

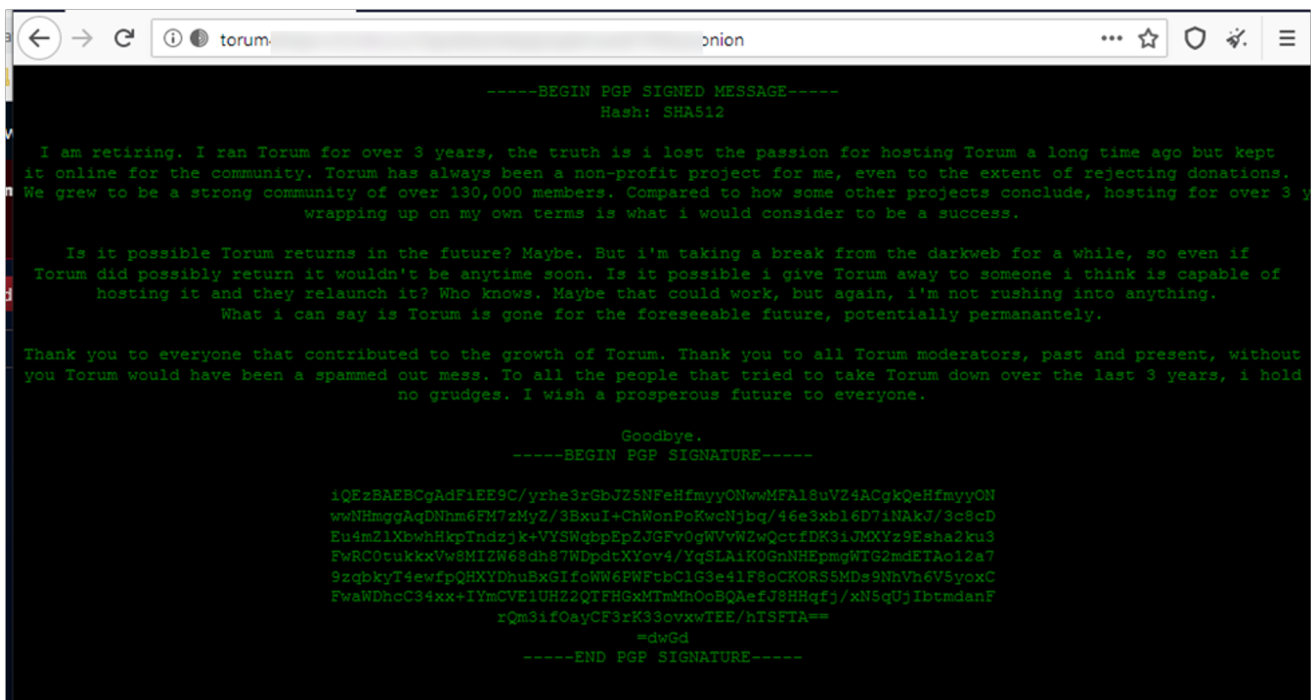
# Torum is Dead. Long Live CryptBB?

ke-la.com/torum-is-dead-long-live-cryptbb/

August 24, 2020

On August 9, 2020, Torum's administrator announced the forum is shutting down. What was this forum, and will its users find alternatives? KELA explored various darknet sources, as well as Torum itself, to find out. Here is a summary of our findings:

- Torum was an English-speaking underground forum that posed as a nonprofit cybersecurity website. While both its members and users of other forums agreed **Torum was a good place to discuss cybersecurity and learn hacking methods, the site was overwhelmed by newbies and scammers who damaged its reputation.**
- **Torum's administrator announced he is closing the forum because he lost interest in supporting it.**
- **Torum was an active, stable community, which will likely be missed by users.** The forum has **a few alternatives in the darknet, including CryptBB, which recently became public.** This post will explore what distinguished Torum and what darknet chatter reveals about possible alternatives.
- As users struggle to find new forums with a decent community, **it is crucial to continue tracking these sources to understand new trends and TTPs, and proactively mitigate potential risks emerging from them.**



