
IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by Nils - 2013/06/28 18:56

Hello all.

First a little backdrop: As most you know elektron-users has had yet another spam invasion lately. There have been several waves during the last couple of years, and the forum is not equipped to handle this spam.

Elektron announced elektronauts.com in late 2011, due to be launched in 2012. This is a new, Elektron-driven forum, as opposed to elektron-users, which is community-driven. For reasons partly unknown, the deadline has been pushed several times. At the same time, Elektron have refused doing significant improvements and upgrades to elektron-users, as they've wanted to focus their energy on the new forum.

Aa a result, frustration with elektron-users has been increasing, to the point were moderators have quit, and users have stopped coming here. Personally I've found it depressing to watch one man's labor of love deteriorate into a spam litter box.

So, I was in contact with Elektron yesterday, basically saying that something needs to be done about the situation. This is what they said:

First of all, elektronauts status - internal testing of the new forum will start next week. After that, betatesters will get access, and from then on 5-6 weeks will pass before the forum in its finished form can be opened to the public. Don't count on it to arrive earlier ;)

Second, to handle the spam flood short term without putting in too much work, Elektron has disabled the register/signup function. Not an ideal solution, I know, but personally I find that to be less of a problem than rendering the forum useless from spam floods. If Elektron manage to keep their time frame, new users can join in 6-7 weeks.

If they can't keep this time frame, be sure to let them know...

And be sure to bump this thread, so that the information is passed on to as many users as possible.

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by Nein - 2013/06/28 18:59

Thanks for the update on this Nils.

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by tIB - 2013/06/28 19:00

Thanks for the update Nils, and appreciate the legwork. Hope you are well.

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by Artsutanov - 2013/06/28 19:21

Much appreciated ;)

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by Ringo KidF - 2013/06/28 19:45

That's super news and I'm very happy to hear that they posted a deadline too.

Thumps Up!

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by xmit - 2013/06/28 19:49

cracking work super-Nils ! :)

long time no speak & all that - hope you're good & many many thanks again for all your hard work.

PS vibes to the late, great Actuel B)

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by MCL - 2013/06/28 19:53

+1 to all the above, good news.

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by Nils - 2013/06/28 20:18

@ Tib and Xmit - long time no sound, mates! I'm ok :)

Also big thank you's to all those who have offered to help out with programming etc. It's much appreciated, and a symbol of the greatness of this forum. However, it seems Elektron want to keep the development of the new forum inhouse.
*EDIT: I'm only basing this assumption on the fact that I haven't seen anything indicating otherwise.

Ringo - About the deadline, I think it's more of an estimate. However, if there are more delays, we should let Elektron know we're waiting eagerly :)

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by maass - 2013/06/28 20:35

Nils wrote:

However, it seems Elektron want to keep the development of the new forum inhouse.

Maybe that's the crux. isn't the success of this forum because it's community/user driven?

=====

Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by neilbaldwin - 2013/06/28 20:51

Considering the likely combined talents on this forum and the willingness for many people to help to get the new forum off the ground finally, Elektron's reluctance to take advantage of that help seems a little shortsighted. Especially when you think of how long it's actually supposed to be in development. Forums don't take months to set up they take days.

:dry:

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by Nils - 2013/06/28 21:07

^ Admission on my part: I was just assuming that they want to keep it inhouse, as I've never seen any communication implicating otherwise. Ryan/Actuel was heavily involved in the startup, but naturally things changed when he got sick.

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by Nein - 2013/06/28 21:22

neilbaldwin wrote:

Considering the likely combined talents on this forum and the willingness for many people to help to get the new forum off the ground finally, Elektron's reluctance to take advantage of that help seems a little shortsighted. Especially when you think of how long it's actually supposed to be in development. Forums don't take months to set up they take days.

:dry:

Elektron have most likely been busy promoting the A4 and without doubt plotting planning and creating there next box for our enjoyment.

In all seriousness though the fact that the new forum will not be community/ user driven could be to its own detriment.

Is there or perhaps will there be a need for a User driven sight do you think?

If there were I would be interested in looking into the funding side of such an endeavour.

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by RubixGroove - 2013/06/28 21:34

I definitely remain optimistic of the new Elektronauts but I feel that Nein may have a point. Obviously, anything is too early to call now but I think it's worth being wary either way.

