

JUNE 14, 2013

# Supposed Microsoft Engineer Speaks Out on Xbox One DRM; It's All Fake

A supposed Microsoft Engineer took to 4Chan to explain the reasons for DRM and the Xbox One vision.

[Andrea Castellano / Updates /](#)



"Trust me, I'm an engineer."

When I read this 4Chan [post written by an apparent Xbox One engineer](#) explaining the vision of the Xbox One and the DRM, I imagine the meme and all of the ridiculous photos of temporary fixes.

I remember photos of frying eggs using shopping carts and photos of people combining the hot and cold water taps from your bathroom tap with a plastic bottle. This post regarding the Xbox One's DRM proves no different.

Last year I took a whole class dedicated to researching. It was the worst. However, I did come away with something useful; I learned how to properly validate a source of information.

First you find the original source of the post. The person claiming to work at Microsoft as an Xbox engineer decided to post on the message board, 4Chan.org. First mistake.

If this anonymous Microsoft employee felt the need to clarify the vision of the Xbox One, why not reach out to a credible news outlet and still remain anonymous? Anyone can post on the internet and anyone can post on 4Chan's message boards. Reaching out to a writer to layout the long term vision of the



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engineer who felt the need to speak up. The engineer can't do post without the writer.

As multiple people messaged me today about this story, all of them expressed their new found comfort when buying an Xbox One at launch. I would not base any purchasing decision, regardless if \$399 or \$499, on an anonymous post that reads more like an Xbox One fan's attempt to justify their own purchase, rather than defend the project an engineer worked on. Here are some exerts that immediately caught my attention since they read as fanboyish comments rather than points with intellectually thought out reasons.

*"Yeah we passed that around the office at Xbox. Most of us were like "Well played Sony, Well played". That being said they are just riding the hype train of ZOMG THEY ARE TRYING TO FUCK US FOR NO REASON."*

*"Everyone and their mother complains about how gamestop fucks them on their trade ins, getting 5\$ for their used games... Well, if you want the @#\$@ing from Gamestop, go play PS4."*

*"If you always want to stay with what you have, then keep current consoles, or a PS4. We're TRYING to move the industry forwards towards digital distribution... it'sa bumpy road."*

*"PS4 is status-quo. XB1 is trying to push some things..."*

*"Honestly, if you care about anything other then pure games AT ALL. Xbox 1 > PS4. If all you do is play games, and nothing else, PS4."*

I won't point to the anonymous poster's grammar and horrible spelling as a reason for the obviously fake nature of this post (although I would think a Microsoft engineer can better articulate their points) but I will break down the content of his arguments.

What does the PS4 have to do with the vision of the Xbox One? Constantly mentioning why your console rises above PlayStation 4 automatically means that the without the direct comparison, the core of each point fails to convince in itself.



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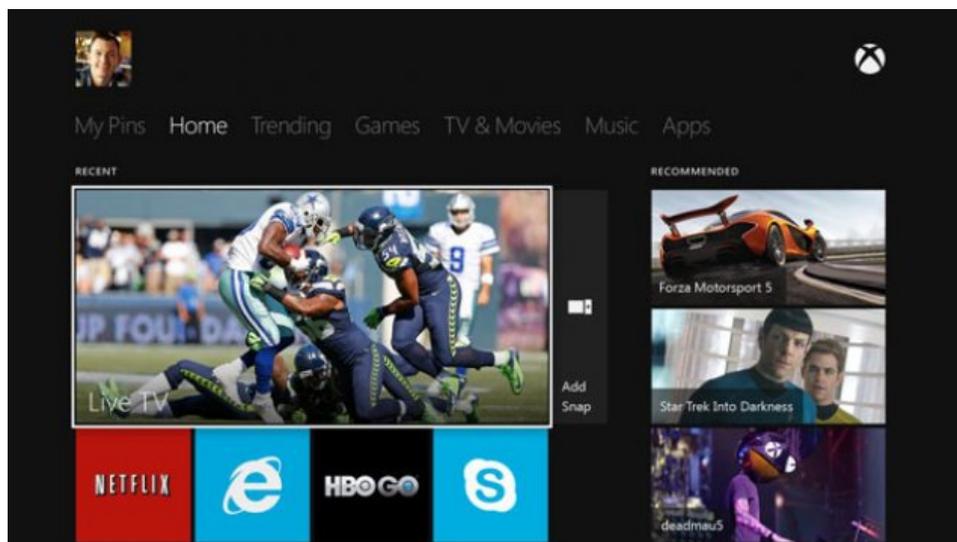
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The post then draws comparisons to Steam's launch and the backlash Valve saw regarding their online platform. Valve cut out retailers and aimed to sell games digitally. The post then explains the Xbox One's vision of achieving a similar future that removes disc based games. But the anonymous poster claims that "the goal [of the Xbox One] is to move to digital downloads" and then positions DRM as one of the reasons for online checks every 24 hours.

