

12-20-09 Meeting Agenda and Information

12/20/09 Meeting Agenda and Information

Some Opening Thoughts

I hope this PDF helps to make our meeting productive. If you have additional things to discuss that are not on the agenda please bring please bring them up. You will note that Any additional Topics is an agenda item. The goal here is to give out information in advance so that all of us can sit with it and hopefully have time to look at what others are thinking.. If you want you can print this and use it to take notes on at the meeting or just read it and in doing so you will have a good idea of what others are thinking.

The web site being down is a big deal and so there is an addition agenda item that has been added along with a copy of Ringo's update. I feel confident that this site problem will lead to improvements in the site and to COIMC.

My Email is Phillip59@comcast.net and I welcome your thoughts. Email me with them and I will put them in next months meeting agenda and notes.

I hope we get a good turn out.

Agenda

- Opening Introductions and email and contact list
- Pass out contact list
- COIMC is a consensus driven collective
- Introductions
 - Name, what brought you to COIMC?
 - Interests
- Server Issues and Web Site Issues
 - Server Update
 - Need for a local Web Master
- Principles of Unity
- Mission Statements
- Editorial Policies
- Consensus on where we would like to see COIMC in the Future
 - 3 months
 - 6 month
 - 1 year
 - 2 years
- Consensus on what can be done to Increase Submissions quality and volume
- Establishing Working Groups
 - How working groups are established
 - Types of working groups
- Any Additional topics?
- Set next meeting which is tentatively set for 2/24/09 at 6:30 pm

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Web Site Update

What follows is Ringo's Email sent out on January 15th of this month. I know you probably have it but I will past it here so that you have it in one place.

Dear Colorado Indymedia Users,

The site has been down for a number of days and I haven't made very many statements publicly because I didn't know what was going on. I still don't know what's going on for certain.

However, at this point I think it's important that I fill the void with what I've learned. If other people know more or know of similar things happening at other IMCs, I'd love to know.

There are a number of things that could have happened. What I do know is that on Jan. 11 the server went down and nobody could access it. I started working on it immediately and came up with a few possible scenarios. This event has highlighted the need for a new sysadmin who lives in the area, and Doug had volunteered to take the spot.

1. Internal Error or Server Misconfiguration

There's a chance that all of this is due to a misconfiguration in the server, a bug in some code, or a runaway program that decided to use all of the resources. We do use a lot of programs that aren't classified as stable. While there is no evidence that this did not happen, I think there are other, more likely scenarios. Since the server cpu seemed to be running fine, this seems unlikely.

2. Hacked Server

There's also a chance that the server was broken into. The software our server was running on was very out-dated and it was really a matter of time before something catastrophic happened. This was discussed on internal lists several weeks prior and we had arrived at the conclusion that nobody had both the expertise and time available to fix the issues. While I could have done it, I lived too far away. A hacked server could also have widespread privacy implications for our users. Like scenario one, there is no way to say this did not happen, however other scenarios are more likely. Had somebody with malicious intent hacked into the server and had they wanted to shut us down, they would have deleted everything. Since all of our files are still there (as far as I can tell), I find this highly unlikely.

3. DoSed server

There's a chance that one of the security vulnerabilities on our server

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was exploited by one individual, causing a Denial of Service attack. These eat up CPU/memory resources, causing the server to stop responding to requests. I don't believe this is what happened because the server was still able to accept commands locally and (slowly) respond to external ones. Additionally, when the server was restarted, it was immediately inaccessible from the outside network.

4. DDoSed server

This is what I think is most likely. A number of people (or one person in control of a number of machines), directed a large amount of traffic at our servers. They were most likely politically motivated (like our previous attackers). Who else would attack COIMC if they weren't politically motivated? As there is a ground war going on in Gaza, there is also a cyber-war going on. Pro-Israeli groups have been hacking and shutting down pro-gaza websites. On the front page of Colorado Indymedia, there were articles about pro-gaza protests that attracted many irate commenters. It could be that this attack was in response to those articles. On the other hand, as far as I know, no other IMCs were attacked for this reason, which is a hole in my theory. I was able (barely) to remotely log into the server during my lunch break but unable to do so during the night hours. Botnets that do attacks like this tend to be the most effective during nighttime hours, which seems to work with my theory.

That being said, the server has been pulled offline for the time being and we will be re-installing everything. This is to prevent further security problems. Once this has been done, I will be going over our logs and special diagnostics what we did to see what really happen. Even at that point, results may be inconclusive.

All of our old articles and our user database should be able to transfer over to our new server. A big thank you goes out to Phil, Tony, and Doug for all of their help in this process. Thank you also to all the people who volunteered to help. Colorado Indymedia is very important to a lot of people and has lots of potential as an organization. I hope people see this incident not as yet-another-time where our server failed, but as a call to action to get involved.