Can't wait to see the next page. This place has been so awesome, I couldn't imagine the 'net without it!

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by tIB - 2013/06/28 21:43

Given how this place has been looked after in the last year I'd much rather any new site was user driven. In an ideal world it would carry on here, with some changes to the current configuration. I'm not sure that is possible though; it was never clear to me whether HQ couldn't work on the current forum once they got the admin account or wouldn't, as they wanted to out the time into the new forum. I'm amazed it has taken so long to set that up.

=====

Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by Nein - 2013/06/28 22:06

tIB wrote:

Given how this place has been looked after in the last year I'd much rather any new site was user driven. In an ideal world it would carry on here, with some changes to the current configuration. I'm not sure that is possible though; it was never clear to me whether HQ couldn't work on the current forum once they got the admin account or wouldn't, as they wanted to out the time into the new forum. I'm amazed it has taken so long to set that up.

If it aint broke dont fix it. (its only broken because of Kitchen Spam of course)

Can this place not be given a facelift, polish added security etc etc and carry on as is (sort of with a few updates blah blah blah). Why not ?

=====

Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by BlueWolfSe7en - 2013/06/28 22:08

Firstly hats off to Nils for getting the ball rolling again on this issue!
2nd, the issue of whether or not its community lead or policed by Elektron opens up many questions.
In the early (exploratory) days a community based forum worked beautifully but a lot has changed.
Vast archives of info need managing, the search engine needs work, obvious issues with spam, the odd occasion when a member may require a slapped wrist, all take a lot of work & who amongst us has he time?

I for one would hate to see this forum go! It as been home for a number of years & has something special, an atmosphere, vibe, call it what you want, that I've not encountered elsewhere!

I figure the best bet is to see what Elektron can deliver & if there's a lot of unhappy folks maybe look at starting a fresh!

Lastly, in defence of Elektrons unenviable position, this is essentially a private fan club set up by admirers of their products! It's not really part of their business plan. I think for a small company, producing quality new products, maintaining back catalog, dealing with customer issues,repairs, R&D, marketing etc. It's a very brave move to take on a forum too.

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by Nein - 2013/06/28 22:13

BlueWolfSe7en wrote:
, all take a lot of work & who amongst us has he time?

.
any forum members that dont have kids probably.

=====

Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by tIB - 2013/06/28 22:22

BlueWolfSe7en wrote:

Lastly, in defence of Elektrons unenviable position, this is essentially a private fan club set up by admirers of their products! It's not really part of their business plan. I think for a small company, producing quality new products, maintaining back catalog, dealing with customer issues,repairs, R&D, marketing etc. It's a very brave move to take on a forum too.

Works both ways though- we have also been their marketing, customer support and ideas bank amongst other things.

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by BlueWolfSe7en - 2013/06/28 22:53

tIB wrote:

Works both ways though- we have also been their marketing, customer support and ideas bank amongst other things.

This is very true. As has been well documented in these pages, the OT was born out of Elektron Users creative use of the MD.

•œThe Best for the Group comes when everyone in the group does what's best for himself AND the group.œ•
John Nash

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by tIB - 2013/06/28 23:40

Indeed!

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by darenager - 2013/06/29 00:27

Great work Nils, I tweeted some messages to HQ over the past couple of weeks but don't know if it made a difference.

I think companies need to realise the HUGE importance of forums and the impact on their business, in an ideal world there would be an employee whose sole job is to maintain the forum, I daresay there are people here who would do such a job for a fair wage, hell I would.

A forum is only as good as its members, and fortunately we don't have too many dramas or disruptions, there are many people I've interacted with on here who have taught me something, be it a trick or idea, or even changed the way I think about something - perhaps not even related to music, the point is we are a community, a band apart, language and culture are no barrier, and that is worth protecting and encouraging. I suspect many sales of Elektron products are attributable to this forum and content made by its members.

I hope that the new forum migrates all the messages and files, even if the messages are locked and placed in a separate viewable archive area, perhaps this is what is taking the time?

I'll be kind of sad once this place is no more, but hope that all the good vibes and Ryan's vision of how it is conducted will continue at Elektronauts.