You can play games in offline mode in Steam. You can purchase PS3 games day one and play offline. You can download games and play offline on the Wii U. Why can't the Xbox One? Because the Xbox One engineer in Studio A doesn't exist. He didn't write this.

To bring some credibility to their post, the anonymous engineer mentions which studio and the address of the building the engineer works in. According to the anonymous poster, proving his identity doesn't make good use of his time, but writing a 1500 word forum post and then not backing it, remains the better option.

"It's not worth my time to prove it, or risk my Job. I work in Studio A, 40th ave in Redmond, Wa. The thai place in the studio cafeteria has double punch wednesdays. Go ahead and call them and verify if you want."

I called the three [nearest Thai restaurants](#), the closest located a mile away. None of them ever heard of "Double Punch Wednesdays."

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**GrieverXVII** • 4 years ago  
4troll????  
37 ^ | ▾ • Reply • Share >

**Lethal\_Doze** • 4 years ago  
SONY made the biggest step to push cosnole gamers towards digital, its called Playstation+, fuck off MS, PS gamers can buy games on PS Store too, they could for a long time DAY ONE  
50 ^ | ▾ • Reply • Share >

**ruefrak** → Lethal\_Doze • 4 years ago  
Amen. I buy almost everything now digitally because of the amazing sales they have for PS+ members.  
20 ^ | ▾ • Reply • Share >

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...the greatest thing ever from, after 7 years telling xbox fans why the hell you paid to play online.. But now it is the greatest thing ever!

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



**Lethal\_Doze** → Lucky Luke • 4 years ago

PS+ gives you great games every month, I got Mass Effect 3, Sleeping Dogs, Hitman, Demons Souls and many many more, they give you PSN-only games too every month. That alone is worth it, also there are 10% discounts on everything.

Live is not even close in benefits you get from PS+ , on XBL everything is behind a paywall even premium services you pay extra

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



**Deego** → Lethal\_Doze • 4 years ago

I agree, it's like PC gamers with steam.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



**lulzprime** • 4 years ago

"Honestly, if you care about anything other than pure games AT ALL. Xbox 1 > PS4. If all you do is play games, and nothing else, PS4."

Well, true or not.. this sentence here pretty much sums up why we buy consoles in the first place - to play games, duh.

I'd do anything else with a PC with so much more flexibility, why cramp up on a box instead?

26 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



**datdude** → lulzprime • 4 years ago

Yeah, someone should introduce this "engineer" to smart TV's and tablets, because they are already doing better what the Xbox One is claiming it will do for integrating devices. I think he still performs his calculations on an abacus.

10 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



**4Chan's/v** • 4 years ago

Looks like shitposting to me. Please do not give this shill your attention guys.

It's all damage control.

Sony is not responsible for the situation they are in.

Keep crying like a little baby biatch supposed MS engineer.

I doubt a massive corporation which has had its console in deep secrecy until E3 will suddenly go to 4chan just to point the fingers.

Congrats on admitting defeat Mr. Engineer.

10 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



**pj84** • 4 years ago

There is no cafeteria in studio A except for a coffee shop.

18 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



**Otaku\_Hanzo** • 4 years ago

LOL! 4chan... 'Nuff said.

17 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



**datdude** • 4 years ago

Hahahahah..you have to laugh at the notion the Xbox One is trying to "move gaming forward" by restricting consumer flexibility with the product. Taking away freedoms is not progress, it's consumer slavery. If you're dumb enough to step into their cage, don't be confused when the door slams shut behind you, for good.

11 ^ | v • Reply • Share >

same thing, in two years time xbl will be just like steam in every form and fashion, Most developers i talked to at E3 shared the opinion the console business simply cannot continue to be profitable with the current business strategy, So in 2yrs time when xb1 has sales and games prices like steam ps4 will be screwed, hell the company is barley profitable as it is in the 1st place of course they are going to tell consumers everything they want to hear, Only games that are confirmed to be drm-less on ps4 are first party titles 3rd parties will follow what ever microsoft does period. Besides microsoft has the money to through away a billion dollars sony does not ...

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**datdude** → Shawn • 4 years ago

You keep trying to convince yourself buddy. Whatever helps you sleep at night.

8 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Kents** → datdude • 4 years ago

It's the consumers who never respected the developers/publishers and never respected the terms which state only a license of use not property. Due to peoples stupidity the restrictions will come no matter what, maybe not now but soon. Also games are getting way to expensive when it comes to building AAA titles which people love.