Solidarity,
Ringo

Principles of Unity

National – IMC US

To All Local IMC's:

1. The Independent Media Center Network (IMCN) is based upon principles of equality, decentralization and local autonomy. The IMCN is not derived from a centralized bureaucratic process, but from the self-organization of autonomous collectives that recognize the importance in developing a union of networks.
2. All IMC's consider open exchange of and open access to information a prerequisite to the building of a more free and just society.
3. All IMC's respect the right of activists who choose not to be photographed or filmed.
4. All IMC's, based upon the trust of their contributors and readers, shall utilize open web based publishing, allowing individuals, groups and organizations to express their views, anonymously if desired. **see appendix: Open Publishing document --> still in proposal phase, at this address:
<http://lists.indymedia.org/mailman/public/imc-communication/2001-April/001707.html>
<http://lists.indymedia.org/mailman/public/imc-communication/2001-April/000874.html>
5. The IMC Network and all local IMC collectives shall be not-for-profit.
6. All IMC's recognize the importance of process to social change and are committed to the development of non-hierarchical and anti-authoritarian relationships, from interpersonal relationships to group dynamics. Therefore, shall organize themselves collectively and be committed to the principle of consensus decision making and the development of a direct, participatory democratic process] that is transparent to its membership.
7. [All IMC's recognize that a prerequisite for participation in the decision making process of each local group is the contribution of an individual's labor to the group.]
8. All IMC's are committed to caring for one another and our respective communities both collectively and as individuals and will promote the sharing of resources including knowledge, skills and equipment.
9. All IMC's shall be committed to the use of free source code, whenever possible, in order to develop the digital infrastructure, and to increase the independence of the network by not relying on proprietary software.
10. All IMC's shall be committed to the principle of human equality, and shall not discriminate, including discrimination based upon race, gender, age, class or sexual orientation. Recognizing the vast cultural traditions within the network, we are committed to building [diversity] within our localities.

LA

We strive to provide an information infrastructure for people and opinions who do not have access to the airwaves, tools and resources of corporate media. This includes audio, video, photography, internet distribution and any other communication medium.

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1. We support local, regional and global struggles against exploitation and oppression.
2. We function as a non-commercial, non-corporate, anti-capitalist collective.

Los Angeles Independent Media Center involves volunteer participants and allied collectives organized along anti-authoritarian principles of open and transparent decision-making processes, including open public meetings; a form of modified consensus; and the elimination of hierarchies.

Los Angeles Independent Media Center participants shall not act in a manner that endangers, intimidates, or physically harms any member of the group, including by sexual harassment or acts of violence. Indymedia members shall strive to act in a respectful manner to other members of the collective as well as the public.

Seattle

The Seattle Independent Media Center (here after SEAIMC) is an open collective of grassroots journalists dedicated to providing an open outlet for non-corporate news and analysis.

The SEAIMC is an organization that strives to work with all mediums, including print, audio, video, and internet. The website at <http://seattle.indymedia.org/> is the online outlet of the organization's reporting.

The SEAIMC is affiliated with the global [Indymedia](#) movement. This network works to foster media creation based upon the principles of free participation and association, mutual aid, open-source software, open publishing, and transparent decision-making. As an affiliate of the Indymedia network, the SEAIMC remains committed to these principles.

NYC

The NYC Independent Media Center is a grassroots organization committed to using media production and distribution as tools for promoting social and economic justice in the New York City Area. We are dedicated to addressing issues that the mainstream media neglects and we do not conceal our ideals behind a false objectivity. We hope to empower people to "become the media" by providing democratic access to available technologies and information. The NYC IMC is one of over 130 Indymedia chapters doing this work around the world.

North Carolina - Asheville

The Asheville Independent Media Center (AIMC) is a not-for-profit open-publishing news website that hopes to support and foster grassroots social and environmental activism. By providing the digital infrastructure for ordinary people to publish articles, ideas, announcements and events, the AIMC collective hopes to empower and support local communities and campaigns that are otherwise not represented in mainstream media.

Oregon – Portland

All portland indymedia working groups are not-for-profit. All volunteers donate their time and have agreed to receive no personal monetary gain. In otherwords, nobody gets paid.

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- All working groups recognize the importance of process to social change and are committed to the development of non-hierarchical and anti-authoritarian relationships, from interpersonal relationships to group dynamics. Therefore, they shall organize themselves collectively and be committed to the principle of consensus decision-making and the development of a direct, participatory democratic process that is transparent to those involved.
- All working groups recognize that the contribution of an individual's labor is a prerequisite for participation in the decision making process of a working group or at a portland indymedia general meeting. Individuals who are not committing tangible labor to a portland indymedia working group are encouraged to share their views but may not "block" a consensus.
- All working groups are committed to caring for one another and their respective communities both collectively and as individuals and will promote the sharing of resources including knowledge, skills and equipment.
- Whenever possible, all working groups shall be committed to the use of free software and open source code, in order to develop the digital infrastructure, and to increase the independence of themselves by not relying on proprietary software.
- Openess: All working groups shall be committed to the principle of human equality, and shall not discriminate based upon race, spiritual belief, gender, age, class or sexual identity. Working groups are committed to the ideal of building diversity within their activities.

San Fransisco Bay IMC

We strive to provide an information infrastructure for people and opinions who do not have access to the airwaves, tools and resources of corporate media. This includes audio, video, photography, internet distribution and any other communication medium.

