

# Trolls, Drama and Gossip

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The art of deliberately,  
cleverly, and secretly pissing  
people off, usually via the  
internet, using dialogue.

Trying to get a rise out of someone.  
Forcing them to respond to you,  
either through wise-crackery, posting  
incorrect information, asking blatantly  
stupid questions, or other  
foolishness.

(urbandictionary.com)

**What is trolling?**

A way of relating to the world in which a person consistently overreacts to or greatly exaggerates the importance of benign events.

Typically drama is used by people who are chronically bored or those who seek attention.

People who engage in "drama" will usually attempt to drag other people into their dramatic state, as a way of gaining attention or making their own lives more exciting.

(urbandictionary.com)

**What is drama?**

Exaggeration or fabrication of a story, regarding somebody other than the tale bearer, in the absence of this person who is being discussed - for the malicious purpose of demeaning, slandering or tarnishing this person's reputation.

(urbandictionary.com)

**What is gossip?**

# Disclaimer

Sometimes there's a fine line between  
difference of opinion and trolling/drama/gossip!

- attention
- entertainment
- making a statement
- disruption
- bonding and exclusion
- personal gain

**Goals of trolling, drama and gossip**

- boredom
- inability to communicate a problem
- hurt feelings
- misunderstandings

**Reasons for trolling, drama and gossip**

Have you heard of  
emacs?

Yo, ur program really  
sucks, man!

I think you should  
change a few defaults.

**Different forms of trolling**



- topics coming up again and again
- urge to reply "YOU ARE WRONG!"
- targetting your sore spots
- often vague or overly broad
- history

**Signs of a troll, drama and gossip**

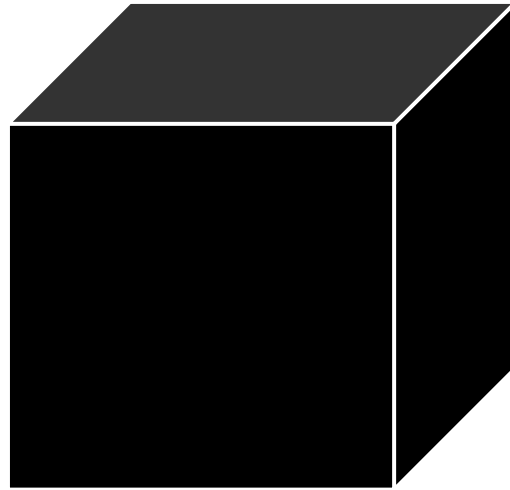
- a target (often a vulnerable community)
- a venue
- empathy
- something to troll about
- (a person to proxy-troll for them)

**What they need**

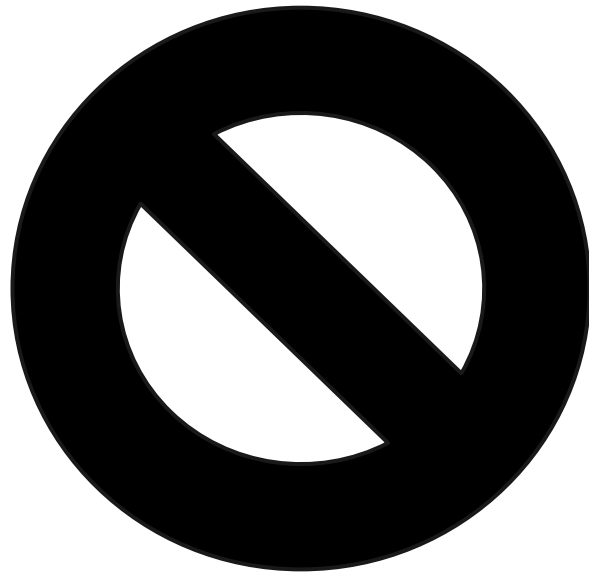
**Weapons against trolls, drama and gossip**

"You need exactly one jerk in your community so everyone else knows how not to behave."