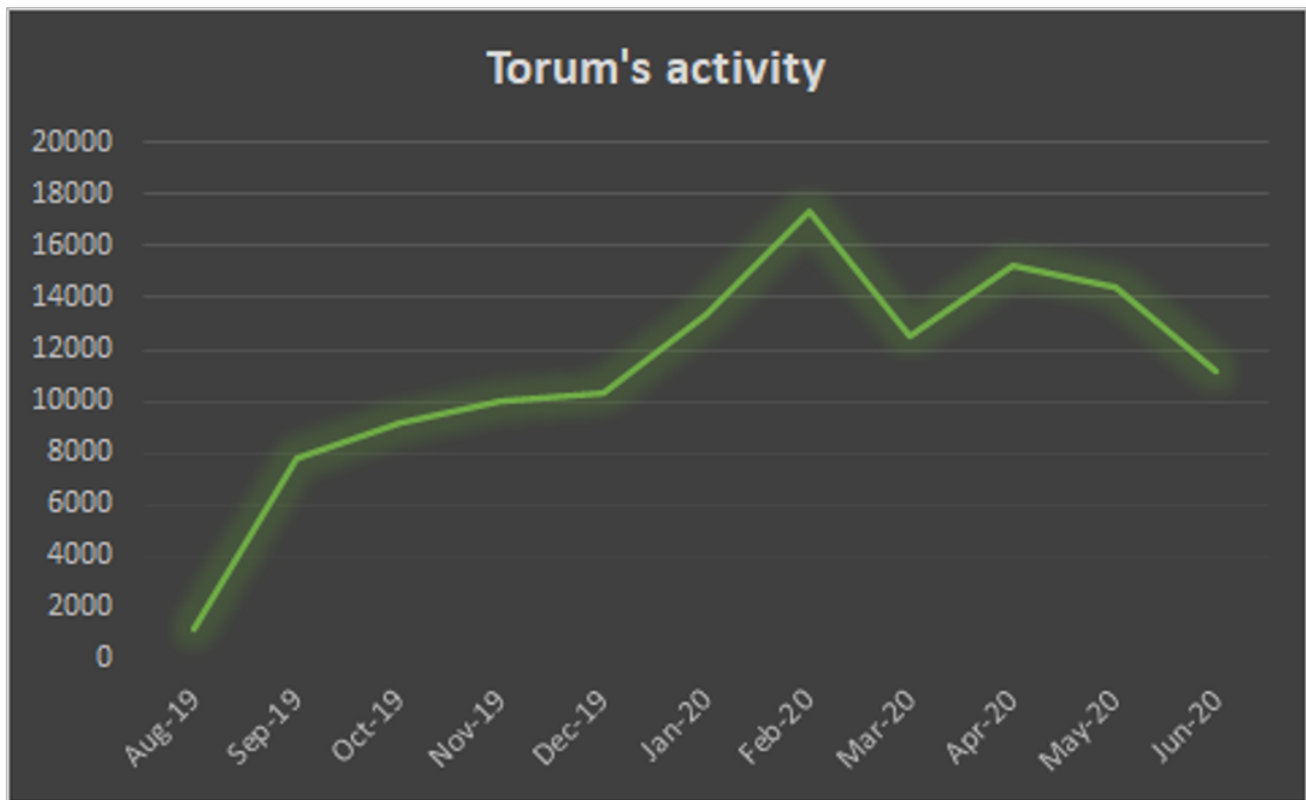
## The History of Torum

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Launched in May 2017, Torum reportedly had more than 130,000 users, a substantial number for an underground forum. RaidForums, the most popular English-speaking forum, has about 465,000 members, 15,000 active daily.

Torum only gained popularity among the English-speaking audience in February 2019, when Kickass (an English-speaking platform for cybercriminals) went offline. Torum's user base increased by 639% from February to October of that year.

We used KELA's DARKBEAST to dive into Torum's posts, concluding it was actively maintained throughout 2020, with almost 95,000 posts published from January to August. Based on our analysis, in addition to cybersecurity discussions, many conversations focused on malicious activities and other related information, as well as trading and sharing accesses and databases.

