OSMF Data Working Group Memorandum Resolution regarding an indefinite blocking of Sorin Acela (user name sorein)

July 10, 2014

Executive Summary

The Data Working Group (DWG) recommends placing an indefinite block on Sorin Acela (username sorein) due to his unacceptable behavior both in terms of editing and general interactions with the OSM community. While Mr. Acela has contributed valuable geographic data to OpenStreetMap, the project as a whole can only operate when users are willing to work together towards a common goal. When faced with a situation that he disagrees with, Mr. Acela has shown a consistent pattern of insulting and abusive speech. Mr. Acela displays no interest in working with the community towards resolving these personal conflicts or changing his approach towards the community and so the DWG recommends that Mr. Acela be indefinitely blocked from OSM.

1 Background

The DWG is often requested to resolve issues which might otherwise escalate to edit wars within the project. To that end, the DWG works with a large variety of individuals with a large variety of backgrounds to come to a resolution. It has been the experience of the DWG that most individuals are interested in being good members of the community and most issues can be resolved by coming together and discussing problems. Occasionally, one community member believes that they are beyond beyond reproach. Normally individuals like this do not pose a large problem, but occasionally they are so disruptive to the community that actions must be taken to limit the damage that they can do

to a project's morale. Such is the case with Mr. Sorin Acela, who uses the username *sorein*. His behavior towards his local community and the larger community is so disrespectful and rude that the DWG believes that it would be in the best interest of the project that Mr. Acela no longer be allowed to participate.

2   Redaction Bot Blog

The first case that the DWG is aware of where Mr. Acela publicly displays rude behavior dates back to July of 2012 in regards to the redaction bot, which was the final part of a multi-year process for a license transition. During this time, the Communications Working Group put out a blog post outlining a schedule for the bot's run in OSM, as well as a schedule for its completion. This blog post is at: https://blog.openstreetmap.org/2012/07/09/licence-redaction-ready/

In the comments for this blog, Mr. Acela discusses his dissatisfaction with the bot and the redaction process. In response, long time OSMer and former OSMF board member Richard Fairhurst tries to address Mr. Acela's concerns, while pointing out that using inflammatory language is not an effective means of communication. Mr. Acela replies in a rude way, calling those involved in the redaction bot **mind-dozers**, and claiming that the license redaction process is a mockery (Appendix A.1). He then continued in a second reply to the blog calling Richard Fairhurst a **twit** who is **gloating with pride** (Appendix A.2).

In response, Harry Wood of the Communications Working Group tries to reason with Mr. Acela (Appendix A.3), and Sorin continues his rude replies, claiming that the redaction process was **STUPID** and that the community members working on the redaction process are **terrorists** (Appendix A.4).

3   Road Renaming Case in 2013

The DWG was first contacted about Sorin Acela in 2013 when an edit war broke out between him and several members of the Romanian community about the naming of streets. DWG received a message in June 2013 about sorein (Appendix B.1).

The Romanian mailing list discussion that preceded the complaint is at https://lists.openstreetmap.org/pipermail/talk-ro/2013-May/002605.

`html`. Sorin does not publicly participate in that because he had already been banned from that list by the talk-ro moderator due to earlier fall-outs, at least one user reports to have been called blestematul dracului (literally translated the cursed of the devil) by Sorin in a personal message.

At the time there was another user named *razor74* who was also engaged in the edit war.

DWG at the time chose to place a zero hour block on both users asking them to stop their edit war and to add proper changeset comments. See `http://www.openstreetmap.org/user_blocks/350` and `http://www.openstreetmap.org/user_blocks/351`.

Sorin complained in a lengthy message, the gist of which was that he was more intelligent than the rest of the community and therefore should be the sole decision-maker. In addition, he expresses his disinterest in talking to anyone he believes is less intelligent than him. The DWG's reply, which includes excerpts from Sorin's message, is located in Appendix B.2.

Ten days later, the DWG received another complaint about Sorin's behavior (Appendix B.3), in which Sorin was engaged with an edit war with the community over the issue of road names.

In September of 2013, Sorin contacted the DWG about this same matter (Appendix B.4). The DWG replied to his email, specifically addressing his own behavior and how it contributed to the conflict (Appendix B.5). Sorin appeared not to understand or else accept his role in the dispute and his terse reply demanded that we use different language (ie **stop glossing**), that we take very specific actions on his behalf and began implying that the DWG members who was helping him (Frederik Ramm) may not be competent (Appendix B.6).

Soon after his previous mail, Sorin requested that another DWG member take on his case, saying that Frederik **seems incompetent and prone to cheap distorted gossips** (Appendix B.7). Serge Wroclawski replied to Sorin saying that the DWG decisions were made as a group, and also emphasizing the need to work collaboratively with other local mappers (Appendix B.8).

4   Escalation of Insults in 2014

In April 2014, the DWG received a new complaint about sorein (Appendix C.1). In response, the DWG blocked Sorin's account for 48 hours and asked him to stop unilaterally downgrading highways `http://www.openstreetmap.`

org/user_blocks/459 and also reverted the downgrades that had happened until then http://www.openstreetmap.org/changeset/21917524.

Sorin replied to the DWG calling Frederik a moron and questioning the organization for giving Frederik the authority to place the block (Appendix C.2). Serge replied to Sorin explaining that he'd already been told that the group decisions were made largely at a group level, but that multiple Romanian mappers had complained about Sorin's behavior (Appendix C.3).

Sorin replied that calling people morons was not an insult, but **an objective description**, calling the people who complained about him a **gang** and that he is disinterested in working with those he feels are beneath him (Appendix C.4).

At this point, Serge hoped that a face to face meeting might help cool the situation by reminding the parties that they are people and therefore deserving of respect. Serge wrote Sorin suggesting that Serge might facilitate a Skype/Google+ meeting (Appendix C.5). Sorin suggests that Serge has a psychological disorder and continues his complaint about street names (Appendix C.6).

It never came to a Skype session because mediation requires a certain base level of respect and understanding between the parties. Serge was willing to work to facilitate the discussion, but before that, needed an atmosphere that would be free of personal attacks. Sorin never demonstrated this. In addition, despite Sorin's insistence that there is no Romanian OSM community, it came to the DWG's attention that there is a small but active OSM community in Romania, as measured both by contributors and by the community's self reported activeness and cohesiveness.

It became clear to the DWG that despite the age of Sorin's OSM account, that he was not able to act as a senior member of the community, or even be able to be participatory, so the effort in creating a skype conversation for two members of another community would be difficult, exhausting and likely fruitless until Sorin was able to regulate his speech.

One week later, in May 2014, Sorin sent another mail insulting razor74 and Frederik, with the subject can you calm the pig down (Appendix C.7). Serge replied that these insulting words were out of line (Appendix C.8).

Sorin continued arguing with Serge regarding the decision of the DWG. In his mails, he uses sarcastic language and is generally rude (Appendix C.9).

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5   Warning

On May 8th, 2014, Serge sent Sorin an official warning regarding his behavior and that it could lead to his permanent banning from the project (Appendix D.1), thereby fulfilling the requirement that an OSM member be warned about the possibility of an indefinite ban. He acknowledges the warning in a message with the subject "Re: Warning BACK", Appendix D.2.

6   Sorin Refuses to make changeset comments

The arguments went on back and forth in the same fashion, with Sorin accusing Serge to be out of line, explaining why he doesn't need changeset comments, using phrases like "dear very intelligent Serge" and maybe this time you get lucky and understand. Over this time, Sorin created several changesets without changeset comments, despite the request by the DWG. This was in order to try to sort out edits that were going on that were being complained about. razor74 was also contacted about making changeset comments explaining his edits, and has done so ever since. The block requesting changeset comments is http://www.openstreetmap.org/user_blocks/462 and the bans where Sorin continues to ignore the DWG request for changeset comments are at http://www.openstreetmap.org/user_blocks/463 and http://www.openstreetmap.org/user_blocks/471. The full text for block 462 is in Appendix E.1. The full text for block 463 is in Appendix E.2 and block 471 is in Appendix E.3.