=====

Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by guga - 2013/06/29 00:34

Nein wrote:

tIB wrote:

If it aint broke dont fix it. (its only broken because of Kitchen Spam of course)

Can this place not be given a facelift, polish added security etc etc and carry on as is (sort of with a few updates blah blah blah). Why not ?

managing two forums would probably be an extra job for elektron :blink: but i agree with what tIB said. this forum feels a bit like home, it has given and still gives a lot to the community, thanks to the users and all the people that work on it. adding some security features to the forum would do the job and would keep this place alive. i wouldn't mind if elektron would keep both forums: the official one (elektronauts) and the community driven (elektron-users).. but i guess elektron has to make a choice in the end, we'll see...

=====

Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by JES - 2013/06/29 02:00

Glad to hear progress is being made, though keeping new users out will be a problem and people will need it explained to them.

I am also concerned that Elektron will neglect the new forum, given how they've handled this one. I don't BLAME them, as they're a small company and have limited resources. They've always been good to me in support.

But without good management, a forum can go from great to terrible in no time. Have a look at the Ableton.com forums to see a worst-case scenario, where the quality just drops and people are jerks. There are good people there but a low signal to noise ratio compared with these forums.

If they would just hand over the reins to the members here, it could keep going indefinitely. We've had lots of volunteers to do work on the search function and managing the board, and in terms of the costs of keeping it running, if a few of us oldsters with decent-paying jobs donated \$20 a piece each year, it would be covered.

--JES

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by Veets - 2013/06/29 02:09

Daren's inspired me to chime in so here's what I would say about the new forum: "keep the vibe but cut the spam". I think the Community Driven focus of the site is a big part of what makes it what it is. What I would hate to see is this becoming more of a tech support site once it was moved under Elektron's wing, or if some other kind of corporate feel got into the forum. Elektron has always stopped by the forum every now and then (rightfully so, and even got a great new employee out of hereB)) but it's a bit more fun to play around when "Mom and Dad" aren't stepping in all the time.

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by poonti - 2013/06/29 02:19

If there's enough interest in creating a new community driven forum to replace this one, I will certainly be able to help with time, as well as a donation. It's a wonder this site held up as long as it did, and testament to Ryan as well as many of you who have held it together the last year or so since he passed.

I would hate for the community to lose all of the resources in this forum (especially if the official site doesn't import any of this).

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by tIB - 2013/06/29 02:31

This site has meant an awful lot to me over the years, and its been horrible watching the wheels fall off it since Ryan's passing. I have no technical knowledge but I would help in whatever way I could if we were to develop a new, community driven site or look at taking this one on. I know that elektron have no interest in trying to fix this site (and fair play, it would be a lot of work to decode how it is set up I'd imagine, if super admin powers have even been transferred to them), but if it could be done I'd certainly be up for putting a penny in the slot and putting the moderator hat back on if needed. Something special has been created here, I'd rather not see it go to waste. I'm happy to be a part of is forum, but an elektron driven forum doesn't appeal to me at all... If the community aspect is gone the vibe we have here goes with it IMHO.

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by kirlian - 2013/06/29 03:06

thanks a bunch, nils! i hope you are doing well. i am really looking forward to an invigorated forum. sad to say that i am one who got burned out deleting spam and just stopped coming by for a while. i am really looking forward to the next iteration.

i fully agree about the forum being a huge source of business for the company. i wouldn't be an elektron head or have purchased 3 boxes from them if it weren't for this forum.

i would also be willing to put time in any capacity into a new community driven site. hopefully whatever elektron has up their sleeve will appeal to us in the same way this site has in the past.

=====

Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by danbroad - 2013/06/29 03:16

Another user here who wouldn't have bought three elektron boxes if it weren't for this place. In fact, I'd go so far as to say the ideas on the web are the reason Elektron's doing so well. After all, who hasn't, for example, seen the 'IDM in a box' youtube vid, or listened to Siesta's Ghosts'n'dubs etc?

I'm not aware of any company whose internet users were so instrumental in shaping the success, the products, and the direction of that company. Maybe it's all just coincidence, company and users on the same path, but I doubt it.

Wherever the forum goes I'll follow it, but I understand a need to keep Ryan's legacy intact.

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by rennweg - 2013/06/30 20:52

Bump.

Thanks Nils for the update.

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by pulsn - 2013/07/01 03:58

Yes, thank you Nils for the update. I tried today to signup on Elektronauts...not working (yet)?

We'll see. If there's anything to help speed things up, let me know.

