

# Hacker group launches online social network

July 18 2011

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This 2010 photo shows a screensaver from the whistleblower website Wikileaks. Infamous hacker group Anonymous, which rose to infamy last year with cyber attacks in support of controversial whistle-blower website WikiLeaks, launched its own social network after being rejected by Google's freshly-launched online community.

Infamous hacker group Anonymous launched Monday its own social network after being rejected by Google's freshly-launched online community.

"Today we welcome you to begin anew," the hacker alliance said at the website anonplus.com, which it described as a platform to distribute information.

"Welcome to the Revolution - a new social network where there is no fear...of censorship...of blackout...nor of holding back."

The drive to build a social network came after the Anonymous account was suspended at the Google+ online community, which was launched last month by the [Internet giant](#) as a challenge to Facebook.

A message on the anonplus.com website promised that the Anonymous social network would be for everyone and listed online monikers of developers taking part in the project.

Anonymous, which rose to infamy last year with [cyber attacks](#) in support of controversial whistle-blower website WikiLeaks, posted the suspension notice from [Google](#) on its blog at Tumblr.

The group has been linked to attacks on Visa, Mastercard and [Paypal](#), which blocked donations to WikiLeaks after it published thousands of US diplomatic cables.

Early this year, Anonymous took credit for breaking into the website of HBGary Federal because the firm was working with federal agents to expose the hackers' identities.

Anonymous last week released a trove of military email addresses and passwords it claimed to have plundered from the network of US defense consulting firm Booz Allen Hamilton.

In recent months, police in Spain, Turkey and Italy have arrested suspected members of Anonymous, which is believed to have branches in several countries.

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Citation: Hacker group launches online social network (2011, July 18) retrieved 2 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2011-07-hacker-group-online-social-network.html>

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