1. We support local, regional and global struggles against exploitation and oppression.
2. We function as a non-commercial, non-corporate, anti-capitalist collective.

San Francisco Bay Area Indymedia involves volunteer participants and allied collectives organized along anti-authoritarian principles of open and transparent decision-making processes, including open public meetings; a form of modified consensus; and the elimination of hierarchies.

San Francisco Bay Area Indymedia participants shall not act in a manner that endangers, intimidates, or physically harms any member of the group, including by sexual harassment or acts of violence. Indymedia members shall strive to act in a respectful manner to other members of the collective as well as the public.

Rochester NY IMC

They adopted the national Principles of Unity in there entirety.

Houston

We, participants in the Houston Independent Media Center, agree

1. to use indymedia to report the truth and to provide background, references and sources whenever possible
2. to respect the viewpoints and privacy of other members of the group, to contribute constructively to the group and to use [formal consensus](#) to reach decisions
3. not to use or tolerate harassment or violence or threat thereof in conjunction with our media work
4. not to represent our personal viewpoints as viewpoints of the IMC
5. not to accept money or any form of influence or coercion from groups or individuals over our participation in the Houston IMC
6. to only allow individuals who will agree to our Mission, Guidelines and Protocols to join any of our decision making teams
7. not to wear or display IMC press credentials at any event at which I am participating as a protestor

Mission Statements

National – US IMC

Indymedia is a grassroots network committed to using media production and distribution as tools for promoting social and economic justice. It is dedicated to addressing issues that profit-driven media often neglect and hopes to empower people to "become the media" by providing democratic access to available technologies and information.

The first Independent Media Center (IMC) was created in Nov. 1999 to cover the WTO protests in Seattle. There are more than 165 autonomous IMCs around the world.

Culling content from over 50 IMCs in the United States, www.indymedia.us is a critical tool for making local issues relevant to both a national and global audience and vice versa. While participating IMCs are US based, [Indymedia.us](http://www.indymedia.us) remains firmly committed to the ideas of international solidarity and mutual aid integral to the Indymedia network.

The US IMC website features original content from local Independent Media Centers as well as content exclusive to the U.S. site. Features in the center column are taken either directly from local US-based IMCs or the open publishing newswire. Features may also be 'compilations' which typically cover an event or issue occurring in different locations simultaneously and are covered by several local IMCs. Articles in the right hand column are syndicated directly from local IMC's feature pages.

LA

To encourage a world where globalization is not about homogeneity and exploitation, but rather, about diversity and cooperation.

- To cover local events that are ignored or poorly covered by corporate media.

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- To provide edited audio, video, and print stories of the above on the internet for independent media outlets and the general public.
- To facilitate the networking and coordination for the coverage of local events as well as gather information about events to cover.
- To provide links to alternative media, activist, and research groups.
- To seek out and provide coverage underscoring the global nature of people's struggles for social, economic, and environmental justice directly from their perspective.
- To offer community classes for training in internet and media skills.
- To encourage, facilitate, and support the creation of independent news gathering and organizations.

North Carolina - Asheville

Asheville Independent Media Center (AIMC) is a non-hierarchical autonomous collective that operates as part of an international network of IMCs. It is our mission to increase community access to vehicles of expression. We exist as an alternative to commercial press and seek to give exposure to groups and issues typically overlooked by mainstream media. For a more equitable and just society, all voices must be heard.

Oregon – Portland

Portland Indymedia is an IMC for the southern Cascadia region of Turtle Island (an area temporarily demarcated as "Oregon" and southern "Washington" on some maps). Indymedia activism can take many forms, but is rooted in the [Indymedia Principles of Unity](#) which profess that the open exchange of and open access to information is a prerequisite to the building of a more free and just society. The Portland Indymedia principles of unity ([see below](#)) are based on this document. Portland Indymedia is not a membership organization; it is a tactic, a concept, and a movement that can be effectively utilized in many different ways.

Rochester – NY

The Rochester IMC is a non-commercial, democratic collective of Rochester area independent media makers and media outlets, and serves as the local organizing unit of the global [Indymedia](#) network.

San Fransisco Bay Area

- To encourage a world where globalization is not about homogeneity and exploitation, but rather, about diversity and cooperation.
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- To offer community classes for training in internet and media skills.
- To encourage, facilitate, and support the creation of independent news gathering and organizations.

Houston

The Houston Independent Media Center is an all volunteer collective committed to using media production and distribution as tools for promoting social and economic justice. We seek to provide alternatives to for-profit media not only in our coverage, but also within our collective by implementing consensus based non-hierarchical work-group models of decision making. While focusing on local social movements, we will explore connections to global systems. We believe that by reporting on dissent, by critiquing corporate, government and military domination, and by promoting art, culture and critical thinking through participatory events, we can contribute to the development of an equitable and sustainable society.

Editorial Policies

National – US IMC

This policy was created by the US-IMC Editorial Working Group and consensed upon in August 2004.

imc-us-editorial (at) lists.indymedia.org

Open Publishing Newswire

The newswire works on the principle of open publishing, an essential element of the Indymedia project that allows anyone to instantaneously self-publish their work on a globally accessible web site.