**Hmmmmmmmm... maybe!**

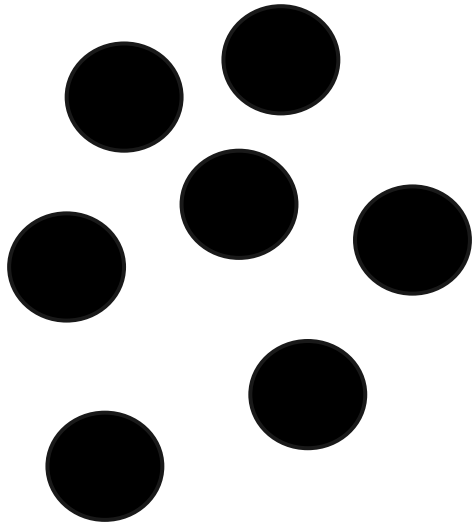


**Beware of the echo chamber**

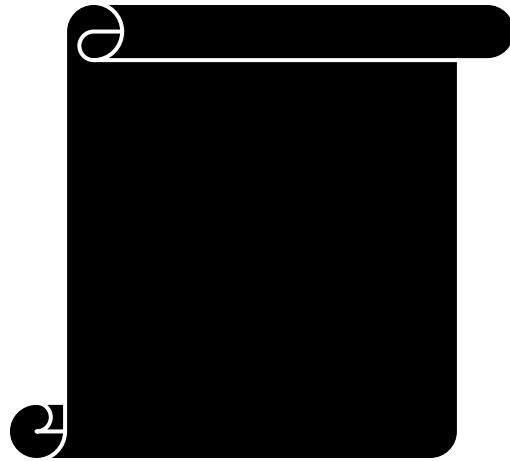


**Trolling, drama and gossip?**

**Only if someone takes part!**

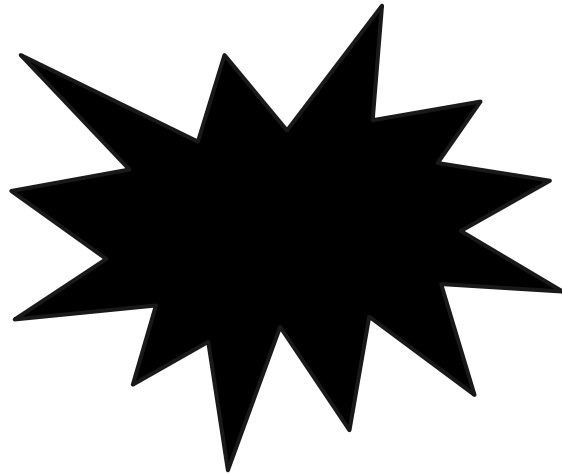


**Your best weapons: unity and ignoring**

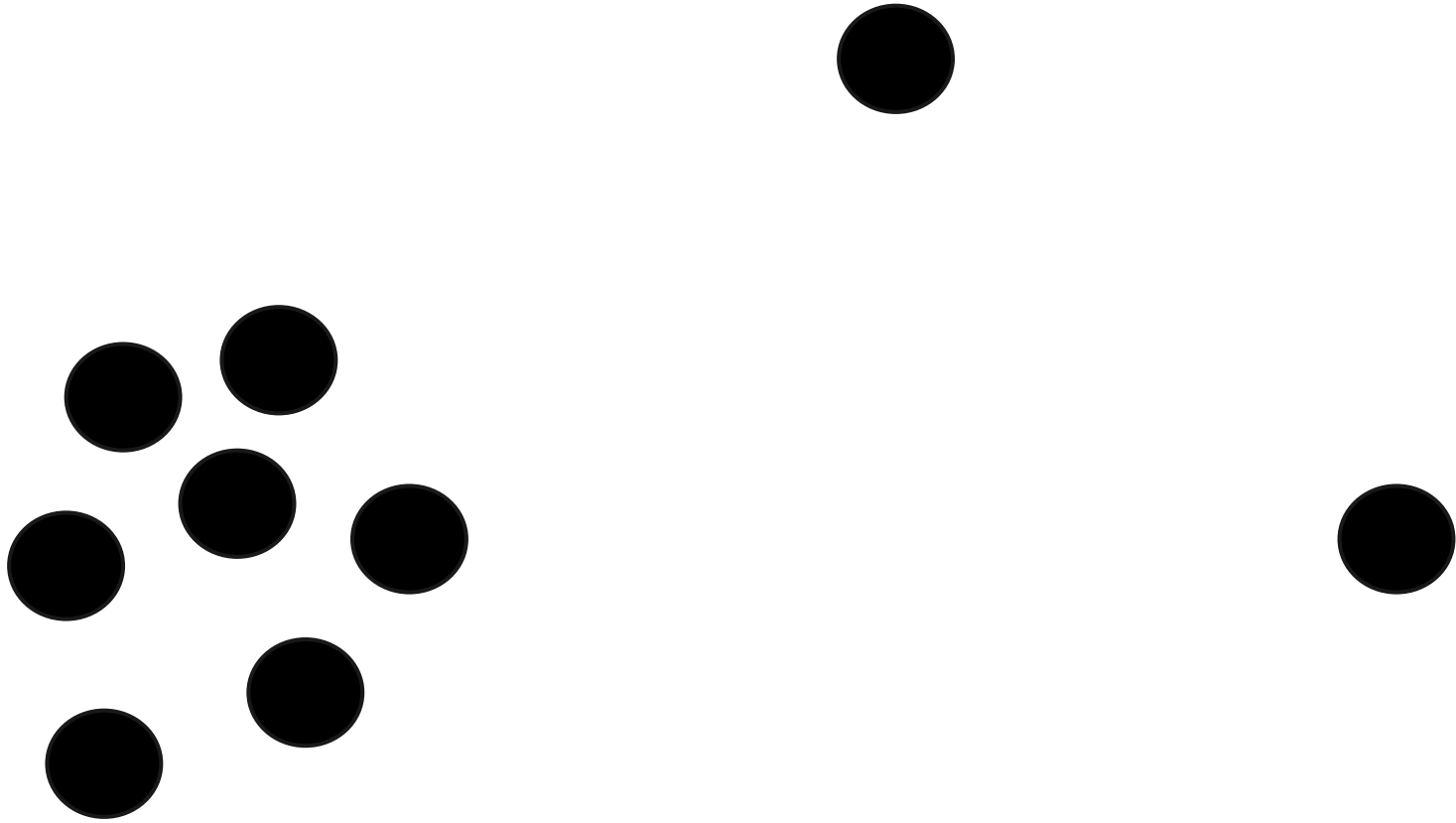


