div>	
Type of site	News aggregator
Available in	English
Owner	Y Combinator
Founder(s)	Paul Graham, known as <i>pg</i> in the website
URL	news.ycombinator.com ( <a href="http://news.ycombinator.com">http s://news.ycombinator.com</a> )
Registration	Optional, required for posting and voting
Launched	February 19, 2007 as <i>Startup News</i>
Current status	Online
Written in	Arc

Graham stated he hopes to avoid the Eternal September that results in the general decline of intelligent discourse within a community.<sup>[4]</sup> The site has a proactive attitude in moderating content, including automated flame and spam detectors and active human moderation. It also practices stealth banning in which user posts stop appearing for others to see, unbeknownst to the user.<sup>[11]</sup> Additional software is used to detect "voting rings to purposefully vote up stories".<sup>[2]</sup>

## Criticism

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According to a 2013 TechCrunch article: "Graham says that Hacker News gets a lot of complaints that it has a bias toward featuring stories about Y Combinator startups, but he says there is no such bias. [...] Graham adds that he gets a lot of vitriol from users personally with accusations of bias or censoring."<sup>[2]</sup>

## See also

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- Slashdot
- Reddit

## References

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7. Wiener, Anna (8 August 2019). "The Lonely Work of Moderating Hacker News" (<https://www.newyorker.com/news/letter-from-silicon-valley/the-lonely-work-of-moderating-hacker-news>). *The New Yorker*. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20210114223907/https://www.newyorker.com/news/letter-from-silicon-valley/the-lonely-work-of-moderating-hacker-news>) from the original on 14 January 2021. Retrieved 15 January 2021.
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9. Paul Graham. "New: Y Combinator Startup News" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20140625052305/https://www.ycombinator.com/announcingnews.html>). Archived from the original (<https://ycombinator.com/announcingnews.html>) on 2014-06-25.
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## External links

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- [Official website \(<https://news.ycombinator.com/>\)](https://news.ycombinator.com/) 

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