

Annual Report of the OSMF Talk-List Moderators May 23, 2024

This report chronicles actions taken by the five moderators ("Moderation Team") appointed to moderate the OpenStreetMap Foundation-sponsored talk lists at talk@openstreetmap.org (the "talk list") and osmf-talk@openstreetmap.org (the "osmf-talk list") and at three channels ("general", "foundation", and "tagging") on the community forum at community.openstreetmap.org. This chronology omits decisions to refrain from action on forum messages flagged for attention, when a moderator determined that no action was warranted, as no record of such decisions has been maintained. It also omits trivial interventions, such as splitting forum topics, dealing with spam, and routine reminders to adhere to the Etiquette Guidelines.

May 23, 2023 - User Adamant1 was admonished by the Moderation Team and was advised at that time to avoid further violations of the Etiquette Guidelines.

June 10, 2023 - The Moderation Team voted unanimously to suspend user Wynndale for one week from the talk lists and forum.

https://wiki.osmfoundation.org/w/images/e/e7/20230610_Etiquette_voilation_by_Wynndale.pdf

August 14, 2023 - Moderator Mustard and Moderator McGovern admonished user NorthCrab for violating the Etiquette Guidelines in a forum thread. Moderator McGovern temporarily locked the thread. <https://community.openstreetmap.org/t/why-does-osmf-budget-25-000-on-amazon/102475/104>

August 15, 2023 - The Moderation Team recommended unanimously to the Board of Directors that user Adamant1 be suspended from all OSM activities for one year for gross violations of the Etiquette Guidelines in multiple forum channels, bearing in mind past bad conduct in the wiki, in changeset comments, and in direct messages, as well as a one-year suspension from the Ukraine channel.

August 20, 2023 - Moderator Mustard formally warned user NorthCrab to cease and desist from violating the Etiquette Guidelines in multiple forum threads. User NorthCrab replied that he considered the warning "invalid" on grounds that in his opinion the Moderation Team has no jurisdiction over the forum and that the Etiquette Guidelines do not apply to the forum.

<https://community.openstreetmap.org/t/formal-warning-about-bad-conduct/102701>

August 22, 2023 -- The Moderation Team unanimously imposed on user NorthCrab a 28-day suspension from the general, general:tagging, and foundation channels of the community forum, which had the effect of suspending him from all channels on the forum due to software limitations of Discourse. Following receipt of a final warning not to push back against the admonition and warning, or sanctions would be imposed, NorthCrab stated that he still had "valid concerns" about the admonition and warning.

https://wiki.osmfoundation.org/wiki/Etiquette_Violations_by_NorthCrab#Overview_of_violations

That same day, NorthCrab published an appeal to the OSMF Board of Directors on the forum's This Site Feedback channel.

<https://community.openstreetmap.org/t/appeal-of-moderation-action-by-apm-wa/102858>

August 24, 2023 -- The Moderation Team implemented a resolution of the OSMF Board of Directors to suspend user Adamant1 from all OSM-related activity for one year.
https://wiki.osmfoundation.org/wiki/OSMF_resolution_Adamant1

September 2, 2023 -- Moderator Mustard locked a thread when the discussion degenerated to namecalling. <https://community.openstreetmap.org/t/how-to-massive-update-upload-postcodes/103229/30>

September 4, 2023 -- Moderator Mustard re-opened the thread on request, and admonished all participants in that thread to adhere to the Etiquette Guidelines.
<https://community.openstreetmap.org/t/how-to-massive-update-upload-postcodes/103229/32>

September 5, 2023 -- Moderator Mustard hid a flagged post to the Foundation channel and admonished a user for showing disrespect to other community members.
<https://community.openstreetmap.org/t/your-post-on-osm-carto/103516> *and*
<https://community.openstreetmap.org/t/osm-carto-maintainers-refusing-to-render-approved-highway-busway/103289>

September 16, 2023 -- Following consultations with moderators, the DWG, and wiki administrators, the Moderation Team submitted a policy proposal to the OSMF Board of Directors for handling recommendations of project-wide suspensions and bans of community members.

December 23, 2023 -- Moderator Mustard advised a community member that complaining to the forum about a DWG action is pointless and advised that member to appeal any adverse DWG decision to the OSMF Board of Directors, and furthermore to adhere to the Etiquette Guidelines.
<https://community.openstreetmap.org/t/problem-with-vandalism-and-2-dwg-members/107298/21> *and*
<https://community.openstreetmap.org/t/problem-with-vandalism-and-2-dwg-members/107298/27>

January 20, 2024 -- Moderator Mustard warned a community member not to reopen a topic (whether a non-existent bridge should be added to OSM) that had been closed twice at request of community members on pain of a possible suspension.
<https://community.openstreetmap.org/t/cat-hai-cat-ba-bridge-project-keeps-undoing/107416/16> *and*
<https://community.openstreetmap.org/t/ha-tien-phu-quoc-sea-crossing-bridge-project/108267/4>

April 10, 2024 -- Moderator McGovern on behalf of the Moderation Team deleted several spam posts from the forum related to generation of false GPX traces by a multi-account troll.

April 20, 2024 -- The Moderation Team voted unanimously to suspend user slice0 from the forum for gross violations of the Etiquette Guidelines, to wit: propagation of blatant misinformation. This action followed moderators' hiding of forum posts offering misinformation and admonitions from members of the community not to spread misinformation.
https://osmfoundation.org/w/images/8/84/20240420_slice0.pdf