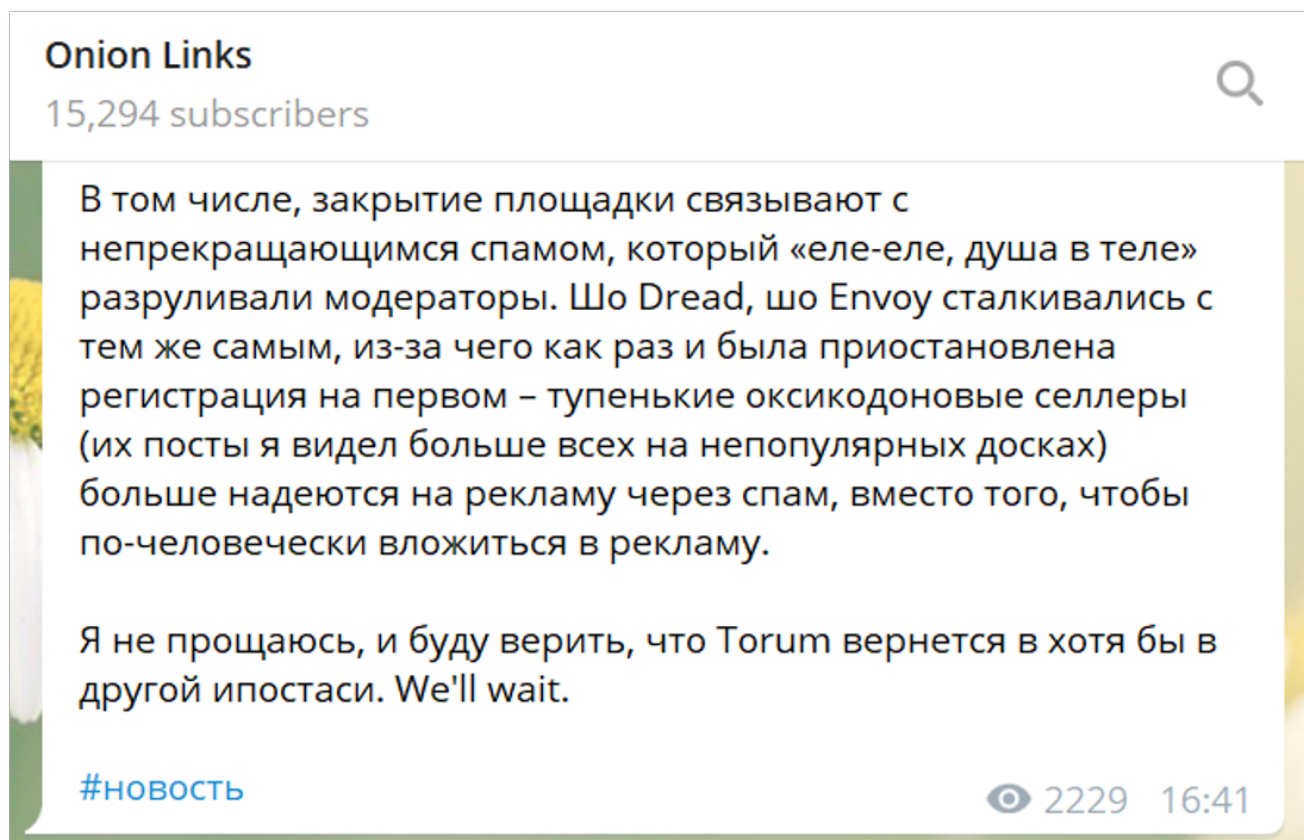


Torum's activity in 2020 (number of messages)

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The official reason for closure, provided by Torum's administrator, is that he "lost the passion" to maintain the forum. We found nothing indicating otherwise. Torum was known for frequent outages: members mentioned the site could be down for a few days at a time, suggesting the

administrator wasn't rushing to fix technical issues. Some users also said the administrator was tired of the flood of spam messages on Torum.