7   Another Complaint by the Romanian Community

On July 2nd, the DWG received a complaint from razor74 about Sorin's editing, specifically around the issue of changeset comments as well as his general behavior(Appendix G).

In response, a new four day ban was placed on Sorin by Serge, http://www.openstreetmap.org/user_blocks/477. Serge received a very rude email reply calling him a stupid moron, as well as other sarcastic and rude comments (Appendix H).

8 Sorin Contacts the OSMF Board

In the meantime, on May 2014, Sorin emailed the OSMF board (Appendx F.1) calling Frederik ignorant and calling Serge abusive, that the DWG was incompetent. He also demanded a reply in very specific terms, which becomes apparent later. Michael Collinson replied to his message (Appendix F.2 and Sorin insists that his reply is insufficient (Appendix F.3), and then again (Appendix F.4), this time saying that he is enforcing "OSM Rules" but that he does not feel it's necessary to use changeset comments. He also continues to insult both Frederik and Serge, as well as his local mappers.

Michael eventually responds a second time (Appendix F.5) and Sorin responses rudely and accuses Michael of rambling and avoiding answering the question (Appendix F.6).

9 The Romanian Community

One of the Romanian community's communication channel is their two Facebook groups, OsmRomania https://www.facebook.com/OsmRomania and OpenStreetMap Romania https://www.facebook.com/groups/1487443198159793/, both moderated by Badita Florin Alexandru. It is the understanding of the DWG that Sorin was a member of one or both of these Facebook groups but has subsequently been banned from them due to his behavior (Appendix H . This is likely what Mr. Acela means when he talks about gypsies taking over the Romanian newsletter. We also believe that Mr. Acela is not speaking factually, ie that the Romanian Facebook community is run by members of the Romany people, but that he is using the term gypsy as a slur.'.

In addition, it is the understanding of the DWG that Sorin is no longer a member of the talk-ro due to his past behavior.

10 Conclusion

As we have shown, Sorin Acela's pattern of communication is very disrespectful, negative and rude. He shows little or no regard for his fellow mappers, for his local community or member of the community that tries to work with him. He has shown not only a disinterest, but open aggression to working collaboratively with anyone who he feels is beneath him, and anyone who disagrees with either his actions or his tone.

We have not been able to reason with Mr. Acela, nor been able to get him to change his behavior, so we feel that an indefinite ban is required in this case. We would be open to revisiting the issue if Mr. Acela were able to demonstrate that he is aware of the inappropriate nature of his past words/actions and is committed to becoming a positive member of the OSM community.

Appendix A   Redaction Bot Discussion

A.1   Sorin's First Redaction Bot Reply to Richard Fairhurst

```
In any community only about 5% is highly intelligent. Who are those
who like destruction? See here above other bitter comments. Instead of
being so cocky about your mess, why dont you try to repair an
obviously stupid action. I do shout with outrage towards some
mind-dozers who gained some undeserved authority and have no respect
for other peoples work. You killed roads, relations, transportation
routes, rivers, POIs Only for a stupid approach of some stupid
license. Please stop the mockery and repair by changing the principles
of the algorithm.
```

A.2   Sorin's Second Redaction Bot Reply to Richard Fairhurst

```
My 4-year long contributions are now destroyed by the stupid bot. My
town and the surrounding area look now like after a
bombardment. Street names that I collected with effort, one-way
properties, POIs, buildings are a mess. That was very useful
information for the emergency services in our area.

And this twit Richard is gloating with pride. He is concerned with my
justified shouting-ness instead of being terrified by the destructions
his stupid bot have caused. I have already given some examples of
imbecile outcome, which should be a reason to stop the destruction and
try to revert the effects. I suppose now not even some massive revert
is not possible, since many users have begun the repair and then there
will be a lot of duplicate ways, points, polygons.

One of the causes for this unbelievable mess lies deeper in the silly
design of OSM HISTORY. One example of the rot: Member A (having agreed
to the license) makes a way, a road between Paris and Geneva. That
would be version 1.  Member B (not having agreed to the license)
decides for some reason to split the way at Dijon. Now the initial way
```

has become 2 ways. Fragment A (Paris-Dijon) will be version 2 of
the initial way and will list contributors A and B, but fragment B
(Dijon-Geneva) will be considered a new way (so version 1) and ALL
the contribution of member A to this fragment will be not recognized
any more! Then there comes the stupid bot and deletes fragment B,
mocking the work of member A as well as any user of the map. This way
millions of legitimate kms of ways have been destroyed. Converted
maps have become useless. Members of OSM, please speak up! Shout!

A.3 Harry Wood Replies to Sorin

Please refer your complaints one of the community contact
channels. Id recommend the rebuild mailing list. Please also read the
community code of conduct and be respectful. Youve repeatedly called
people stupid and used some other language which is really quite
offensive, particularly when aimed at people whove been working so
hard to find solutions. This is not really a suitable channel for any
extensive discussion, or for you to raise your issues and objections,
and certainly not for doing so in such an impolite manner.

A.4 Sorin Replies to Harry Wood

Code of conduct? Respectful? Was this terrorist attack on the work of
OSM contributors respectful? Wasnt it really STUPID? This is not a
cheap insult, but an accurate description of the terrorists
action. Stupid and disrespectful. They worked hard to generate this
self-vandalism?? Youd better try to understand the few examples I
provided. Even they can give an idea about the destruction they
produced. And there are people ready to clap they hands!

Appendix B Road Rename Conflict 2013

B.1 First DWG Mail about Romanian Road Renaming

The Romanian community is currently having a major problem with the
user sorein. Basically he is an active contributor for years but
sometimes he has a very strange view on how things should be done. He
is not willing to discuss his views on the public mailing
list. Instead he ignores decisions of the community and makes what he
wants. The last mail he tried to send to talk-ro some months ago
however was rejected by the moderator "Ciprian Talaba
<cipriantalaba@gmail.com>" because he insulted people. This is
actually a different problem we have with him that he insults other
users which write friendly messages to him. Some users like for
example "Ciprian Chirila <ciprian_dan@yahoo.com>" even stopped
contributing in the area around Iai because of sorein.

Currently he is renaming streets in a way we don't want to have
it. Some other people already told him to stop though I think that not
all of them were clever in what they wrote. Yesterday I also wrote a
message to him. So far I didn't receive a reply but he still continues
with his changes.

B.2 First DWG Reply to Sorin

Sorein,

> Instead of receiving some thanks from you from my contributions, you
> have honored me with a disrespectful block. Why is that?
Because as a long-time contributor you are supposed to be a good example
for others, and not engage in edit wars.

> You are speaking about an editing war? Its a war against the
> morons who invaded the OSM environment.
It is not sufficient to be right - you have to convince the communtiy
that you are right. For that, you need to show respect even to newbies -

most of them are well-meaning! - and you need to discuss with them and
make them understand your point, in a friendly and respectful manner.

Just because you have been there longer than the other doesn't mean
 you get to make the rules.

> The contributor you mentioned is just another one of those. As far
> as I could discuss with him, he has no intelligent understanding of
> the necessity to make this huge database EFFICIENT. He simply
> doesnt understand that, if it is clear a road is a STREET, its
> redundant, therefore encumbering for the database, to actually use
> the word STREET (Romanian: STRADA). Its just adding 28 bytes of
> useless data for each street,
Yes, and each time one of you reverts the work of the other, you add
about 500 bytes of useless data to our database. That's why both of you
must stop, and both of you will be blocked if you do not stop.

> Can you understands that also affects the readability of the map
> because of the multitude of useless letters? ...That also affects
> the readability on handheld devices (from phones to PNAs)?
I can understand what you say, but I live in a country where every
street is called "...street", and every road sign says "...street", and
of course every street name in OSM is "...street" as well. So I guess it
is a matter of how the community in the country wants to do it. I would
expect you to discuss your view with other members of the community. I
would assume that what the road signs say would be an important point in
the discussion but it is not for me to decide.

