

Re: Not Impressed with this New Format

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.design/2004-12/2249.html>

From: Michael Black (*et472_at_FreeNet.Carleton.CA*)

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(*chemelec@hotmail.com*) writes:

> *I find this a real waste of space, compared to the older one.*

> *If this is whats to come, I'm out of here for good.*

>

I think you've made two errors here.

The first, as others have pointed out, is that you aren't clear about what you are talking about.

>*From that I see your second error. You seem to assume that "Google groups" is Usenet, and the only way to see messages is through their system.*

Usenet has been around for a quarter century, originall transporting messages over phone lines. Collect the posted messages at each site, and then pass then on in a batch to the next site, and so on until the messages propagate to all newsservers. It's only as the "internet" became more accessible that the messages were transported over it.

But it is still a distributed system, with each message existed on each newsserver that carries that newsgroup.

Back in 1996, as the web was still growing, Dejanews came along and decided to archive messages to the newsgroups. Because of the traffic levels, few or no newssevers had kept messages forever, choosing to delete after a certain time to make space for the new messages. Dejanews just decided to keep messages forever, so the messages were searchable.

Dejanews died a few years back, not getting enough revenue to sustain it. Google bought the archive and kept it going. They even found some independent archives, allowing for an archive that goes back to 1980 or so (though likely with some gaps).

But while you can search and read and post messages at google, you can read and post messages from any Usenet newsserver. Take out google, and you lose the archive (and a somewhat useful means of reading and posting messages if your ISP has dropped newsgroups), but Usenet

does not go away.

On the other hand, this latest interface change at google seems to be an attempt to cover up Usenet, making it appear like "yahoo groups". Indeed, the very name "Google groups" suggests a web-based forum, and sometimes it seemed hard to see this distinction clearly made over there. Now, they've added their own local "groups", and the interface seems more in favor of that than newsgroups.

Michael