=====

Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by Beardy Jack - 2013/07/01 04:30

I'm not exactly a 'big hitter' here but this forum is the best on the net and certainly a positive force. As much as I hate the spam I'd hate to see this forum die even more, this is a safe place and has a user consciousness all of it's own, we have all eaten popcorn whilst reading an argument but it's all good natured and above the belt.

I feel the energy would shift and users would become maybe tight lipped and suspicious if Elektron themselves were omnipotent. How many accusations of affiliation would be levelled?

I appreciate the tremendous dedication of the admin team and feel sickened by the idea that this great community is being hijacked by kitchen bullshit, it's a great shame.

I personally (since getting rid of my Tempest) only use this forum because it's a great family here, the use of first names by some a testament to the friendship and acquaintances cultivated and to see it fragment and break up would probably mean my departure.

Whatever, you can't rebuild the 808 mr Miami, something will always be missing...

=====

Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by mcpepe - 2013/07/01 05:39

I also think this is a fantastic forum, and I enjoy visiting it almost everyday!

Let's hope the forum get a good update (maybe to Elektronauts), and we can continue even better.

But, I seriously think a good update is needed

=====

Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by skab - 2013/07/01 13:14

Thanks for the update Nlls. I really like this site. It's been a great help to me, understanding my Elektron boxes and making music in general. I think the new site's future will entirely depend on how much of a nanny Elektron wants to be. Since they are such a small firm, I really doubt that they will have the resources to send in the "thought police" every time somebody posts a complaint ;)

=====

Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by jonah - 2013/07/01 23:15

First, overdue big thanks to everyone that's put in work on the site!

Second, how about using this site as a "best of" data repository? When the domain expires, someone could jump on it before a squatter takes it over. (Or can Elektron sell it? Dunno the behind the scenes there.)

Elektron gear has more varied, flexible use and users than most, so it'd be cool, I think, at least to collect all the tips and tricks, video links and so on. Maybe something could be worked into the forum software so we as users could tag and mark stuff to get sent to elektron-users to save. There are the nice MonoMachine and MachineDrum documents, but I think there is and will be more to add for years to come.

As for elektronauts, I'll give it a wait n see. It can't be as bad as Ableton's forum. :dry: :laugh:

It'd be geeky, but I wouldn't mind stuff like a sub forum for users with serial numbers, where we get a bit more communication, etc. I mean, I agree, if Elektron doesn't use the opportunity to involve themselves in the community, it will feel like mom and dad - or hanging on to big brother, which would be weird when one of the things I think draws us to Elektron gear is that it pushes us to "break" or push past it's "limitations".

=====

Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by dataline - 2013/07/01 23:20

Elektronauts is definitely worth the wait :)

=====

Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by void - 2013/07/01 23:27

feature request: an API for a database of user sysex. ;)

=====

Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by Nils - 2013/07/01 23:48

dataline wrote:

Elektronauts is definitely worth the wait :)

Since we have an Elektron employee here - more details would great.

=====

Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by Allerian - 2013/07/01 23:53

Great news! Features I hope to see:

The ability to search up a post you were involved in a couple weeks ago.

"New posts since last visit" working again.

=====

Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by stiiiiiive - 2013/07/01 23:54

Thanks Nils for keeping us aware of the work. Glad to read you're good :)

=====

Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by tIB - 2013/07/02 17:08

Have HQ gotten around to stopping the sign up yet? Still very spammy at this point.

On another note Dataline is an employee? How long has that been? I always assumed he was just a really enthusiastic fan.

=====

Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by darenager - 2013/07/02 18:09

I deleted loads this morning, wondering if disabling external links might be a better solution, I'm sure it is pretty easy to turn it off.

=====

Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by BlueWolfSe7en - 2013/07/02 21:05

dataline wrote:

Elektronauts is definitely worth the wait :)

If Elektron put as much imagination into the forum as they do with their kit then I bet it is :)

=====

Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by Nils - 2013/07/02 21:08

darenager wrote:

I deleted loads this morning, wondering if disabling external links might be a better solution, I'm sure it is pretty easy to turn it off.

That's bad news! I would much appreciate if you can inform Jon of this.

=====

Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by BlueWolfSe7en - 2013/07/02 21:14

tIB wrote:

On another note Dataline is an employee? How long has that been? I always assumed he was just a really enthusiastic fan.

18 months maybe, I don't know I'm terrible with time!!!