It's also pathetic how console gamers want everything without spending a dime,

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Brussels** → Kents • 4 years ago

Never respected the terms? What are you referring to? What are people doing that is stupid?

If costs to make AAA games rise, which is not new to anyone, then they should deal with it themselves, by making great games and streamlining processes. Call of Duty saves time and money by using the same engine for each game. Why is it suddenly the consumer's fault after 20+ years?

Console gamers want games that are worth the money they pay for it. We get games like Duke Nukem Forever coming out for \$60 and not many would tell you that it was worth that much. Steam sales helps with this.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Adam** → Shawn • 4 years ago

Correction to your stupidity. Sony has more then enough to throw away. It also has billions of dollars. I think you need to look some facts up before you try make an argument. From what it seems your so called argument is baseless without evidence.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Dani** • 4 years ago

If the 'engineer' isn't working for Microsoft, they should definitely hire him. Fits perfectly into their 'holier than thou' corporate culture and despite his lack of eloquence, is still able to spin things better than Microsoft's own PR dept.

6 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**manonel carvalho neto** • 4 years ago

He say correct !! He is not a gamer !! Is a enginner !! I am a gamer. I like PS4 !!

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**Nintendo Fan 4 LIS** • 4 years ago

I don't care what source says what. Until Microsoft changes their strategy or makes the next Halo as great as they say it'll be and add a price drop or bundle with it, no Xbox One on my watch.

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**redavutstuvader** • 4 years ago

the microsoft plan was actually leaked last june, he is telling the truth

search

92821757-XBox-720-9-24-Checkpoint-Draft-1

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Dakan45** • 4 years ago

Steam is the only who gets us cheap games and doesnt require to be online every 24 hours.

So long story short....nope

6 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Franko** • 4 years ago

Don Matrick wrote that shit

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Cordovan Splotch** → Franko • 4 years ago

Hahah! No... if Don Matrick had written this it would have gotten hordes instantly pissed off at him and he'd be IP banned from 4chan. That guy is fast running out of feet to stuff in his mouth.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Edonus** • 4 years ago

Whats with the author of this article. I dont get the point. Is he righting article to discuss MS possible vision or debunk someone talking about MS possible vision. Take away all the sources and needing to prove and verify and talk about just the content and whoever wrote this has a point.

Are we not agreeing that MS is doing something very different, one could see it as foolish for trying to fix a system that consumers are fine with or at least are use to as opposed to creating an entire new system that has requirements and stipulations different from what the norm its just a matter of perspective when you decide whether it good or bad.

This is why you cant get information on the internet about gaming, this is written like a sony shill report. Its wrapped up in negative sentiment which never gives the points themselves to shine.

This article reads like "I heard this bull\$h!t I want to tell you about thats some bull\$h!t cause it doesnt have to be like this bull\$h!t is saying it is and its probably fake so that would make bull\$h!t any way. Then it talks about what the post said then goes back this is bull\$h!t and even if you thought made any little sense its not real because I called someone and they said it bull\$h!t.

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**Sad Panda** • 4 years ago

The author of this piece employs extremely shoddy reasoning. There is no reason to suspect that the purported XBox engineer in question wanted to create some sort of viral exposé, and if so, he or she has no reason to contact a news outlet. Grammar and spelling mistakes are not proof that the person is not an XBox engineer, and the purported engineer's arguments don't strike me as particularly fan boy-ish. Finally, the author evidently misinterpreted the purported engineer's statement about "the cafeteria [within the Microsoft building]" as being about "a restaurant [not located on the

Note that I am not stating that the purported engineer is legitimate -- I have no opinion on that -- just that the author of this particular piece failed to offer any substantive evidence. Taking a class on research does not mean that you are a competent researcher, or that your conclusions drawn from the lessons of that class are valid.

8 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Cordovan Splotch** → Sad Panda • 4 years ago

The burden of proof is on the claimant... until this "engineer" provides proof that his claims are true, the rational thing to feel is disbelief.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Shawn** • 4 years ago

The xbox is and will move gaming forward once again, The ps5 will do exactly what the xb1 is doing now and the ps twi-hards will praise it, just wait microsoft will blaze this new path and take the heat like they did with the xbox going with broadband when half the world was still on 56k ... Take a pic if this message so i can say told ya so next xmas

10 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Orleanž** • 4 years ago

This "engineer" is telling us what we already know. He reveal basically nothing that is substantial. He sounds more like a fanboy than a engineer.

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Opinion or fact?!?** • 4 years ago

Not to give claim that the original comment posted on 4chan is legit, but to claim that its fake just by 'calling a few Thai restaraunts' is a little extreme. This whole article is more opinion than it is fact.

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**me** • 4 years ago

The thai place "in the studio cafeteria."