> Then, about what Romanian OSM community are you speaking?? There are
> probably more that 2000 Romanian contributors (of course, with
> different intensities). There is a discussion group, where only a
> dozen of members (!) are occasionally debating and championing
> mostly silly ideas. If you take a look at those discussions, youll
> see they are so illiterate that they dont even know how to type
> Romanian letters with diacritics. However, they managed to form a
> gang, a pack of wolves who try to dominate and impose their silly
> ideas. When I tried to bring common sense to the discussions, the

> wolf pack banned me. (So, yes, I might be the bad guy!)
If you tried to bring common sense to them in the same writing style
that you used in this message, then I am not surprised!

I fully understand that it can be frustrating to have to repair things
that have been broken, but I have the impression that sometimes your
definition of "broken" is a very personal one that might not be shared
with others.

If you feel that there are only idiots in the forum, make contact with a
few non-idiots (there must be some amonge the 2000 contributors you
speak of!) and get them to join the forum to drive discussion on the
right way. You cannot be the "lone wolf" that decides what is correct
for all of Romania.

> Now, thanks to your nice intervention, the stupid side has won the
> war
No; I have asked both of you to stop reverting things for the time being
and stop renaming streets. I have also asked the other side to explain
their reasons but am still waiting for a response.

> Do try to judge your decisions more profoundly, if someone gave you
> this power. Support professional good creative ideas. Have more
> respect for people who have done a good significant job on this map.
What I am currently seeing is a very common pattern: Power user with
excellent contributions thinks he owns the map, treats newbies like
idiots, tries to make rules and push them through, thinks that he does
not have to talk to others because they are not worthy.

I fully agree that there are very likely many people in OSM with a much
smaller intellect than yours, not even looking at their small
contributions. However, even if it is hard, you *have* to treat them
with a modicum of respect and you will not always get it your way,
becasue nobody, not even you, can always be right.

(As I said above, I live in a country where every single street in OSM
has the superfluous ...street at the end, and it hasn't really stopped

the success of OSM in any way. So maybe you are making a big thing out
of something that is not so big after all!)

> I dont know what authority you have, but instead of picking on me,
> why dont you put forward a motion to allow MODERATORS? Thing is:
> We want a community of people who learn to work with each other. If
> we had moderators, all you would do is ignore the others and talk to
> the moderator, and whoever is better at writing letters with
> diacritics would win the war. That's not what we want. All of us,
> including the idiots, want to make a good map, and we have to work
> together to make this happen.

OSM needs more people to map all the little things that even a power
mapper like you cannot do for the whole region. We want to build a
healthy community. If newbies don't understand what OSM is about, we
have to teach them.

You seem to have chosen to ignore them because they are somehow not
worthy of your attention. That is not a good way. OSM is a community
project and you need to talk to the others. You cannot ignore them; if
they do something wrong then you need to teach them, and occasionally
you will have to admit that maybe you are doing something wrong.

Being able to do *that* is the true sign of great OSM mapper.

Our job as DWG is to make sure the database doesn't suffer from edit
wars. A way with 8 versions - four with one name and four with another -
is a waste for everyone. And mappers hating each other instead of
working together is a terrible waste too.

Is there maybe another person in the "top 5" in Romania whom both you
and the other side will respect, and who might be able to mediate in
this conflict - to get you and the "pack of wolves" to talk to each
other and find an amicable solution?

Bye
Frederik

B.3 Second Complaint About Sorin

We need your help again. Today sorein was again quite active. He
 ignored the warning from a week ago and deleted again the word
 "Strada" from the name tag of streets and made some other
 abbreviation like Bd, os, we don't like. All his today's changes are
 affected. Some examples are here:

B.4 Sorin Complains about Road Names

Hi

For some months a couple of Romanian users have abused the Romanian
part of OSM. For example, they ran bots/scripts to fill the map with
useless words like Biserica (Church), Hotelul (Hotel), while the OSM
instructions are clear about not using words that express exactly what
that point/line/area is.

They ran bots to damage street labels. Now you can see stupid names
like Strada Fundacul X. The 2 words cannot be used together,
Fundacul (Deadend) is a sort of a Strada (street). I tried to warn
them, but they created a sort of a gang and showed aggressivity.

Very recently, (ab)user razor74 threatened me via OSM with these
words:

ii pun pe cativa sa ruleze scripturi si sa iti faca un mass revert la
tot ce ai facut pe harta asta in 2013.

Ill have some guys run scripts and do mass revert to all that you
worked on this map in 2013

It appears they have started that, because data I added to OSM these
days were deleted! For example, a guest_house in this area
http://www.openstreetmap.org/#map=19/47.34347/25.34861.

Also all this area that I was tweaking these days, was totally
reverted. http://www.openstreetmap.org/#map=18/46.21978/24.79265&layers=D

I suppose you are able to analyze what happened on the Romanian part
of OSM this month, namely my work, and see how it has been damaged.

Abusers: razor74, GabrielSebastianMoise, Vasile2013

Sorin
(user sorein, for 5-6 years)

B.5   The DWG Replies to Sorin about Roads

According to reports we received in January, you reacted aggressively to
messages sent to you by other users. Some users even stopped
contributing in the areas where you were active because of these
hostilities.

> It appears they have started that, because data I added to OSM these
> days were deleted! For example, a guest_house in this area
> http://www.openstreetmap.org/#map=19/47.34347/25.34861.

I will talk to the other side but frankly, I believe it is your own
 aggressive behaviour that has made the others react like that. You
 have always tried to get it your way, you have been unwilling to talk
 to others, you have reverted the edits of others countless times –
 and now you come to us asking for help because, among reverting all
 of your un-discussed "i am always right" edits the others
 accidentally revert something that was good! And you don't even give
 us any context about why all this is happening – you make it sound
 like you have been a nice guy all the time, but you weren't. You were
 just as stubborn as they are.

I will tell the others to be more careful but other than that, we
cannot help you. You must talk to the others, and the Romanian

community must find their way forward together. We at DWG cannot solve
these problems for you, else we'd have to ban half of the community
including yourself.

B.6   Sorin Replies to the DWG

Please reply concretely to the vandalism report, specifically the
damages that user have caused these days, namely DELETING VALUABLE
CONTRIBUTORS WORK! Say something clear about:

- why the points have disappeared
- why the alleys have become residential streets, while they are
  clearly narrow alleys
- why the pedestrian streets were reverted to residential, while they
  ARE clearly pedestrian
- what measures are you ready to take against that gang that clearly
  works against the OSM recommendations.

Stop glossing. I did explain to you what happened. If you arent
capable of understanding what is going on, please have another more
competent OSM coordinator deal with the matter.

B.7   Sorin Requests a new DWG Member

Please take measures. And please assign another person to take care of
the matter. This Frederik Ramm seems incompetent and prone to cheap
distorted gossips, therefore he cannot judge. The previous report that
reached him had absolutely no effect.

B.8   Serge Replies to Sorin

Sorin,

As others have explained, the DWG works as a group, where we take
information, collectively look at it, make a decision as a group, and

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then one person takes on the task for speaking on behalf of the group
with an individual. So while Frederik may decide to present the
decision in a certain way (with his own choice of language, for
example), what he says represents the DWG as a whole.

In regards to your situation, the one addition I would like to make is
that since OSM is a large project, and no one can map everything, we
have to make a special effort to work together, especially on the
local level. It can become very easy, when interacting with people
only via the computer, to forget, or have them forget that the person
on the other end is just like you.

In my experience, local mapping issues can be resolved by sitting
together at a table, usually over food or drinks, and discussing them.
It doesn't always work, but oftentimes, just the act of sitting
together can make things much easier. This may sound like a simplistic
recommendation, but it works so often that I stand by it.

So as for the DWG's recommendations for Romania go, we will not be
taking any actions at this time. But I suggest that if you are this
passionate about mapping, that you move into a role of facilitator and
start a local mapping group, hold mapping parties, run events, and
invite the people who you've been having these conflicts with to join
you, and work our your differences.

