

sci.math: Re: X–No–archive considered harmful (was: A unique number for every "person" – can it be done?)

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Source: <http://sci.tech–archive.net/Archive/sci.math/2005–03/1137.html>

From: Ned Latham (ned_at_arthur.valhalla.oz)

Date: 03/03/05

Date: 4 Mar 2005 00:26:17 +1050

"CBFalconer" wrote in <4225162B.73F5F8AE@yahoo.com>:

> *TGOS wrote:*

> > *john_ramsden@sagitta–ps.com wrote in comp.programming:*

> >

> > > *I'm curious to know why you used no–archive, as it's an interesting*

> > > *problem (considered in abstract – as a practical matter it's fairly*

> > > *pointless and impossible given all your constraints), but anyway ..*

> >

> > *Because I usually post to groups that appreciate it and that dislike*

> > *Google. And I don't want to reconfigure my client all the time.*

>

> *Well, that is a good way to ensure that, if noticed, I and many*

> *others will make a point of not giving any assistance. We consider*

> *that usage to be anti–social and a horrible example of the gimme*

> *syndrome.*

>

> *I am going to try to persuade the authors of Mozilla, Thunderbird,*

> *and Kmeleon to add an indicator that shows the presence of that*

> *header. That will help us avoid accidentally helping such people.*

>

> *Incidentally there is no reason for Google (or anyone else) to heed*

> *it. They simply chose to do so.*

OTOH, there's good reason for them to ignore it. An archive with holes in it is defective. Take the use of X–No–Archive to the extreme and you have an empty archive: completely useless.

Ned

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True Blue FAQ: <422447E2.30EB.6B8B4567@arthur.valhalla.oz>

Public key: <http://pgp.mit.edu/> <http://www.keyserver.net/en/>

Fingerprint: D17C FDD5 BBA8 8687 42E3 C8F2 C9FB 0314 E17A 0CD7

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