*A message posted on Onion Links, a Telegram channel dedicated to darknet news: "In particular, the closure of the site is associated with constant spam, which was barely sorted out by the moderators. Both Dread and Envoy faced the same problem, which is why registration was suspended at the first one."*

## Was Torum Unique?

According to users' complaints on other forums, **Torum featured many beginners asking "noob questions" and scammers posting malicious links.** When discussing Torum shutting down, some mentioned it wasn't such a loss. Others still paid respect to the forum: "Torum had it all – wacky stuff, DNM related content, discussion on fraud, scripting, hacking, cracking, and of course shitposts. For many, it was the community that introduced them to the concepts of NetSec and fraud."

**PopularVote**  
Senior Contributor  
★★★★★  
Posts: 405  
Community Rating: +35/-3

**Re: torum down for ever?**  
« Reply #4 on: August 14, 2020, 11:43:33 pm »

Quote from: noxhi on August 14, 2020, 11:31:41 pm

there was some useful info on there tho

Useful info as in security, or how to avoid scammers? I didn't frequent the forum at all. Totally put off by the fraud and scamming aspects.

[Report to moderator](#) [Logged](#)

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**noxhi**  
Hero Contributor  
★★★★★  
Posts: 629  
Community Rating: +49/-8  
contact for pgp

**Re: torum down for ever?**  
« Reply #5 on: August 15, 2020, 07:37:24 pm »

^whatever fraud and scamming is shitty to do but not shitty to read about, there was some good talk about computers and how some shit works but most of it was hacking, noobs asking noob questions, and motherfuckers trying to scam/get info on ppl by making it seem like they were helping, but then sharing shady links. Also when you read and understand a little bit about hacking you know how to better avoid being a cybercrime victim

[Report to moderator](#) [Logged](#)

*Users discussing the closure of Torum (source: darknet forum TheHub)*

Commented on: [Torum abandoned by the owner](#)  
[/u/HumanPie](#) · 1 week ago in [/d/HiddenService](#) · 3 points

A monumental day indeed.

Thanks for all the hours spent on there. Torum had it all - wacky stuff, DNM related content, discussion on fraud, scripting, hacking, cracking, and of course shitposts. For many it was the community which introduced the concepts of netsec and fraud. Torum was generous to it's members and those with an itch for more knowledge went on futher and became quite the specialists. Will definitely miss the place.

Godspeed!

*A user discussing the closure of Torum on (source: Dread, "the darknet Reddit")*