The Indymedia newswire encourages people to become the media by posting their articles, analysis, videos, audio clips and artwork directly to the web site. You can publish to the news wire by clicking the "publish" link on Indymedia.us and filling out a simple form. Indymedia relies on the people who post to the Indymedia news wire to present their information in a thorough, honest, accurate manner. While Indymedia reserves the right to develop sections of the site that provide edited articles, there is no editorial collective that edits articles posted to the newswire section. The IMC-US editorial collective keeps an eye on the newswire to keep track of what is being posted and to apply basic editorial guidelines to keep the newswire free of spam and duplicate postings. You can find the IMC-US editorial guidelines at the info library link on the left-hand side of this page.

For more information on open publishing, try [this essay by Matthew Arnison](#). Anyone can post to to the US IMC's open publishing newswire. News articles and media that are uploaded using the publish form

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will appear a few minutes later on the righthand newswire on the frontpage. In the case of heavy site traffic or large media uploads, the time may be longer.

Articles posted to the site go straight to the newswire and are not passed through an editorial board or approval process. Once articles and media are on the site, they may be hidden according to the editorial policy. The content of posts is never edited though sometimes formatting is corrected (someone forgot to check html checkbox, or made html errors etc).

Please contact the [editorial listserve](#) to call attention to newswire articles that should/could be featured or to comment about the editorial policy.

Articles that violate the above criteria are collected on the **hidden articles section**. The hidden articles page is linked from the bottom of the newswire on the open-publishing page.

If you wish to comment on the ideas in a particular post, use the "add a comment on this article" link at the bottom of that article. The free-wheeling discussions that take place through such comments are another interactive feature of the indymedia website. Comments are subject to the same criteria as newswire posts.

Stories contributed to this site are free for non-profit re-use. Copyleft is a central tenet of indymedia. For more information, check out www.opencontent.org. If you don't want your story to fall under copyleft, please give your copyright conditions in the summary on the [publish page](#).

What to Post:

General Site Guidelines

- Please post news items only; post your comments after existing articles.
- Please post just one copy of your story. It may take a while for media to show up, so please be patient.
- If you want to post multiple stories from other sites, please summarize and link them in one article rather than posting many articles one after the other which push other articles off the front page.
- For more information on posting, see [how-to publish](#)

We encourage people to publish:

- Researched, timely articles;
- Eyewitness accounts of progressive actions and demonstrations;
- Coverage of issues of importance to the United States;
- Media analysis;
- Investigative reports exposing injustice;
- Coverage of events affecting underrepresented groups;
- Media produced from within underrepresented groups;
- Local stories with national or global significance;
- Stories on people or projects working towards social and economic justice.
- Original, underreported stories of local, regional, national, or global importance;

For help with HTML see the [HTML guide](#).

What NOT to Post

US-IMC editorial team volunteers reserve the right to hide posts that:

- advocate criminal activity indicating a specific time, place and/or manner
- are duplicate posts (the most recent remaining on the newswire)
- are obviously libelous or slanderous
- interfere with the technical functionality of the website
- are intended to disrupt the site
- are empty posts (no content or gibberish)
- are commercial advertisements
- promote racism, homophobia, sexism, or other discrimination.
- are obviously incorrect or misleading, including attempts to spread dis-information
- contain threats and/or intimidation
- flooding and spamming

Center Column / Features

The center column is the place for feature articles. These can be either articles promoted from the featurewire or articles written by an editorial team specifically for US-IMC. Articles promoted from the featurewire can be promoted with either no changes, with corrections to spelling and grammar, or with added links and content (with the exclusive purpose or adding context for a US-wide audience). Feature articles written by the US-IMC editorial group are written collaboratively over an email list, in a very similar fashion to global.

Feature articles should be articles produced by local IMCs with content relevant to the US-IMC readers and/or original features compiled by the US-IMC editorial team. The editorial group will make an emphasis on featuring articles produced by local IMCs rather than by the US editorial group.

Feature articles should be of interest to the entire US, and should not be reposts of articles published elsewhere.

Features should be drawn primarily from independent media sources rather than the mainstream press, and should be written with links to these sources if necessary.

Lastly, features should be primarily news-reports, that is, reports on events which are taking place or will take place, rather than commentary. Indymedia is a mechanism for the distribution of information, not a political soapbox.

US-IMC Editorial Process:

The US-IMC editorial group will communicate over an email list. This group is empowered to create and modify the editorial policy for US-IMC.

All feature articles will follow a process similar to that of the www-features group of www.indymedia.org: Feature proposal --> 6hrs without blocking --> publish.

The email list and the internal message boards in Mir are used for inter-group communication.

The editorial group is open to anyone who is already working on a local IMC in the US.

Oregon – Portland

Anyone can post to portland indymedia's open publishing newswire. News articles and media you upload using the publish form will appear in a few minutes on the righthand newswire on the frontpage. In the case of heavy site traffic or large media uploads, the time may be longer.