But yeah, he's busy in Gothenburg these days. They needed a professional Peanut Butter Pancake taster & he has all the right qualifications!!!! :laugh:

=====

Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by Nein - 2013/07/02 21:26

BlueWolfSe7en wrote:

tIB wrote:

On another note Dataline is an employee? How long has that been? I always assumed he was just a really enthusiastic fan.

18 months maybe, I don't know I'm terrible with time!!!

But yeah, he's busy in Gothenburg these days. They needed a professional Peanut Butter Pancake taster & he has all the right qualifications!!!! :laugh:

Im pretty sure Dataline would say he is an enthusiastic fan and an employee in equal measure.

I can only imagine that everybody working for Elektron is. A labour of Love for sure.

:)

=====

Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by phading - 2013/07/02 22:25

I will believe the news when I see the new forum.

It's a shame that such a great forum turned out like this

I hope elektronauts manages to recover the great community vibe this forum once had.

=====

Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by pixelife - 2013/07/02 22:47

I am bumping everyones comments here. I hope it's a smooth transition with much needed improvements. I'll be weirdly sad when it moves over since I would not be where I am with my music making without this site. Cheers everyone.

=====

Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by papertiger - 2013/07/02 23:18

phading wrote:

I hope elektronauts manages to recover the great community vibe this forum once had.

so much, if not all of that vibe, depends entirely on the community's members. and the membership has changed over the last few years...

=====

Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by Nils - 2013/07/03 18:41

It seems spam is still seeping through, but not at the same rate as before.

I guess we have to manually delete spam accounts registered before the registration shutdown.

Elektron will soon be needing betatesters for the new forum. Invitations will be sent to everyone who's registered on the pre-registration page.

To get an invitation, sign up here:

http://elektronauts.com/pre_registrations/signup

=====

Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by Nils - 2013/07/03 18:44

Nein wrote:

Im pretty sure Dataline would say he is an enthusiastic fan and an employee in equal measure.

I can only imagine that everybody working for Elektron is. A labour of Love for sure.

Totally, and Dataline's contributions and presence here is much appreciated.

I also think that anyone affiliated with Elektron should be clear on their ties to the company, when involving in discussions on their products and practices.

=====

Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by ElectronicFur - 2013/07/03 18:49

One feature that would be cool on the elektronauts forum is if it had code that queried the online elektron product registration database. Then it could actually automatically show which users own what hardware.

=====

Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by Jon - 2013/07/03 22:07

Hello all,

Jon from Elektron here. As Nils wrote, we'll start the external beta testing of the Elektronauts forums this Friday. We've been working on the forums for quite some time and I personally think it's going to be a nice place and well worth our efforts. (after some corrections/implementations).

I'm aware that the current state of elektron-users is messy; a lot of spam and so on. We will of course make our best to keep Elektronauts spam free. It is a priority of ours, meaning you'll have to look for nice kitchen deals elsewhere.

Everyone registered at the Elektronauts Registration page will receive a beta invitation.
In order to make Elektronauts feel as well-implemented as possible, I really encourage all of you to register and help us test the site. It would be enormously appreciated. In the process, you'll also enjoy spam-free forums featuring some extra bells and whistles I hope you will find useful.

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by BlueWolfSe7en - 2013/07/03 22:28

Nice one Jon, roll on Fri, can't wait!!!

P.S I'm in Dire Straits over acquiring some microwave ovens, can anyone help? :laugh:

=====

Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by xmit - 2013/07/03 22:34

^
I've got to move some, refrigerators....

B)

Great news re. Elektronauts - thanks again for everyone's hard work. :)

=====

Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by phading - 2013/07/03 23:36

papertiger wrote:
phading wrote:
I hope elektronauts manages to recover the great community vibe this forum once had.

so much, if not all of that vibe, depends entirely on the community's members. and the membership has changed over the last few years...

Of course, but all this spam made a lot of people stop coming here like before, myself included.

Nils wrote:

I also think that anyone affiliated with Elektron should be clear on their ties to the company, when involving in discussions on their products and practices.

Agree

=====

Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by Jon - 2013/07/03 23:46

I fully agree about clearly showing the affiliations of the messenger. On Elektronauts we will implement some sort of avatar indication for all official Elektron representatives.

=====

Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by dataline - 2013/07/04 00:39

:hot:

=====

Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by Nils - 2013/07/04 01:42

Sign up folks! :lvl:

=====

Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by Nils - 2013/07/04 01:43

Jon wrote:

I fully agree about clearly showing the affiliations of the messenger. On Elektronauts we will implement some sort of avatar indication for all official Elektron representatives.