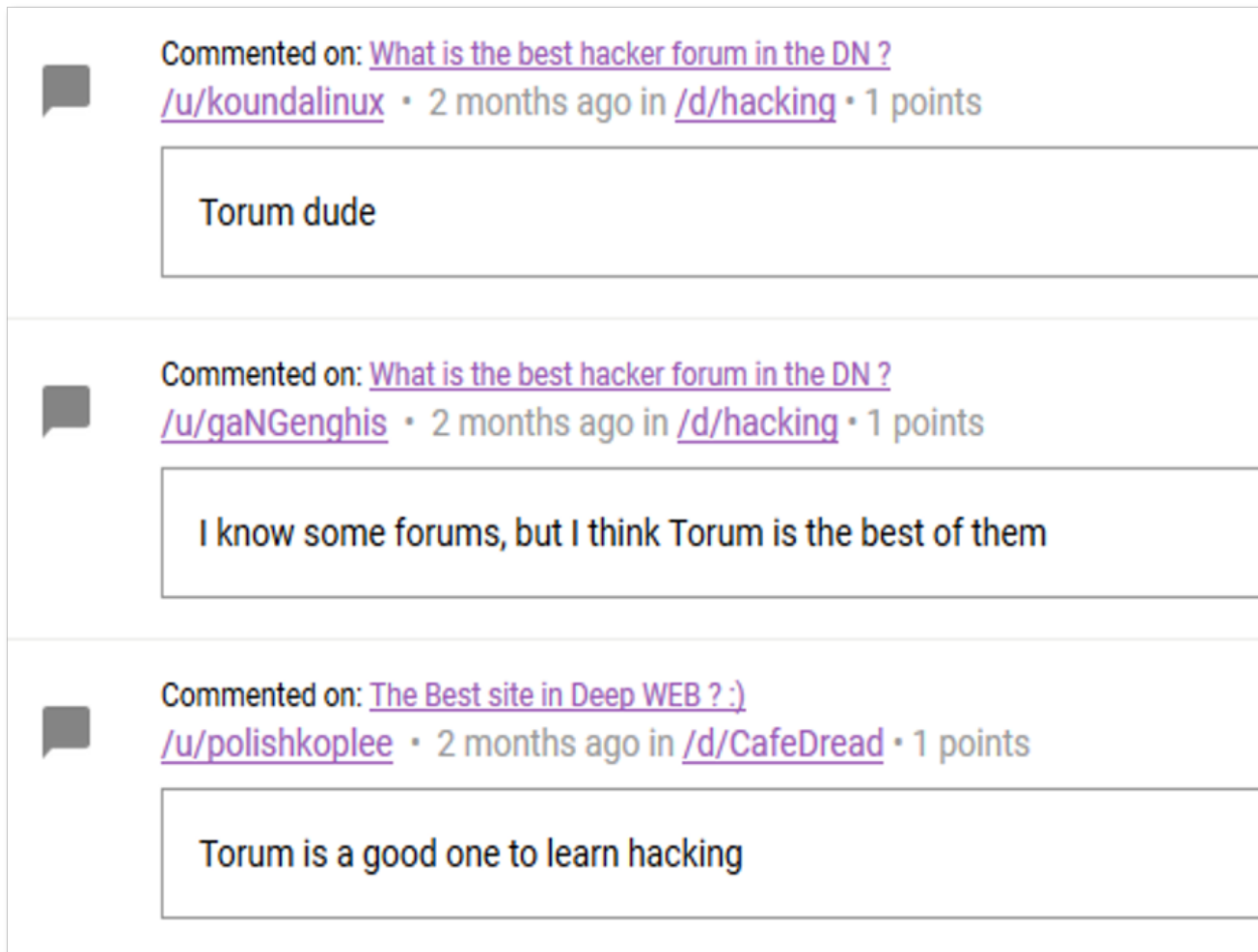
**It appears that Torum had loyal members, who rarely posted on other underground forums, at least with the same user handles.** Torum's ten most active users used 2-3 other forums on average, with Torum as their primary platform.

**So what types of data were sold on Torum, and what interested its members?** Here's a quick review of the topics discussed in July 2020:

## Hacking and Cybersecurity

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Users often asked for advice from experienced users, and the forum was considered a place where one could learn hacking. Here are a few recent examples of such questions: “What can I do with IP address?”, “Have CC [credit card data] + info – now what?”, “Is it possible to get into someone’s iPhone camera and spy on them?” Torum claimed to be a place for in-depth discussions about cybersecurity, but these conversations were much less common. However, some users referred to Torum members as experienced hackers. Besides hacking, community members discussed general interest topics, such as Covid-19.



The image shows a screenshot of three forum comments. Each comment is displayed in a separate box with a speech bubble icon on the left. The first comment is from user /u/koundalinux, commenting on the thread 'What is the best hacker forum in the DN?' in the /d/hacking subforum, 2 months ago, with 1 point. The comment text is 'Torum dude'. The second comment is from user /u/gaNGenghis, also commenting on 'What is the best hacker forum in the DN?' in /d/hacking, 2 months ago, with 1 point. The comment text is 'I know some forums, but I think Torum is the best of them'. The third comment is from user /u/polishkoplee, commenting on 'The Best site in Deep WEB ? :)' in the /d/CafeDread subforum, 2 months ago, with 1 point. The comment text is 'Torum is a good one to learn hacking'.

Commented on: [What is the best hacker forum in the DN ?](#)  
[/u/koundalinux](#) • 2 months ago in [/d/hacking](#) • 1 points

Torum dude

Commented on: [What is the best hacker forum in the DN ?](#)  
[/u/gaNGenghis](#) • 2 months ago in [/d/hacking](#) • 1 points

I know some forums, but I think Torum is the best of them

Commented on: [The Best site in Deep WEB ? :\)](#)  
[/u/polishkoplee](#) • 2 months ago in [/d/CafeDread](#) • 1 points

Torum is a good one to learn hacking

*Discussions about darknet websites (source: Dread)*


## Databases for Sale and Free


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Torum users shared popular recent leaks (Tokopedia breach and BlueLeaks, for example), as well as exclusive findings. For instance, one user posted data stolen from an Irish financial company, and others pointed out the company’s site has an XSS vulnerability. Users shared databases in the forum’s Intel exchange section, open for members who posted ten messages on Torum.