Articles posted to the site go straight to the newswire and are not passed through an editorial board or approval process. Once articles and media are on the site, they may be hidden according to the editorial policy. The content of posts is never edited though sometimes formatting is corrected (someone forgot to check html checkbox, or made html errors etc).

portland indymedia worker drones reserve the right to hide posts that:

1. advocate criminal activity indicating a specific time, place and/or manner
2. are duplicate posts (the most recent remaining on the newswire)
3. are obviously libelous or slanderous
4. interfere with the technical functionality of the website
5. are intended to disrupt the site
6. are empty posts (no content or gibberish)
7. are commercial advertisements
8. promote racism, homophobia, sexism, or other oppression against human or non-human animals.
9. are obviously incorrect or misleading, including attempts to spread dis-information
10. contain social sabotage of Peoples' struggles
11. are reposted from corporate media outlets

Workerbees maintaining this website reserve the right to take any steps necessary to keep the site a useful resource for its contributors and readers.

One such example is elections coverage is moved from the front page to the sElection page. Which can be located by looking at the left hand column under "Special Coverage".

NOTE: Portland Indymedia is a place for voices that are not often heard elsewhere. It is a resource to use in order to share your local news and first hand experiences. Portland Indymedia is also about mutual aid, contributing to your community. If this is how you are using the site, welcome.

There are a lot of ways in which the world sucks right now, and that can be very discouraging. The frustration can sometimes cause us to turn on each other, if we do not stop ourselves from falling prey to the poison. But we need not fall prey to that, because we are going to win. Stay strong and focus on the world we want to create.

For an explanation of general guidelines for the creation of feature stories (center column) see the [what are features?](#) page.

Please contact the [editorial listserve](#) to call attention to newswire articles that should/could be featured or to comment about the editorial policy.

Articles that are hidden, whether duplicate, disruptive, advertisement etc., are collected on the [compost page](#). The compost page is linked from the bottom of the newswire on the front page.

If you wish to contribute info to or refute info in an article you may use the "contribute to this article"

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link. These will appear directly below the article. To comment on the ideas in a particular post, use the "add comment to discussion" link at the bottom of that article. These will appear through a link at the bottom "view discussion from this article". The free-wheeling discussions that take place through such comments are another interactive feature of the indymedia website.

Stories contributed to this site are free for non-profit re-use. Copyleft is a central tenet of indymedia. For more information, check out www.opencontent.org. If you don't want your story to fall under copyleft, please give your copyright conditions in the summary on the [publish page](#).

general site guidelines:

- please post news items only; post your comments after existing articles.
- please post just one copy of your story. it may take a while for media to show up, so please be patient.
- if you want to post multiple stories from other sites, please summarize and link them in one article rather than posting many articles one after the other which push other, original articles off the front page.
- For more information on posting, see [how-to publish](#)

For more information on pdx indy, see the [about portland indymedia](#) page. For help with HTML see the [HTML guide](#).

LA

Introduction

The Open Publishing Newswire is an essential aspect of the Indymedia= project. It was set-up to provide a globally accessible space for anyone to quickly self-publish breaking news, articles, commentary, digital photos and audio.

Los Angeles Indymedia itself is composed of volunteers who moderate= the newswire. In the last year and a half, the Los Angeles IMC Open Publishing Newswire has been besieged with detractive postings, and other items and commentary which are far away from what the Newswire is meant to be: a vital space of progressive and radical breaking news, commentary, articles, and announcements.

There are no easy or perfect solutions to moderating an open newswire, rich with a healthy democracy of views.

We have decided by consensus on the following guidelines to help us decide what postings are appropriate and what are not. We believe that these guidelines will help to make the moderating process clearer for IMC volunteers, for anyone who self-publishes, and will result in an unencumbered, useful and open newswire for readers worldwide.

We especially encourage individuals to publish:

- Well researched, timely articles
- Eyewitness accounts of progressive actions and demonstrations

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- Coverage of Southern California issues
- Media analysis
- Investigative reports exposing injustice
- Stories on events affecting underrepresented groups
- Media produced from within underrepresented groups
- Local stories with national or global significance
- Stories on people or projects working towards social, environmental, political, and economic justice Original, underreported stories of local, regional, national, or global importance
- Stories ignored by corporate media outlets

When May A Post Be Hidden?

An "open publishing" system is founded, fundamentally, on trust. The participants in, and editors of, this project trust that other participants will use the newswire to publish intelligent and insightful news and commentary. As Los Angeles Indymedia's popularity has grown, so has the abuse of our open publishing system. Some of the abuse seems to be juvenile in nature; some it is a deliberate attempt to destroy the project. What's more, an unsystematic and scattershot moderation policy may have confused readers, who might not be aware of what constitutes abuse and what constitutes news.

The Los Angeles IMC editorial collective, in order to maintain the integrity of the newswire and the media commons it creates for our community of participants, may "hide" posts to the Newswire when the content doesn't fit the guidelines we have decided to use (see below).

We'd like to remind everyone that hidden articles are not deleted from the site. All content posted to the newswire can be accessed from a link from the front page, where hidden posts can be viewed.