**Your second-best weapon: knowledge**

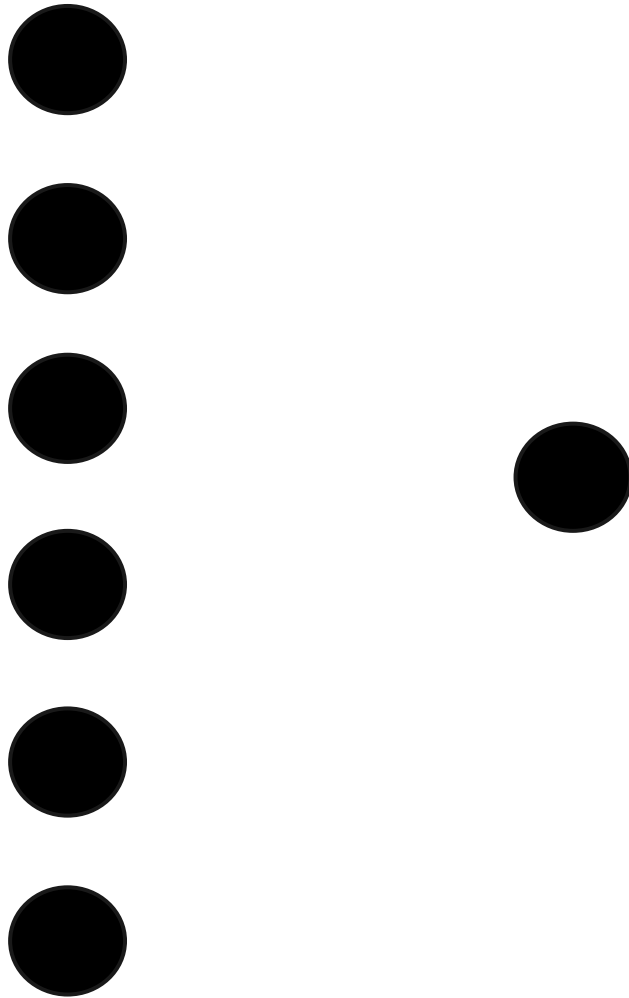




**What are they on about?**



**Why is it actually important how we deal with this?**



**Make an action plan / have a shared understanding in your community!**

[jointhegame.kde.org](http://jointhegame.kde.org)

Invest in

**FREEDOM**

join  as a supporting member



**Open  
Advice**

[open-advice.org](http://open-advice.org)