Appendix C April 2014

C.1 Complaint about Sorin April 2014

Hello, Please help... If you remember, after the problem when sorein
used bad name abreviations in many situation, he now changes alot of
seccondary roads, tertiary roads and residential roads in service
roads. Motivation – he thinks that a road not paved or with bad
smoothness, must be service road to be easily seen on the map. But he
didn't or don't want to use smoothness, and surface tags. He destroyed
routing in manu places because of this. He added injuries permanently

to new mapper fom Iasi city region (especially Moldova region countyes from Romania). Now he changes residential streets and some seccondary streets around Bucharest. I reverted some of them, but i cannopt continue like this. I , and other mappers – don't want to do policeman job on openstreetmap because a single person. On a side on the map i try to import some general urbanistic plans and improve the maps, and on other side sorein destroy what others hardly worked. PS: The person is so agressive on Facebook and other comunities too... one month ago he enters on openstreetmap romania page and start to add injuries to people because he not embrace no one other ideeas of mapping...

C.2   Sorin Questions the First Block

This Ramm moron did it again.
Is there a way to make him understand not to insult long-time hard-working members by stupidly blocking them? Why are you giving him this sort of authority? Because of people like him OSM has fallen so hard behind Google Maps.

C.3   Serge's Second Reply to Sorin

Sorin,

As Henning said last year, the DWG acts as a group, not individually. Nonetheless, I am happy to respond to your concerns.

We in the DWG are responding to multiple complaints by Romanian OSMers regarding your behavior in the project. They complain both about your mapping, and about your unwillingness to work with others as shown by your behavior.

Mails where you call people morons certainly are illustrative of the problem.

If you wish to continue to edit in OpenStreetMap, two things must change. Firstly, you must be willing to work with other OSMers, including and especially your other Romanian mappers, and stop downgrading highways or modifying street names, etc. Your edits must be in line with other local mappers.

Secondly, your responses to other mappers needs to be less rude. Calling people morons, etc. is not appropriate, and gets to the heart of the disrespect that other Romanian mappers have told us that you show for their work and the project.

Either you can change what you've been doing, work with the other Romanian mappers and be a part of the OpenStreetMap project. Or alternatively you can continue to do what you've been doing, continue to rename/reclassify roads despite community objections, continue to either ignore or insult mappers who ask about these edits and find that our account continues to be locked, perhaps one day, locked permanently.

The choice is yours.

- Serge
On behalf of the DWG

C.4   Sorin Insults the Romanian Community

Serge

As I said last year, I repeated tried to explain things to moron Ramm, but he really cannot get it. Moron is NOT an insult, it is an objective description.

You get complaints from a gang of morons who have been damaging the Romanian area for a couple of years. There are 3-4 of them. They invaded the community and took over. They are totally deaf to arguments.

They speak broken English, so they cannot understand the OSM rules.

How cannot you call a moron that Michael_H who sends me to read some fundamental OSM rule (he is educating me!!!) saying not to use redundant words in the descriptions (such as CITY OF Manchester), and they floods the map with hotel, bar, biserica (church) etc?

Indeed, they used bots to flood the map with strada (meaning street), while that is a REDUNDANT word. Their destroying bots even named streets in the mountains (hiking trails)! They stupidly doubled street with deadend/impasse. There are now roads named Strada Fundacul X (Street Impasse X, which is as stupid as saying Victory Boulevard Street).

They narrow-mindedly destroyed my work of fine-tuning 1000s of km of roads they made them all primary, secondary, where they are even worse than service. They cannot understand the meaning of the service property.

I marked many roads crossing the mountains as PATHS because this is what they really are, but the morons made them secondary, because this is what the paper maps of Romania show. My gasoline was just wasted.

This last act of moron razor74, who has been hunting me all over the map and destroying my work, modified some streets of Bucharest that I saw with my own eyes as being narrow alleys (so service). He changed them from service to residential. Just because this is what he imagines from the satellite imagery! He did that a lot of times. He sees house roofs, so he assumes its a residential area, then the road has to be residential, even if it really is a dirt track. The road quality and configuration do not count, the bad routing does not count.

This way they are misleading maps user, speaking of either paper maps or electronic maps based on OSM. With their approach, truck drivers or tourist bus drivers will end up on impracticable or even dangerous

roads.

Unwillingness to work with others????????? Its unwillingness to
work with ganged-up unprofessional morons who make a mockery of the
map. This is EXACTLY what you should do! try hard to keep morons away
from the project. That is how OSM has become a weak product. While
Google Maps even offer real-time public transportation routing, you
cannot even offer any sort of routing on this map. I remember when OSM
was the coolest map on the web. What have you made of it?

What local mappers???? I AM A LOCAL MAPPER! I have experience, I
have intellect, I have an understanding what a maps is. Ive been
working with maps for 30 years, all sorts of maps. Ive been working
and even programmed (Garmin) electronic maps. They should learn from
me! I also explained to moron Ramm that there is a GANG, not a
community. When I shouted at them 6 years ago to start learning how to
type Romanian letters on their computers (they were that stupid!),
they banned me. Just because they had that power. This is how my
opinions about how they damage the map never got there. When I tell
moron Ramm to correct this abuse, the sleeps and snores and burps his
beer out. Yes, they were that stupid, they couldnt even type the
Romanian letters. If you read their community messages, youll see no
Romanian letters with diacritics. That community is in reality 4-5
illiterate morons and 10 obeying followers. The other users just dont
care.

Therefore, your message sounds stupid. If I want to continue
mapping??? YOU should want me (people like me) to continue. YOU should
want to have more pros likeeme. YOU should understand one day the
necessity of MODERATORS.

Read me well: I will NEVER be in any line with stupid
computer-illiterate incompetent people! If you like them so much, you
can have them. I myself have little tolerance to stupidity. Stupidity
and narrow-mindedness have made OSM a joke compared to Google Maps,
while 6 years ago it was the opposite.

Now you may continue with your dozing to empower this gang of morons, or you may show more respect to people with intellect and with superior education.

The choice is yours.

Yet, I kinda know what to expect from you . Its the 2nd time I explain this to you, it will be the 2nd time you dont get it. It will be the 2nd time you show love for the stupid. I begin wondering if it is because you are of the same kind, because you are totally deaf to arguments, and you only consider the numbers: if 3 say this and 1 says that, you consider what the 3 said because they are more. This is not how intellect and logic work.

Do you have any understanding about the quality of a project or are you there just to party and have fun? Is there a way to change that structure of yours and let more competent people check in? Are you there for life?

(If you understand any of these, Ill explain to you what mess you have created with those zillions of road description combinations.)

C.5   Serge suggests mediation

Sorin,
If you are needing help in facilitating a discussion between yourself and your local mappers, I can try to help act as a mediator in that discussion. We can certainly meet via skype or Google+, or another face-to-face communication mechanism. In addition, I would suggest that you work out a face to face meeting in person with your fellow Romanian mappers. Since I don't speak Romanian, we would need to choose another language to speak in (English would probably be easiest, but between myself and other DWG members, we speak a variety of languages).
And if you have specific complaints about specific changesets by other mappers, such as using bots, then you can send them to

data@osmfoundation.org. But as I've said before, calling people names
like moron, and calling people incompetent, etc. will not get you very
much sympathy. If you value your continued participation in the
community, you will need to find a way to communicate that doesn't
involve this kind of inflammatory language.
- Serge
on behalf of the DWG

C.6   Sorin Responds to Mediation Offer

(Oh so cool, you even indicated the CC wrong address)

From: Sorin Acela
Sent: Wednesday, 30 April, 2014 19:07
To: Serge Wroclawski
Cc: data@openstreetmapfoundation.org
Subject: Re: Ramm? **

OK! Now you are a robot and if I press your wrong button, I get the
wrong answer??

I thought I was speaking to one coherent person might you have
dissociative identities? I thought if I communicated something to you
(using just the reply address), I didnt do that in secrecy, and you
are capable of referring that to the board/team, on your own, more
or less officially. I have this funny idea that the OSM board is
not some alien entity controlling you, but a group of individuals who
make decisions based on each persons opinions and analysis.

Then here is my previous secret email, this time sent in CC to
data@openstreetmapfoundation.org ????

Maybe one day there will be some progress.