While we try to avoid hiding posts as much as possible, the following types of items will merit close scrutiny and may be hidden:

- "Spam" posting; i.e., posts deliberately designed to disrupt the newswire and its basic ability to function. These are posts that are deemed to be devoid of content or analysis and appear to be published with the sole purpose of disruption.
- Posts the author has requested hidden.
- Posts that are obviously incorrect or misleading. This includes attempts to spread misinformation or to impersonate another individual.
- Posts that contain generalized and negative assertions about any race, nation, creed, class, ethnic group, sexual orientation, etc.
- Posts that advocate the mass physical elimination of a specific race, nation, creed, class, ethnic group, sexual orientation, etc, or that link to websites that advocate the same.
- Posts that treat the newswire as a personal "bulletin board" with non-political content directed at one or another newswire participants.
- Unreadable formats (i.e. photos posted as text).
- Posts titled "test".
- Duplicate posts (including duplicate photographs).
- Advertising of products or for-profit services.

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- Pornography, excepting sexually explicit satire.

Review

Every six months, the Los Angeles IMC collective will review this policy and a sampling of posts hidden during the previous six months. We would also like to emphasize that if any collective member disagrees with the hiding of any post, he or she may contact the editorial listserv (imc-la-web) or request to discuss the matter at a Webitorial Meeting. (See the calendar for meeting dates.)

Contacting Us

Members of the Los Angeles Indymedia collective do our best to moderate the newswire in the manner described above, however, sometimes we miss something. We welcome our readers to contact us at info@la.indymedia.org with comments or questions about newswire moderation.

Last updated Fri, 16 Dec 2005 04:16:09 -0800

NYC

Introduction

The Open Publishing Newswire is an essential aspect of the Indymedia project. It was set-up to provide a globally accessible space for anyone to quickly self-publish breaking news, articles, commentary, digital photos and audio.

Indymedia NYC itself is composed of five working groups. From these five all-volunteer groups, people volunteer to moderate the newswire. Presently, moderating requires at least 3 hours a day, by any given moderator.

In the last year and a half, the NYC IMC Open Publishing Newswire has been besieged with neo-nazi postings, and other items and commentary which are far away from what the Newswire is meant to be: A vital space of progressive and radical breaking news, commentary, articles, and announcements.

There are no easy or perfect solutions to moderating an open newswire, rich with a healthy democracy of views.

We have consensed on the following guidelines to help us decide what postings are appropriate and what are not. We believe that these guidelines will help to make the moderating process a clearer one for IMC volunteers, for anyone who self-publishes, and finally an unencumbered, useful and open newswire for readers worldwide.

We especially encourage individuals to publish:

- Well researched, timely articles
- Eyewitness accounts of progressive actions and demonstrations
- Coverage of New York City metro area issues
- Media analysis

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- Investigative reports exposing injustice
- Stories on events affecting underrepresented groups
- Media produced from within underrepresented groups
- Local stories with national or global significance
- Stories on people or projects working towards social and economic justice
- Original, underreported stories of local, regional, national, or global importance.

When May A Post Be Hidden?

An "open publishing" system is founded, fundamentally, on trust. The editors of and participants in this project trust that other participants will use the newswire to publish news, or, at the least, intelligent and insightful commentary. But as New York Indymedia's popularity has grown, so has the abuse of our open publishing system. Some of the abuse seems to be juvenile in nature; some it amounts to a deliberate attempt to destroy the project. What's more, an unsystematic and scattershot moderation policy may have confused other readers, who might not be aware of what constitutes abuse and what constitutes news.

The New York IMC editorial collective, in order to maintain the integrity of the newswire and the media commons it creates for our community of participants, may "hide" posts to the Newswire when the content disregards the guidelines that have been put in place (see below).

We'd like to remind everyone that hidden articles are not deleted from the site. All content posted to the newswire can be accessed through the administrative interface, where hidden posts can be viewed.

While we try to avoid hiding posts as much as possible, the following types of items will merit close scrutiny and may be hidden:

- - Spam posting; i.e., post deliberately designed to disrupt the newswire and its basic ability to function. These are posts that are deemed to be devoid of content or analysis and appear to be published with the sole purpose of disruption. An example of this kind of post, titled "Schummer Comes Out," can be found here.
- Posts the author has requested hidden.
- Posts which are obviously incorrect or misleading. This includes attempts to spread dis-information or to impersonate another individual. For example, a poster once posted a cartoon under the name "Latuff" when in fact it was drawn by another artist. This post can be seen here.
- Posts that contain generalized and negative assertions about any race, nation, creed, class, ethnic group, sexual orientation, etc.
- Posts that advocate the mass physical elimination of a specific race, nation, creed, class, ethnic group, sexual orientation, etc, or that link to websites that advocate the same. The following story, for example, contained a link to a neo-Nazi website and was accordingly deleted. That said, while we deeply abhor both racism and anti-Semitism, such opposition does not automatically entail the complete or partial acceptance of the national agenda of any particular state.
- Posts that treat the newswire as a personal "bulletin board" with non-political content directed

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at one or another newswire participants.