:beer:

=====

Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by Daisuk - 2013/07/04 03:00

Great news! I've signed up and ready to beta-test my sphongle off. :)

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by stiiiiiiive - 2013/07/04 06:34

Thanks for this good news Jon :)

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by Jon - 2013/07/04 17:54

Important info: unfortunately we can not accept beta testers during the beta test phase of Elektronauts. The beta test phase will last for 5-7 weeks. Those who have applied (registration closes Friday) will be able to beta test, those who haven't will have to wait a bit with trying out the new forums.

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by guga - 2013/07/05 00:01

great news, looking forward to the new forum!

=====

Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by void - 2013/07/05 20:43

<http://files.myopera.com/JanetB/albums/1478531/Patient%20Bear.jpeg>

=====

Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by yoof - 2013/07/06 00:04

Exciting! I just received my invitation to join Elektronauts. Unfortunately though, my username and password (the one in the mail invitation) don't seem to let me in. Anybody else get that problem?

Can't wait to see the new site :)

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by Masarin - 2013/07/06 00:04

Happens to me too. :-(

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by yoof - 2013/07/06 00:05

Ignore me... I tried again, it's letting me in now.

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by Jon - 2013/07/06 00:05

Beta time! All who have signed up for beta testing should have received an email welcoming them to try out Elektronauts. Happy testing!

=====

Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by xmit - 2013/07/06 00:23

I've just popped back here 'cos I felt all weird & disoriented... :laugh:

Right - I'll head on back over there now!

=====

Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by MCL - 2013/07/06 00:40

Just been over to the new site, looking good, if a bit strange at this point!

What is going to ultimately happen to this site after the change? Deleted? If so, will all the years worth of hints and tips be ported over there? That is gonna be a mammoth task!

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by pixelife - 2013/07/06 02:03

Woohoo! Just registered. Looking forward to this new experience.

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by glitched - 2013/07/06 04:00

Ah, crap. I came here with the intention of getting some information on kitchen remodeling. Didn't know it was an electronical-whatsit site. Oh well, I may as well finish the post I started...

Yes, it's great that Elektron is moving on this.

As an internet veteran, I've been a part of many forums, and the inevitable closing of one is just part of the life-cycle.

As others have said, it's the people that count; if those people move on to the next forum, all should be well.

One important note for Elektron: a modern, but simple implementation will be best. Make it easy to read, sort, and post. Give us multiple RSS feeds for various sections. Avatars are nice, I guess, and signatures. Call me immature, but I like the "Mario"-themed designations (Chain Chomp, Yoshi, etc.).

Oh, one other thing that I loved in the early days was the "Labs" competitions. We had a bunch of them with a number of contestants, but they seemed to dwindle, as time went on. A little, fun competition, once in a while, sponsored by Elektron would certainly be cool!

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by tasmansea - 2013/07/10 08:06

@anyone who is testing/running this: will there be some archive section?

seems I'm not the only one being worried that this well of information and knowledge here will be drained

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by HouseCliche - 2013/07/10 08:39

I read somewhere that they would "lock" this forum down to read-only as a means of archiving the great content here.

Big Mistake for 2 reasons:

1. fireboard (the software this forum runs on) is open source and well understood, so it should actually be very easy to write a script or use a db transfer tool to move and massage the content into elektronauts new structure - including all file assets. In fact this is technically trivial. They could even have migrated the users, looks like they have decided not too.

2. the main reason - SEO - ever noticed how a straight Google query (or enter Search engine of choice) returns elektron-users in the first 2 or 3 results? That's the magic that high quality user generated content brings to search - search engines basically Luuurve lively, we'll established forums content. This is well documented in e.g. googles algorithmic changes to meet the rise of UGC.

Reason number 2 actually has a solid business case attached to it from Elektrons point of view and they need to seriously look at this, I mean SERIOUSLY - they are a small business and this kind of SEO asset is worth potentially significant dollars to them.

They need to migrate the content to elektronauts and implement a linking strategy that maps old URL's (indexed by Search Engines) to new URL's in Elektronauts. Again, technically trivial.