MY ORIGINAL MESSAGE REPLYING TO PRIVATE SERGE:

Hi Serge

A mediator? 2 things seem important now:

1. Me regaining access to the group newsletter talk-ro. I can read
the messages, but I cannot post. The list self-appointed manager
(talk-ro-owner@openstreetmap.org) blocked be when we had quarrel about
using the Romanian diacritics. Since then no other message of mine
went through. He seems to have become inactive, there have been no
more posts from him for some time.

2. An intervention in the group from an OSM supervisor to make them
understand that residential doesnt necessarily mean ANY road near
houses and service doesnt mean a road to a factory. That there
are many roads or fragments of roads near houses that should be
labelled service (alley, driveway, one-lane streets) or even
track, depending on their state.

I am sorin86 on Skype. We could meet to have some discussions even
about general OSM matters, those which made OSM fall behind Google
maps. I had some strategic points of view, but after the sleepy
indolent Ramm experience I thought it was useless. I work online, so
you can find me easily.

They did use bots, but most of them were useful. I was complaining
about a badly designed bot generating double street-type in the names
and even adding Strada (street) to some mountain trails.

There is no much of a choice when people destroy the work of others
and do that willingly and with passion. Sweet talk has no effect on
them. Sometimes (not always) vicious talk snaps them out of it.

Sorin

C.7   Calm The Pig Down

Dear OSM,

Are you able to stop the destructive actions of user razor74?

For some time he has been hunting me on the map and modifying a lot of
my hard work, many times distorting the map information, especially
the routing information.

My attempts to recorrect led to Ramms ban on me. Based on what? On
NOTHING. He has never asked for my opinion, he has never analyzed
anything. Except the beer in front of him. He just took the word of
the offender.

And it wasnt once, but recently they did it again, both user
razor74 and the very intelligent Ramm. The former spoiled, the
latter banned me!

Because he was enthusiastically encouraged by the intelligent Ramm,
razor74 keeps hunting me on the map and spoiling the map.

These days razor74 did it again. See area:
http://www.openstreetmap.org/way/29377579#map=19/47.15175/27.58824&layers=D

That is an area where the traffic is very confusing even for locals
(badly designed), let alone for drivers from others towns or from
other countries. I mapped that carefully, adding suggestive labels, so
all that can help routing.

The hunting pig razor74 made that a mess: he modified a link making
that a bridge! he stupidly added street names where there are not
(only road links)!

The moron lives 400 kms away. I live in that area. I do know what is
going on here.

I corrected again. And the pig spoiled that again. He even shows
pride and haughtiness by naming his changeset Revert back from stupid
names added by sorein.

You can see all that in the history of the area. I signalled that to
the intelligent Ramm, but hes dozing. What can I do more? Just
maintain an edit war with the moron?

A couple of weeks ago, Serge Wroclawski offered to mediate between
me and the ridiculous Romanian community. He also fell asleep.

So.... is there anyone in that coordinating board of yours who can
solve this? One person who is not so much in love with drinking a lot
of beer?

Sorin
user sorein

C.8   Serge replies to "Calm the Pig Down"

Sorin,
Your behavior to your fellow mappers, as well as to the DWG members
has been completely out of line. Your use of name calling, personal
attacks, etc. are inappropriate and unacceptable. If you continue to
behave this way, I will recommend your permanent ban from
OpenStreetMap. In the meantime, I am going to place a 4 day block on
your account while I investigate your concerns about razor74, and I
will be in contact with him about his edits.
In addition, since we have received complaints about your edits, I
notice that you do not use changeset comments. For users who have a
history of edit wars, we require that you use meaningful eachangeset
comments to allow others to see what kind of edits you are making. The
changeset comments should be descriptive about exactly what changes
you are making and why you are making them.

- Serge

C.9 Sorin's mail "you are out of line"

My dearest friend Serge, whom I respect hugely ;)

Dont you have any bit of human dignity in you?

Before insulting me in your official capacity, please tell us what
 happened to your proposal of mediation? Cause for a couple of
 weeks I have heard nothing from you. Who wrote this:

        If you are needing help in facilitating a discussion
 between yourself and your local mappers, I can try to help act as a
 mediator in that discussion. We can certainly meet via skype or
 Google+, or another face-to-face communication mechanism. In
 addition, I would suggest that you work out a face to face meeting in
 person with your fellow Romanian mappers. Since I don't speak
 Romanian, we would need to choose another language to speak in
 (English would probably be easiest, but between myself and other DWG
 members, we speak a variety of languages).

Wasnt it you?? Then what happened? Did you fall asleep? Do you call
 that professionalism?

What behaviour to fellow mappers, dear insulter?
I do have enormous respect for people who show professionalism,
 including all the competent hard-working fellow mappers. Thats why
 I enjoy a lot watching series like House MD or The Dog Whisperer. At
 the same time I do hate people with no professionalism and no dignity
 who arrive in positions of making decisions. (Well, I admit I also
 pervertedly watch The Apprentice too...)

Thus, your own personal attack (like placing a block on the account
of a diligent, passionate, hard-working, experienced, long-time mapper
like myself) is an undignified and insulting act. For years I have
spent money and gasoline to go to places and provide good quality
information to this map. I am in the Top 10 of Romanian mappers.
And you found this answer to the problem?? Is this ALL your mind could

produce? Dont you make yourself worthy of disrespect? Like those 4-5
gangsters who cavort on the Romanian map? Its to THEM that I was
disrespectful, simply because they are garbage scums. Why do you want
so dearly to be on their side? Birds of the same feather?

What could there be more striking than the moron putting a name on a
street that he doesnt even know? And he did ONLY to mock me. Strada
Palat begins from the bridge and goes NW, while Strada Sf Lazr begins
from its joint with Strada Palat and goes NE, very much like the
colors show. The moron put a street name on the bridge! There is no
name for that portion! Then is he not a moron? That IS NOT an insult!
That is an objective description of his intellect.
And you block me??? Nice thinking!

You can also go to Google Maps and use street view. (Oh yes, they
overpassed you in that respect too.)

Use changeset comments? Oh, now we see again how your analytic mind
works. Firstly, comments are OPTIONAL! (Im not sure how much you
know about OSM, you dont seem very qualified.) Secondly, you use
comments when that is meaningful, important, like Bot application of
EU shapes for landuse. If I put a new gasoline station on the map,
why would I need to comment on that??? To write I placed a gasoline
station? Do you have any professional knowledge about data bases?
Do you have any idea how much the OSM data base is inflated with such
stupid comments? (I corrected 2 streets, I found a mountain
trail...) Oh, sorry!, I missed the comments on the reasons. There
you go: I put a gasoline station because I think the map needs it
badly.

For all the above, I think you are completely out of line.

Dear DWG,

Now is it clearer why OSM has fallen so hard behind Google Maps in

only 2 years? When you choose members in that board of yours, dont you test them before? Dont they have to be competent? To have some hint of professionalism? To have a reasonable level on intelligence? To have analytic minds? To have some vision on the future of this project? How did people like dear Serge and dear Frederik manage to sneak into that board, people who havent got the slightest power of analysis and who act only based on their guts and caprices?

Why do you show such lack of respect to important contributors?

Do you want OSM to survive? Or will you drown it in beer?

Sorin

From: Serge Wroclawski
Sent: Wednesday, 7 May, 2014 16:11
To: Sorin Acela
Cc: data@osmfoundation.org
Subject: Re: Dear OSM, can you calm the pig down?
Sorin,

Your behavior to your fellow mappers, as well as to the DWG members has been completely out of line. Your use of name calling, personal attacks, etc. are inappropriate and unacceptable. If you continue to behave this way, I will recommend your permanent ban from OpenStreetMap.

In the meantime, I am going to place a 4 day block on your account while I investigate your concerns about razor74, and I will be in contact with him about his edits.

In addition, since we have received complaints about your edits, I notice that you do not use changeset comments. For users who have a history of edit wars, we require that you use meaningful eachangeset comments to allow others to see what kind of edits you are making. The changeset comments should be descriptive about exactly

what changes you are making and why you are making them.