- Unreadable formats (i.e. photos posted as text)
- Posts titled "test."
- Duplicate posts (including duplicate photographs)
- Advertising of products or for-profit services.
- Pornography, excepting sexually explicit satire.

Within the above guidelines, we welcome posts that disagree with the opinions held by the editors of this website.

Review

Every six months, the New York IMC collective will review this policy, as well as a sampling of posts hidden during the previous six months. We would also like to emphasize that if any collective member disagrees with the hiding of any post, he or she may contact the editorial listserve or request to discuss the matter at a General Meeting.

Contacting Us

Members of the New York Indymedia collective do their best to moderate the newswire in the manner described above. However, sometimes we miss something, and sometimes we make mistakes. We welcome anyone to email the web list if they have a comment or question about newswire moderation:

imc-nyc-web [at] lists.indymedia.org

Rochester NY

Rochester Indymedia Newswire Editorial Policy.

Open Publishing.

The Rochester.indymedia.org newswire works on the principle of open publishing, an essential element of the Indymedia project that allows anyone to instantaneously self-publish their work on a globally accessible web site.

The Indymedia newswire encourages people to become the media by posting their articles, analysis, videos, audio clips and artwork directly to the web site. You can publish to the news wire by clicking the "publish" link on the Rochester.indymedia.org page and filling out a simple form. Indymedia relies on the people who post to the Indymedia news wire to present their information in a thorough, honest, accurate manner.

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While Indymedia reserves the right to develop sections of the site that provide edited articles, there is no editorial collective that edits articles posted to the newswire section. The Rochester IMC editorial collective keeps an eye on the newswire to keep track of what is being posted and to apply basic editorial guidelines to keep the newswire free of spam and duplicate postings.

All articles moved from the front of the newswire will continue to remain publicly accessible through the newswire home page and the "hidden articles" area of the site.

If you disagree with the content of a particular article that someone has posted on Indymedia, you may comment on the article through the "add your own comments" link at the bottom of each post. For more information on open publishing, try Matthew Arnison's excellent essay.
<http://www.physics.usyd.edu.au/~matthewa/catk/openpub.html>

II. Guidelines for Hiding, Editing and Deleting Posts Guidelines for Hiding Posts:

The following are types of situations and posts which may be hidden by the R- IMC Collective, along with guidelines for determining what should be hidden.

- Duplicate Posts - if a single post is duplicated during a relatively short time period, all duplicate posts may be hidden. In determining duplicate posts it should be understood that it may be appropriate to repost information in order to bring information to the attention of website visitors after a reasonable amount of time has elapsed since it was first posted.
- Threats and Intimidation-the IMC newswire is not intended to be a forum for primarily publicizing hate nor for making direct threats against individuals, groups or classes of people. The IMC recognizes that such speech can be harmful in and of itself and may create an atmosphere in which physical action becomes more likely. In any post under consideration the threatening speech should be weighed against other ideas or expression in the post. If the majority of the post nonetheless is intended to contribute to discourse or debate, then the issue of hiding it should be considered very carefully.
- Flooding or Spamming of Posts - this is when a single individual posts multiple times in a short period in a manner that indicates that the poster's purpose is to flood the newswire or push other posts off the front page of the IMC website, which typically only contains ten to twenty of the most recent posts. This type of posting behavior can only truly be identified after several occurrences, and depends heavily on the amount of volume of posts. It can be difficult to stop because posters can change screen names at a whim. Therefore the utmost care must be taken to make sure that only posts that are made by a known "spammer" are hidden.
- Technically flawed or Technically malicious posts
- Commercial Solicitation - the Newswire is not intended to be used for commercial purposes, therefore commercial solicitations and advertisements for commercial products should be hidden.
- Impersonation of Individuals and/or groups- Newswire items will be hidden if it can be established that the post authorship deliberately impersonates a group or individual.
- Content Empty Posts
- Deliberately misleading or false statements

Guidelines for Editing and Deleting Posts

The following types of posts may be edited or have text deleted by the R-IMC Editorial Collective.

- Illegal Speech - very few kinds of speech are considered illegal in the US, however those that are must be dealt with seriously. One example of such speech is a threat against the US president. The appearance of such speech on the IMC website can bring unwanted and unnecessary scrutiny and harassment from police and the government. Any conceivable benefit or contribution such speech might make is far outweighed by the threat it presents to the health and existence of the IMC.
- Libel
- Direct Threats — These constitute direct threats on specific people or small, easily identifiable groups of people. The purpose behind editing or deleting such posts is to not feed into the violence threatened.

III. Procedure for Hiding, Editing or Deleting Posts: The R-IMC Collective shall rely upon the IMC website editor or editorial group to monitor the Newswire and alert the IMC volunteers when inappropriate posts appear. Additionally, any IMC volunteer, member or website visitor may call attention to a post believed to be inappropriate by e-mailing the Rochester IMC editorial list at editorial@rochesterimc.org

Hiding Posts:

When the Editorial collective is made aware of posts that should be hidden, it should make a reasonable attempt must be made to contact the author of the post in question and to explain the IMC's appropriate use policy, asking for cooperation and compliance. In the event that a post is made anonymously, or no valid e-mail address is posted, then no effort can reasonably take place to contact the author. If after attempting contact with an author posting inappropriately the Editorial Collective is unable to reach a resolution with that poster, the Collective may hide any of that author's posts as they deem necessary, according to this policy. The Collective may instruct the website editor or editorial group to hide future posts from such an author.