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Zyzz** • 4 years ago

What about poorer people? Who can't afford to be online and buy things online and wan to do things the normal way? In f\*\*king real life? Pricks.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Luke Bailey** • 4 years ago

Soo what we take away from that is Microsoft are making Steam thier biggest rival this gen?

Soooo Xbox one is competing against Pc?

lol

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Heavenly\_King** • 4 years ago

this is just hilarious as hell.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Kents** • 4 years ago

You called Thai restaurants.... When he clearly mentioned 'The thai place in the studio cafeteria'. If you want to bash someones information about something at least learn how to read properly. As for the grammar, why would he care about it, he's not posting in a formal place. lol

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

I rue,my grammar goes to snit online after awnne.  
^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Deeboy** • 4 years ago

Why stay anonymous? Ask Orth.  
1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**zakcole** • 4 years ago

I have 2 points to make.

Firstly, accusing this "fanboy"/"engineer" whatever of making it up, and cautioning people who take the word as gospel is fine. But don't post an article, bashing people for taking news for fact without a source when a lot of the policies people are bashing about the Xbox One don't exist, have been mis interpreted, or at least falsified. I'm still hearing people saying that the Xbox One's policies on Used Games mean there will be a fee that Microsoft will take a cut of. Which just isn't true. The fee is "up to the publisher" and Microsoft doesn't see any of it. That's just one example of falsified information and rumours spreading and being taken for gospel. It goes both ways, and it would seem as if the author of this post should take his own damn advice considering he/she preaches about not basing "any purchasing decision, regardless if \$399 or \$499, on an anonymous post".

Secondly, regardless of the sources credibility, a lot of the points he make (to me any way) make sense, and imho, I thought it was pretty obvious that this is the model that Microsoft are going for. The are very obviously trying to emulate Steam, and you don't think they don't see that the success of Steam is in their sales, which are only possible because devs see more of the money in the first place.

[see more](#)

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**bartonzok** → zakcole • 4 years ago

I can see your frustration with this post, but the author regardless of how opinionated he or she sounds, does state a ton of facts about the anonymous Microsoft employee. First and foremost, the author never discredits the engineer's supposed vision of Xbox or says what it actually is. However, the blogger's validity as a Microsoft engineer is questioned. No matter who you are, you need to site your sources so the statements you make are believable. This is more important because this guy is taking the image of an employee of Microsoft and needs to prove that he is indeed a person who worked on it. So you see, this article wasn't made to bash the so called Microsoft engineer for bringing up information that is most likely false, it was made to expose the blogger as a fanboy that projected information that was false while impersonating a believable source, which is a DEFINITE no no.

On a side note: not all of the hate coming from people are false, most of the DRM policies have been either showed in their E3 press conference or have been confirmed by Microsoft officials (i.e. the always online issue). Furthermore, by stating this, you just made the Xbox policies you brought up invalid.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**zakcole** → bartonzok • 4 years ago

Yeah not everything is falsified but what the DRM policies actually stop you from doing is often exaggerated and a lot of the positives are completely ignored. But you make fair points and I see what you're saying.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**bartonzok** → zakcole • 4 years ago

Yeah I completely agree with Microsoft's approach. Although

since I want to become one myself. However they could've been a little bit more lenient with their DRM policies like Sony is.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Dani** → zakcole • 4 years ago

I find it unbelievable that some anonymous engineer has to clear up rumors when these are things Microsoft could have easily said instead of telling people to deal with it.

The anonymous post does make sense, yes, but it delivers a lot of speculation and false promises as well - promises that Microsoft could've easily delivered IF they were true. There's no certainty that digital sales will undergo a reduced cost for consumers. Also, this could just have been a huge push by publishers to make sure Microsoft protects their IP anyway and Microsoft's the scapegoat for all of this, which also does not ensure that consumers will benefit. Look at EA for instance, they've been playing around with DRM policies, but they don't believe in reducing costs like steam because they think the sales reduce the perceived value of their IP. And not forgetting publishers whose game's value does not even equate to its monetary value. I find it extremely difficult to have faith that such corporations are going to benefit me in the long-run from their past practices of profit mongering.

Sure those points are still pure speculation, but at least they provide the other side of the coin to all the bs that's been made. Don't get me

[see more](#)

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**sbobet indonesia** • 3 years ago

Hi My Friend! I Wish To Say That This Article Is Amazing, Nice Written And Include Approximately All Significant Infos. I Would Like To See More Posts Like This. sbobet indonesia

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**dkp23** • 4 years ago

He said the Thai place in the cafeteria. Not surrounding area.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Cordovan Splotch** → dkp23 • 4 years ago

And how the hell are we supposed to call a Thai place inside a private company's cafeteria?

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