There are many documented cases of small companies with large forums "throwing the content away" when they switch forum platform, only to later realise the lost value of that content in SEO terms much later - that used to be kinda acceptable because SEO was a bit of a black art and some businesses actually thought it had no value. ALL THIS HAS CHANGED.

Elektron - if your listening - Don't make the mistake of thinking "we'll save a couple of thousand euro now by not paying a migration guy to move the stuff over" - trust me - wrong move.

Do the right thing - it makes business sense :)

Quick examples demonstrating SEO value of this forum:

<https://www.google.co.uk/search?q=octatrack+midi+import&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&hl=en&client=safari>

<https://www.google.co.uk/search?q=monomachine+vs+virus&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&hl=en&client=safari>

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by wolfgang - 2013/07/10 09:55

being smart about using server side 301 redirects would solve some of the lost seo when moving to a new site. Hopefully they look into it, although with when activity increases on elektranauts and decreases on elektron-users, the google algorithm and time will sort it all out.

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by HouseCliche - 2013/07/10 11:25

301 is only useful if the content actually exists on Elektronauts though right? I'm not technical but my understanding is:

Original URL (indexed) -> content has moved permanently to -> HERE new URL of content

Also by my reckoning this forum has about 8 years maybe of content that contributes to great SEO - I'm not saying it will take another 8 years for the search algorithms to "adjust" but I'd be surprised if Elektronauts sees as high quality results as elektron-users in short to mid term (whatever that may be...) - especially if you remember that many of the "dead threads" might never be resurrected on Elektronauts - old questions and ideas that have been forgotten by the regulars are extremely valuable and relevant to new users and prospective Elektron customers - they will be found by search HERE so I suppose you could just signpost people over to the new forum to try and resurrect old threads - "Hey i wanna know about OT Sample Chains! - Yeah there's a great 12 pages deep thread over on the old forum, read that then come back here if you wanna discuss further..." Erm okay... :)

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by wolfgang - 2013/07/10 14:51

HouseCliche wrote:

301 is only useful if the content actually exists on Elektronauts though right? I'm not technical but my understanding is:

yes thats correct. I should have been more clear. I think there's a way to have the content on the new site in a separate archive section, maybe even a way to do this using the pdf versions of threads. or developing some script as someone mentioned already.

Its basically a strategy for transitioning, instead of just having the old site locked off and separate, would be worth elektron looking into if they haven't already.

Also there are a few things that will bias googles algo in addition to activity and cross linking, especially since this site / fireboard install is pretty old.

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by Jon - 2013/08/28 18:48

Hi all,

Time for some Elektronauts/elektron-users info. Monday Sep 9 is the date we've set for going public with Elektronauts. Two weeks later, Sep 23, elektron-users will be "frozen". It will still remain as an info database, but logging in, posting, registering etc, will not be possible.

I know some of you have suggested we should migrate all elektron-users content to Elektronauts. Unfortunately that task is not as easy as it seems. It would take quite some time, and we think those resources are better spent on making Elektronauts as good as possible. Other drawbacks to this strategy would be the splintered feeling that would linger over Elektronauts. Migrating elektron-users would mean that the absolute majority of the posts on Elektronauts would've been made by inactive profiles. We found it better to give Elektronauts its own identity and means of existence. After all, elektron-users will still remain as a great resource.

All the best,

Jon
Elektron

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by kirlian - 2013/08/28 20:52

Thanks for the update! I'm definitely looking forward to the new forum.

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by shemp - 2013/08/29 08:32

Likewise. Thanks Jon.

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by Jon - 2013/08/29 21:30

After some feedback over at Elektronauts, we've decided to make it possible to log in to elektron-users even after freezing the site. Apparently certain users had bookmarked relevant threads here, content which can't be retrieved unless logging in.

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by nuno - 2013/08/29 21:31

Jon wrote:

After some feedback over at Elektronauts, we've decided to make it possible to log in to elektron-users even after freezing the site. Apparently certain users had bookmarked relevant threads here, content which can't be retrieved unless logging in.

Thank you. I'm one of those users B)

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Re:IMPORTANT - FORUM FUTURE

Posted by Artsutanov - 2013/08/29 21:35

nuno wrote:

Jon wrote:

After some feedback over at Elektronauts, we've decided to make it possible to log in to elektron-users even after freezing the site. Apparently certain users had bookmarked relevant threads here, content which can't be retrieved unless logging in.

Thank you. I'm one of those users B)

Me too. Thanks!

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