- Serge

Appendix D   Warning

D.1   Official Warning to Sorin Regarding His Behavior

Sorin,

Over several years of your involvement in OpenStreetMap, there have
 been a series of complaints about both your editing behavior and your
 communication behavior in both public and private forums.
  OpenStreetMap is a crowdsourced project, which means we need to work
 together as a community. Working as a community requires that we
 share a base level of respect and understanding for one another
 across cultural, ideological and linguistic differences.

While you have a legitimate concern about lesser experienced mappers
 using automated tools in Romania, your actions, including renaming
 roads against community consensus, reclassifying roads against
 community consensus, using abbreviations against community consensus
 are all against the idea of working as a participant in your local
 community.

In addition, much of your communications to your fellow mappers has
 been inappropriate. Calling OSM volunteers names like terrorists,
 pigs, morons, stating or implying that they are incompetent, drunk or
 asleep are all disrespectful, and despite repeatedly being asked to
 curb this behavior, you continue to act in this way.

It is the opinion of the Data Working Group that this behavior, both
 in terms of editing and in terms of communication is unacceptable. If
 this Working Group receives any further substantial complaints about
 you, including your editing or OSM related communications, we will
 begin a process which is likely to result in your permanent ban from

the project.

We the members of the DWG would prefer not to have to begin this
 process and hope that you will heed this warning message and work
 with your fellow OpenStreetMappers to create a high quality map and
 open, respectful community.

- Serge on behalf of the OpenStreetMap Data Working Group.

D.2   Response to Warning

Dear very intelligent Serge
(as I have already demonstrated)

Name ONE SINGLE complaint and lets have a debate, so you can
 understand (if you are capable) where you are wrong!

I have already demonstrated that you are wrong. You are also
 narrow-minded, because you insist on some silly concern in analyzing
 my forms of expression rather than understanding what is so very
 wrong with the acts of the others. Id like to ask you to stop this
 bimbo behaviour and show some professionalism. Just IGNORE my lampoon
 language, just FOCUS on the problems I signaled. Name ONE SINGLE item
 where I was wrong.

Lets examine again just one example (maybe this time you get lucky
 and understand):

I DID CHANGE the names of streets eliminating the word STRADA
 (street). Are you aware of the basic OSM rules? Are you aware of
 this:

    http://wiki.openstreetmap.org/wiki/Names#Notes

    The names should be restricted to the name of the item in question

only and should not include categories, types, descriptions,
addresses or notes. If something really doesn't have a name, don't
add one to OpenStreetMap. Any additional information should be
included in separate tags (see e.g. aforementioned links) to identify
its meaning.

   Some examples of incorrect usage:

       Manchester City (for a city named Manchester; note that New
York City may be correct as the common name for The City of New York)
       Multipolygon Baldo Forest

That is stated SO CLEARLY! If it is a BAR, dont write BAR!

If it is a CHURCH, do not write CHURCH!

If it is a HOTEL, do not write HOTEL!

If it is a........................ STREET, do not
 write.................. STREET!

Did you get that? Pleeeeease tell me that you got it!

Did you understand there is NO ROMANIAN COMMUNITY, but a bunch of 5
gangsters?
Do you understand that there were hundreds of Romanian contributors
 and only 5 of them took over and made their own decisions???

Do you understand that I was BANNED from that community, when I
 tried to explain there were wrong?

Now, if you understand all those, CANNOT YOU SEE THE ROMANIAN MAP IS
FULL OF: HOTELUL, BISERICA (church), VRFUL (peak), PDUREA (forest),
 RESTAURANTUL, PENSIUNEA (boarding house) etc???

Then who is right and who is wrong?
Did they respect that rule? Please say YES, so everyone can see your
 Western professionalism.

Not only I am right, but also with your sleepiness, you encouraged
 that garbage behaviour.

Maybe this time you care to reply ON THE SUBJECT and stop rambling
 about language!

Reclassifying roads??? Are you kidding me??? I-I-I-I-I-I-I-I-I
 contributed significantly in the beginnings, years ago, when they had
 no idea about the official road classification in Romania, to a
 reasonable procedure! Then the new gangsters took over and messed
 with that. They named mountain trails as secondary roads!!!!!! Is
 that fine with you, Herr Professional???

Working together means respecting some standards. I can call anyone
 whatever I want. And a VOLUNTEER in not an untouchable holy icon!
 Occasionally, A VOLUNTEER may as well be a stupid destroyer. You seem
 to have no practical experience with the map, otherwise youd have
 encountered many cases where your careful work is spoiled by some
 beginning moron who collects one GPS track and changes your road to a
 zigzagged mess. How about that VOLUNTEER?

    It is the opinion of the Data Working Group that this behavior,
    both in terms of editing and in terms of communication is
    unacceptable.

How stupid is that?? So if I try hard to impose THE OSM RULES,
 fighting the morons, then I have a bad behaviour!!! And the morons
 who clog the data base with millions of useless bytes are your dear
 friends. Maybe someone planted you there just to sabotage this
 project. Maybe people like you are the reason why OSM is so much
 behind Google Maps.

Dear DWG,

I have enough life experience to understand that nothing will make you
 change your minds. You are very likely of the younger generations and
 your reduced life experience leads you to losing focus on the
 important matters.

I do know that, once you blocked your minds on the matters I have
 signalled, nothing will unblock them.

I do know my arguments are very solid, but you wont give a damn.

I think there is no person in that group of yours who is capable of
 analysis, otherwise I wouldnt have had to demonstrate very simple
 and obvious things 10 times.

If you continue like that (and very likely you will), you will bury
 this project. Instead of asking people like me, with experience,
 vision, ideas, creativity, power of analysis, to join you, you prefer
 to support and gang up with the stupid ones.

So, I know this message wont have any effect on you, however Ill
 keep it for the record ;)

Unless you wake up, our dialogue is a waste of time. Just do whatever
 your brilliant immature minds tell you to do.

Cheers!

From: Serge Wroclawski
Sent: Thursday, 8 May, 2014 17:55
To: Sorin Acela
Subject: Warning

Sorin,

Over several years of your involvement in OpenStreetMap, there have been a series of complaints about both your editing behavior and your communication behavior in both public and private forums. OpenStreetMap is a crowdsourced project, which means we need to work together as a community. Working as a community requires that we share a base level of respect and understanding for one another across cultural, ideological and linguistic differences.

While you have a legitimate concern about lesser experienced mappers using automated tools in Romania, your actions, including renaming roads against community consensus, reclassifying roads against community consensus, using abbreviations against community consensus are all against the idea of working as a participant in your local community.

In addition, much of your communications to your fellow mappers has been inappropriate. Calling OSM volunteers names like terrorists, pigs, morons, stating or implying that they are incompetent, drunk or asleep are all disrespectful, and despite repeatedly being asked to curb this behavior, you continue to act in this way.

It is the opinion of the Data Working Group that this behavior, both in terms of editing and in terms of communication is unacceptable. If this Working Group receives any further substantial complaints about you, including your editing or OSM related communications, we will begin a process which is likely to result in your permanent ban from the project.

We the members of the DWG would prefer not to have to begin this process and hope that you will heed this warning message and work with your fellow OpenStreetMappers to create a high quality map and open, respectful community.

- Serge on behalf of the OpenStreetMap Data Working Group.

Appendix E Blocks due to lack of Changeset Comments

E.1 Block 462

(0 hour block)

Sorin,

As per our email discussion through the DWG, your edits have been very
 contentious, and in addition, your behavior towards your fellow
 OpenStreetMap contributors has been unacceptable, including the use
 of name calling, personal insults, etc. These two factors are the
 cause of your current ban.

In addition, any future edits you make must include a meaningful
 changeset comment related to the edit you are making. Failure to do
 so will cause your account to be blocked again, and possibly banned
 in the future.

If you have any questions, you can contact the DWG.

    Serge Wroclawski

E.2 Block 463

(24 hour block)

Sorin,

You have been repeatedly asked to add comments to your changesets in
 order to allow others to see what you are editing and work
 collaboratively.

In changeset 22298121 you made a large number of edits, including
 moving POIs, changing object geometries and removing a forest.

These kinds of edits are exactly the edits that changeset comments
 would help on, by helping others understand why you have made the
 changes you have.