Another DB dumps
🔍 📄 🗑

N3xtRx wrote:  
 Have no use for it, You guys can use it, there some info i think, There's some things so dig in i think, I think this website is used for carding their own Products and they have a panel for it is visible from the dumps  
[https://ppgdemo.planetpayment\(dot\)com](https://ppgdemo.planetpayment(dot)com)  
[https://anonfiles.com/T7saPeEdoe/payondemo.tar\\_gz](https://anonfiles.com/T7saPeEdoe/payondemo.tar_gz)  
 Edit: If you're wondering the info of DB is fresh i just dumped it a few days ago ;)  
 can you view cc info??

SCREENSHOT  


POSTED DATE  
 Jul 8th, 2020

CRAWLER  
 Torum [↗](#)

*Database leaks on Torum (via DARKBEAST)*

## Accounts, Remote Access and Credit Card Data for Sale

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Various users were looking to buy and sell remote access to organizations, accounts of financial services (including WebMoney, Exmo, PayPal, Yandex Money), and other types of data. Based on their offering, we assume sellers didn't use Torum as an exclusive trading platform.


## Malware for Sale


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Thanos ransomware, which emerged in late 2019, attracted the attention of Torum users debating whether the author of a post advertising it should be trusted. He identified as the developer of Thanos, who decided to offer it to Torum's users. Exploits, RATs, ATM malware, and other malicious tools were also discussed and offered for sale.

Thanos ransomware
🔍 📄 🗑

Hi guys I am very pleased for the opportunity of being able to offer you my products. I have been developing malware for many years and update my products sometimes on a daily basis.  
 First product is **Thanos** Ransomware Builder I have created it and starting to sell it on another forum on 11-23-2019 but now I want to bring this service even here on **torum**.  
 I designed the Ransomware Builder thinking in selective attacks on big targets like companies. These are the main characteristics of the product:  
 --Main aspects.  
 --Works well and it has been thoroughly tested from Windows 7 and up.  
 --Easy to use attractive interface. Creation of a ransomware client is as easy as three steps: 1. Change bitcoin address to collect the ransom, 2. Type email for contact (anonymous email service) and ransom amount, 3. Click Build.  
 Interface is also full of contextual help. Any option where you hover the mouse will indicate how to use. If you make mistakes, the builder will indicate the problem and how to correct it.  
 --Unattended updates. The builder updates automatically without user interaction using our update server. All you need to do to get updated is open your builder and wait for the update be downloaded and restarted.  
 --Strong Encryption system. It is impossible to recover the files without the right keys. We use American Government Encryption standard for communications with a large encryption key.

SCREENSHOT  


POSTED DATE  
 Jul 13th, 2020

CRAWLER  
 Torum [↗](#)

*The developer of Thanos ransomware offered his product on Torum (via DARKBEAST)*

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As can be seen, the data offered on Torum were rarely unique. However, users valued it as a place for hacking-related conversations and learning. Torum had a private section for administrators and moderators of the forum, but it was closed following leaks of private discussions. Now, both veterans and newbies must find a new platform for similar discussions.

## Where Will Users Migrate?

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Most users have been probably already using other platforms and markets dedicated to leaks, malware, tools, etc. **Torum was never famous for being the first source for such offers, so users will look for a new place to discuss hacking activities. Here are the leading alternatives:**

According to darknet chatter, a prospective replacement is **CryptBB**, which recently eased the acceptance process of new users. CryptBB, launched in 2017, started as a private English-speaking hacking forum known for its rigorous application policy, only accepting members who pass an interview. However, in late 2019, CryptBB opened a section for “newbies” who are not skilled enough to be accepted but still want to learn from experienced hackers, posting a thread on Dread, where administrators invite beginners to improve their skills and evolve into “pro” members.

CryptBB has around 10,000 users, but when users struggle to find forums with a decent community, the application process and the semi-private mode might attract new users. Even on Torum, members were looking for platforms with a strict screening process, including Exodus, an exclusive forum that was closed in 2017.