Whenever a post is hidden a comment from the Editorial Collective explaining why the post was hidden should be added to the hidden post.

Editing and Deleting Posts:

Only posts which pose an immediate threat to the welfare of the IMC and the IMC website may be edited or deleted. Because of this, the editor or editorial group may, at their discretion, hide or edit a post if they believe it inappropriate according to the guidelines of posts that may be edited or deleted. Whenever such a post is hidden or edited, the editors must immediately inform the IMC General e-mail list of the action and the rationale for the action.

If a post is edited, a comment must be added to the post explaining why it was edited. If a post is deleted then there should be no record of it in the IMC website and website database.

Houston

With the help of our readers who may alert us to posts in violations of these guidelines by sending an email to houston at indymedia.org, our editors may:

1. Edit postings to correct spelling, grammar or format problems only without consulting the author
2. Choose features based on what they believe to be an article's importance to Houston, the solidity of the research and sources, and the quality of writing
3. Hide posts, without consulting the author, that in the editors opinion:
 - are duplicates (we will keep the oldest post)
 - are in an unreadable format or are marked "test"
 - are boldly slanderous, libelous or personal
 - advocate criminal activity with a specific time, place and manner
 - advocate hatred toward or repression of any individual or group of people
 - are not news related

Houston IMC Policy for Violations of the Mission Statement and/or Action Guidelines

When consensus has been reached that a signatory to the Membership Document has violated the Mission Statement or Action Guidelines, the following actions will be taken.

1. Counseling

The individual will be publicly (on the listserv or in a public meeting) asked to acknowledge the violation in question. If the individual acknowledges the violation within a week and recommits to the Mission Statement and Action Guidelines, counseling will be considered concluded. If the individual does not acknowledge the violation within a week, he/she will be held in suspension from the listserv and work groups until such time as he/she acknowledges the violation and recommits to the Mission Statement and Action Guidelines.

2. Probation

If within six months, consensus is reached that a second violation has occurred, the individual will be publicly (on the listserv or in a public meeting) asked to acknowledge the violation in question. If the individual acknowledges the violation within a week and recommits to the Mission Statement and Action Guidelines, he/she will be held in suspension from the listserv and work groups for three months. If the individual does not acknowledge the violation within a week, he/she will be held in suspension from the listserv and work groups until such time as he/she acknowledges the violation and recommits to the Mission Statement and Action Guidelines. At that time, the probation period will begin.

3. Expulsion

If within six months of the second violation, consensus is reached that a third violation has occurred, the individual will be considered permanently expelled from the listserv and work groups.

Consensus on Where we Would like to see COIMC in the Future

What to expect in the next few months from <http://colorado.indymedia.org/node/1327> By Ringo Kamens

In the near future, stories will automatically get promoted to the front page by users. The moderation team will no longer be responsible for what's on the front page, allowing the process to be more democratic and transparent. Users will also be able to rate comments and vote for their deletion if they believe that they are abusive/spam. Users who have the most points will have the most powerful votes when it comes to moderating comments and stories.

We're also working on getting this site to be accessible through HTTPS/SSL. This will encrypt your connection when you browse our site. This stops your internet service provider, school, or boss from being able to see what you're doing here. It also stops your data from being seen by the government if it's snatched up in warrantless wiretapping operations like those implemented under the Bush administration. If you're looking for this functionality *now*, consider using [Tor](#).

The site will also eventually be accessible as a "hidden service" over the Tor network. This will allow people to view our site anonymously and anonymously upload information to it. By doing this, even if a hostile adversary takes control of the site, they won't be able to see who you are.

If you know how to implement SSL in Apache or how to set up a hidden service, please email [webmaster\[at\]coimc.org](mailto:webmaster[at]coimc.org)

The Next 3 Months

A consensus on a Principles of Unity Statement, A Mission Statement, and a editorial Policy.

Input on what people have liked and disliked about COIMC

An assessment of the talent and areas of interest of meeting participants.

The establishment of an outreach plan to help groups be more aware of what COIMC is about and how we and they can work together.

The Next six months

The establishment of an editorial and site administrator work Group with its owne email list (it would be open to all)

The establishment of a technical work group to implement the goals in the peace above and to work on

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improving the site in other areas.

Other working groups as the collective deems needed.

The addition of an About Us Tab on the front page menu with a clear Statement of Unity, a Mission Statement and our Editorial Policies. The inclusion in the Contact Us Tab with how to get on the general mailing list and other list that we may establish

If there are more ideas out there please let me know.

Consensus on What can be Done to Increase Submissions Quality and Volume

The topic has been brought up to me that's why it's here but as yet no suggestions have been given to me on what to do. I have some ideas here I'm sure others do too.

Working Groups

A technical Group.

An Editorial and Site Administrator Group