In the future, you need to make meaningful changeset comments so that
 others who are looking at your edits can understand what has changed
 and why.

If you have any further questions, you can contact the DWG.

    Serge on behalf of the DWG.

E.3   Block 471

(48 hour block)

Sorin,

You have been repeatedly asked to add comments to your changesets in
 order to allow others to see what you are editing and work
 collaboratively.

In changeset 22422981 you did not use a changeset comment, despite
 being asked to.

In the future, you need to make meaningful changeset comments so that
 others who are looking at your edits can understand what has changed
 and why. Since this is the third time we have asked you officially to
 use changeset comments, I am placing a 48 hour block on your account.

If you have any further questions, you can contact the DWG.

Serge on behalf of the DWG.

Appendix F Sorin Correspondance with the OSMF Board

F.1 Sorin Emails the OSMF Board

Dear friends,

This time Ill try to keep it as simple as possible, so all the member
of Data Working Group are able to understand, o matter their level of
intelligence. Please try hard to focus and solve these problems with
dignity, with ethics and with professionalism.

MATTER 1.

I was trying hard to correct the bad mapping performed by some
Romanian abusive ignorant members. Namely, I was applying the OSM
fundamental of not using the description of the item in the items
name (see again http://wiki.openstreetmap.org/wiki/Names#Notes), and
then abusive ignorant user razor74 began to perform massive reverts on
my edits.

What did your incompetent Ramm (woodpeck) do (Sep 2013)?
He blocked me! He blocked the very member who was trying to reinforce
the OSM rule!

Please state if you agree with Ramms abuse (namely, by blocking a
member who tried to make corrections and by encouraging an abusive
ignorant member to keep messing with the map) and what measures are
you taking against abusive Ramm. Please state if you understand the
rule mentioned above and if you are willing to apply your own rules.

MATTER 2.
I informed incompetent Ramm of death threats performed by member
GabrielSebastianMoise. using the OSM platform. Incompetent Ramm didnt
do anything, he seems happy with that.

Please s
If there is an intelligent DWG member who doesnt agree with the
abuses described above, and who isnt infected with Groupthink (see
definition), please let him contact me privately.

Be aware that a lot of important web projects have eventually
virtually died (Mapquest, Altavista, Napster mIRC, Winamp etc),
because they couldnt keep up with new ideas and their coordinators
were narrow-minded and careless. Having such abusive incompetent
knuckleheads within DWG looks like they were implanted there just to
sabotage the OSM project. It is people like them who have made OSM
fall under Google Maps.

Sorin
user soreintate if you agree with Ramms attitude and if you think
that life-threatening behavior is so much fun to OSM and DWG.

MATTER 3.

In Apr 2014, abusive ignorant user razor74 kept hunting me on the map
and totally messed up an area in my town that I know well. He added
random names to fragments of roads that have no names and he added
names to road links. I presented that to Wroclawski, because I was
nicely trying to avoid an edit war. What did incompetent Wroclawski
do? He blocked me! The result of Wroclawski funny way of judging is
that, even today, the map contains the same false information input by
ignorant razor74. (see:
http://www.openstreetmap.org/way/29377579#map=19/47.15228/27.58808)

Please state if you agree with Wroclawskis abuse or what measures are
you taking against abusive Wroclawski.

MATTER 4.

I explained to incompetent Wroclawski in simple logical words (so even
he is able to understand) that comments on a changeset should NOT be
obligatory. Placing a gasoline station on the map and then adding a
comment like I placed a Lukoil gasoline station on the map is not
only plain stupid, but is also inflating the data base. So he too
began to hunt me on the map and blocked me because I didnt write such
silly comments on the map.
Please state if you understand the optionality of the changeset
comments. Please state if you understand that an unnecessarily
inflated data base is a waste of recourses and is harder to handle.
Please state if you agree with incompetent Wroclawskis abuse or what
measures you are taking against him.

MATTER 5. Incompetent Wroclawski incompetently warned me after I
 deleted what he thought to be a forest in this area of the map:
 http://www.openstreetmap.org/#map=15/47.2456/27.5550

What was in reality?
- I put that forest on the map myself long time ago.
- Later there was a massive bot edit adding all the land use of
  Romania. That included forests. All the previous areas (included
  my forest) were justifiedly numbed off with fake tags, like
pre-CLC:landuse
forest
The previous areas were kept for future reference, but the tags were
prefixed with pre-CLC:, as you can see.
- So one of these days I corrected the new forest shape and LOGICALLY
  I deleted my old fake-tagged forest, which has actually become
  simply garbage on the map.
I did the right thing, however incompetent Wroclawski blocked me
forever (?). At that time, I thought What an incredible moron
again. Hes even more stupid than hunter razor74. I would say again
that the guy is a terribly confused moron, but if I say that truth,
you will lose focus on the technical aspects and on his abuse, as you
did before.

Please state if you agree with his action and with his will to keep garbage on the map. Please state how such a deluded narrow-minded person got to have such power of mocking the important map contributors.

In addition to these concrete matters please ask the following
 questions:

1. When you make decisions against a mapping member, do you follow any code of ethics or any code of procedure, or are you making decisions only based on personal whims and discretion?

2. Are you going to teach DWG members, such as Ramm and Wroclawski, to perform a competent analysis before whamming blocks around? Have you heard of the saying Audiatur et altera pars, which is basic for doing a healthy judgment?

3. Are you making decisions based on the Groupthink concept (see
 definition)?

4. Is DWG acting as a group of professionals or is it a sort of a gang of beer pals?

5. How are DWG members selected? Does this selection work as the North Korea communist nomenklatura?

6. Can you try to show more respect to significant maps contributors?

Your official answers will be used in some editorials I am going to write about the current state of OSM.

If there is an intelligent DWG member who doesnt agree with the abuses described above, and who isnt infected with Groupthink (see definition), please let him contact me privately.

Be aware that a lot of important web projects have eventually
virtually died (Mapquest, Altavista, Napster mIRC, Winamp etc),
because they couldnt keep up with new ideas and their coordinators
were narrow-minded and careless. Having such abusive incompetent
knuckleheads within DWG looks like they were implanted there just to
sabotage the OSM project. It is people like them who have made OSM
fall under Google Maps.

Sorin
user sorein

F.2   Michael Collinson Replies to Sorin

Dear Sorin,

I am replying as Chair of the OpenStreetMap Foundation Management
Team. You may share this with whomever you wish. I am not a member of
the Data Working Group.

As I understand it: You have been locked in a dispute with user
razor74 and other Romanian mappers over a period of two years. You
feel that they are ignorant, which I interpret to mean that you are
frustrated with their mapping practises, rightly or wrongly. You feel
that the Data Working Group is incompetent. In turn, there are ongoing
complaints from different Romanian mappers who feel intimidated and
offended by you, rightly or wrongly. The Data Working Group has
therefore become involved and feels that they are taking your concerns
seriously but that you are completely ignoring their advice and have
been consistently personally abusive over a period of time.

One particular thing I note is that if another OSM mapper has sent
death threats to you, do forward the text (in original language for
context) to DWG so that they can consider action.

You are or were under a 48-hour ban. I have confirmed that this is not

permanent. I understand that DWG discussed with you that you need to
have changeset comments, particularly as your edits are contentious,
(rightly or wrongly). You refused and made a changeset with no
comments, so a 0 hour ban was put on you. Then you did not make a
changeset comment again, so a 24 hour ban was placed, and when you did
not make comments again, so the 48 hour ban was placed. Since all this
has been explained to you, I personally cannot see this as other than
competent and reasonable.

The Data Working Group are all volunteers who work diligently and hard
on data issues and often get trapped between warring parties. They try
to protect OpenStreetMap's data and to prevent edit wars. It is not
their duty to side completely with one party or the other.

My advice to you therefore, and I understand that it has been said
before, is as follows:

OpenStreetMap is a co-operative project that relies on contributors
communicating with each other what they do and why and agreeing
collectively how to do things, even if it not exactly how they want
themselves.

Contributors need to discuss and agree with each other in a calm
manner, avoiding personal insults and discourtesy.