*A user interested in an alternative to Exodus (source: Torum; via DARKBEAST)*

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As CryptBB seems focused on gaining a larger audience and building a new brand on the darknet, Torum’s closure is a positive development. Some users are already recommending CryptBB as a replacement.

It's a Officially PGP Signed message I removed that part here, you can also check on their url as well.

So, i just need some answers for any other best alternative to the Torum on Darknet.

@torum



asked 1 week ago in [Hidden Answers](#) by [Jack001](#) **Noob** 101 (130 points)

[Answer](#) [comment](#)

1 Answer



CryptBB is the only public alternative I know at the moment.  
<http://cryptbb2gezhohku.onion/index.php>



answered 1 week ago by [madeinchaos](#) **Vanguard** (37,265 points)

*A thread on HiddenAnswers, the darknet alternative of Quora*

CryptBB's contenders include **TheHub**, claiming to have around 157,000 users, who are supposedly less into hacking activities and not as active as Torum's users. We traced about 16,000 messages posted in 2020 – while Torum had almost 95,000.

Author Topic: torum alternative (Read 110 times)

**holyolms**  
Brand Spankin' New  
Posts: 4  
Community Rating: +1/-0

**torum alternative**  
« on: August 15, 2020, 11:03:01 am »

since torum is now down and probably no one can find someone to run it again, i wanted to ask if anyone has an old native to torum. so a forum which is specifically for cyber stuff.

[Report to moderator](#) [Logged](#)

**benihana**  
Legendary Contributor  
★★★★★

**Re: torum alternative**  
« Reply #1 on: August 15, 2020, 11:07:18 am »

you're on it

[Report to moderator](#) [Logged](#)

**Quote from:** | [Click here to read rules and regulations](#) | on February 20, 2014, 08:28:47 pm

Mandatory reading prior to communication attempts. Most unencrypted PMs are trashed. -1

**holyolms**  
Brand Spankin' New  
Posts: 4  
Community Rating: +1/-0

**Re: torum alternative**  
« Reply #2 on: August 15, 2020, 11:16:32 am »

really? thought the forum is more known for shop sales and the like.

good, then i have to make more posts

[Report to moderator](#) [Logged](#)



*Users discussing an alternative to Torum (source: TheHub)*

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**Re: TORUM compromised - LE honeypot** 🔍 🗨️ 📄


Quote from: benderrullz on Today at 01:59:42 am All of you nay-sayers and "h4x0r\$" gave me shit when I warned you Torum was taken over and a LE Honeypot. I guess I'll take an apology now - as Torum is KAPUT.

You claim to have been a member here using a prior nym - if so, you would already know (or should have known) that hacking is not a focus of this site, nor is it supported here. As such, whether Torum is kaput or not is really only of academic interest, since the vast majority of Hub denizens are not into hacking or fraud. As such, I doubt that many Hubsters even have accounts on Torum. I don't like to see any site go down, and if the site was indeed compromised, that will very likely have life-altering consequences for those involved. The problem I have is understanding why the authorities would take an interest in such a site, seeing as it was primarily populated by poseurs and wannabe-hacker types.

It occurs to me that we might have another DeepDotWeb situation here - I remember being gobsmacked when DeepDotWeb went down, and it was only when the indictments came down that we learned the reason why. Perhaps something similar is going on here.

At any rate, your warning is another (welcome) reminder that sites can be compromised at any time, and that people must take precautions regardless of which sites they access.

SCREENSHOT



POSTED DATE

🕒 Aug 9th, 2020

CRAWLER

👤 Thehub [🔗](#)

*A now-deleted thread discussing Torum (source: TheHub; via DARKBEAST)*

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Even before Torum shut down, some users mentioned alternative darknet forums: **Dread, Nulled, Cracked, Helium, HackTown, HackForums, Envoy**, and some Russian-speaking forums.

**While Torum and its alternatives are not where critical leaks are posted every day, they are a valuable source, revealing relationships between prominent hackers who share information about new TTPs.** This data could be even more useful than the results of the hacking activities (e.g., leaks) as it can help prevent attacks.