

Photo service Twitpic to shutter, blames Twitter

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The photo-sharing service Twitpic announces it is shutting down, saying it faced an ultimatum from Twitter to abandon its trademark or lose access to the messaging service

The photo-sharing service Twitpic announced Thursday it was shutting down, saying it faced an ultimatum from Twitter to abandon its trademark or lose access to the messaging service.

Twitpic, launched in 2008, allowed [users](#) to post photographs on the messaging platform before Twitter adding its own photo-sharing option in 2011.

Twitpic founder Noah Everett said the demand from Twitter came as a surprise, and that he had no option other than to end the service.

"A few weeks ago Twitter contacted our legal demanding that we abandon our trademark application or risk losing access to their API," he said, referring to the [application programming interface](#).

"This came as a shock to us since Twitpic has been around since early 2008, and our trademark application has been in the (US [patent office](#)) since 2009."

In his blog post, Everett said, "Unfortunately we do not have the resources to fend off a large company like Twitter to maintain our mark, which we believe wholeheartedly is rightfully ours. Therefore, we have decided to shut down Twitpic."

In 2011, Twitter allowed users to directly upload pictures as part of their tweets, dealing a setback to third-party services such as Twitpic.

Twitpic said its service would end September 25, but would allow its users to export their own pictures and videos.

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