Changeset comments were therefore developed, and are widely accepted
by the global OSM community, as a very important method of letting
other mappers in your area know what you have done and why. Simple
statements like, "Added xxx from personal survey" or "Refined yyy from
Bing imagery", "Changed zzz to what it says on the hotel sign" are
very important and useful. They are also useful if commercial
companies try to claim that data is copied.

Temporary blocks and warnings are often issued to prevent possible
damage to the map and to calm down edit wars. Sometimes the reason
turns out to be perfectly reasonable and acceptable. Sometimes it
prevents further and large-scale damage to the map ... this is why it

is done.

Permanent blocks are, amongst other things, issued to mappers who
consistently do not want to co-operate. No matter how good a mapper we
think we are, our map is made by many not one person.

In summary, your complaints can be resolved, but simply insulting
people will not achieve that.

Regards,
Michael Collinson

F.3   Sorin Replies to Michael Collinson

So ... 8 days and no answer from you!
How shall I proceed? Shall I re-correct that and the maniac starts a
 war?

Why are you so quickly in whacking an old important member, just based
on cheap gossip, and you are just dormant when a maniac thinks that is
his personal map and hunts me constantly on the map?

Please be decent people at last.

F.4   Sorin Replies to Mike 2

Mike,

I postponed my reply, because further abuse from razor74 has
developed. Guess what? On my appeal, your dormant colleagues just
didnt care to reply. They were very quick in blocking me when a gypsy
gang snitched on me, but they sleep soundly when a person with a
university degree and years of teaching and writing scientific work
signals abuse. Maybe they feel they belong to the same feather.

Back to you... what sort of a person are you?

I ask specific questions about applying the rules and how those I,

supported by Ramm, broke the OSM rules, and you reply to me that some morons made complaints about me. Any person with a sound mind, would have replied to the specific questions, like this:

- Rules are important for this project, especially where there might be 10000 members with different opinions, therefore you sorein were RIGHT when you eliminated STRADA from the name of the object, according to the mentioned OSM rule. Therefore, the gang was wrong to hunt you and mess with the map and revert your edits and put STRADA even on mountain trails because they used bots.

or

- Rules were made formally just to show there is some fake coordination, but in reality its the rule of whoever is more powerful. Thats why we encourage gangs work in order to reflect the ways of the world. OSM doesnt give a damn about the rule of not including the type of the object in the object name. We put it there just because the wiki had to have many letters in it.

As a long-time analyst, I also explained so clearly why and when comments may become stupidly useless. For example, I recently corrected a roundabout (no junction label), so I should have added a comment like this:

I corrected this roundabout because some other member drew it wrongly and the tag was missing and the routing was bad.

If I spend 2 hours and correct and add various things, according to you, I should stupidly inflate the OSM data base , like this:

I changed the name of the hotel Astoria, I corrected the building of the hotel Union, I drew street Jefferson, I added a stop sign, I corrected diacritics in the name of Caa, ... and so on and on and on... for long stupid lines.

You have to understand where necessity ends and stupidity begins.

There days abuser Wroclawski (from DWG) did it again. Now the blockhead too is hunting me. I seem to be the only OSM member in the world who doesn't submit to his pervert needs to have stupid long comments for those illiterate gypsies to approve of my work. Stop the abuse, Wroclawski!

I have noticed that you people who try to coordinate OSM, have a hard time reading and understanding long messages. You quickly lose focus and go back to your obsession: some people complained about me. Therefore, Ill try to break it all down into individual items.

Please focus on the first item reloaded:

MATTER 1.

I was trying hard to correct the bad mapping performed by some Romanian abusive ignorant members. Namely, I was applying the OSM fundamental of not using the description of the item in the items name (see again http://wiki.openstreetmap.org/wiki/Names#Notes), and then abusive ignorant user razor74 began to perform massive reverts on my edits.
What did your incompetent Ramm (woodpeck) do (Sep 2013)?
He blocked me! He blocked the very member who was trying to reinforce the OSM rule!

Please state if you agree with Ramms abuse (namely, by blocking a member who tried to make corrections and by encouraging an abusive ignorant member to keep messing with the map) and what measures are you taking against abusive Ramm. Please state if you understand the rule mentioned above and if you are willing to apply your own rules.

Please reply specifically, and dont mention the complaints about me

again. As I explained a number of times, it was about wrongly using the word STRADA (street) in the street name tag by those ganged-up Romanian users.

Finally, about complaints. Try to be mature and fair whenever you receive a complaint, listen to EVERY PARTY involved. Dont assume that someone is the offender by default. Nobody asked me about my point of views, these abusers Ramm and Wroclawski just blocked me with no inquiry. You cannot allow people like that to mess with the OSM reputation.

If you Mike cannot give a decent reply, then let somebody else more competent and more able to focus do it.

Sorin

F.5 Michael Replies Again to Sorin

Hi Sorin,

Thanks for your email. I don't think there is anything I/we can do for you now. The Data Working Group will take action on razor74 if necessary. But, in any dispute like this it takes an amount of calm dialogue, adjustment and cooperation by both parties. As I understand it, you do not wish to cooperate and discuss (rather than state a very fixed position) with anyone at all. I've also spoken to Data Working Group volunteers who feel that you are insulting them as individuals and have no wish to correspond with you further.

Regards,
Mike

F.6 Sorin Responds to Mike a Second Time

(quoted message removed)

Could you try HARD to focus on the technical matter?
That rule....

If I ask you about the technicality of a rule, please DO NOT ramble!

My latest messages themselves show to anyone not blind a desire to
 cooperate. You reply itself shows the desire to deviate from the
 technical discussion. So, is that a rule to apply or just a waste of
 time?

Appendix G   Razor74 Complains to the DWG

Hello In this changeset for example:
https://www.openstreetmap.org/changeset/23405416#map=13/47.1544/27.5910
user sorein again made a dozen of modiffications to the map without
put a comment about what he do there. From what i know and i see in
Iasi city, there are some "partial"construction sites on some primary
roads where is improved the surface and redesigned some crossroads and
probably the traffic was restrictyed trough there. But because of that
he again change those streets from primary in residential, deletes all
tags and put the name temp... All the ppl that transit trough Iasi
cicty found a big mess on the map because of sorein. At least, or put
construction on that street where acces is completely interdicted or
leave as it is. Anywhay he/ we didn't have the full info about trough
what streets the traffic was deviated there, because it is changed
from month to month. We dont'h hire people to profesionally survey the
city. This kind of job is for here maps or tomtom...

PS: We improved the map alot in all other cityes from Romania. But
with Iasi was a big problem from about 2-3 years ago because of this
user- sorein . He constantly cause alot of problems there and we could
even put or correct adress numbers because in the past he didnt folow
the comunity and even romanian language official regulations and made
abreviation to the name of the streets. I didnt want to be unpolite,
but this user is a "pain in the..." for our country map. He evem
didn't agree with our romanian academicians that add regulations to
romanian languages.
We even create a openstreetmap romanian comunity facebook group -

https://www.facebook.com/groups/1487443198159793/ and a facebook page
https://www.facebook.com/OsmRomania?ref_type=bookmark
But he could not participate because at the first he begins to discuss
with all in contradiction and add alot of injuries to some ppl.

Best regards,
Razvan

Appendix H   Sorin's Message to Serge

DEAR MORON
You are out of line again and again!

What comment should I make, you stupid moron?? Like this?

"repaired mischarted roundabout, added service access from gasoline
station to neighbour road, correct street name, corrected wrong
one-way because i went there and saw that was wrongly charted"

Something like this, moron? Say yes and I'll write all the novels you
want on the map! I sense this time, since you crossed the line rudely
and stupidly and continuously, we are going to have a personal
show. If you don't repair your moronity quickly, I might make you
famous.

YOU MORON WHO PROMISED T INTERMEDIATE BETWEEN ME AND THE GYPSIES
TAKING OVER IN THE ROMANIAN NEWSLETTER, AND THEN YOU JUST RUDELY
FORGOT NEED TO STOP!!! GO DO A JOB FOR WHICH YOU ARTE QUALIFIED