How the Wyrm Worked: 2023 Retrospective

January 2, 2024

In 2023, we made strides in inclusive gaming with disability representation, crowdfunded diverse artwork and minis, and advocated for accessibility in the #TTRPG industry.

DriveThruRPG CCP Partners Prohibit TTRPG Ableism

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In May 2023, I asked @drivethrurpg to add "ableism" to the nondiscrimination template for their CCP content agreements. What happened?

Reddit IPO: Reddit banishes the disabled community

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reddit is killing 3rd-party Apps and API Access infographic (Click the image for full-size)

Reddit is preparing to go public, which mean an

s they need to demonstrate profit to potential stockholders. But profit an

d control comes at a cost, as [we in the TTRPG community know all too well](

. Their [recent API pricing changes](#) have ignited a battle for equal acce

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Impact on the TTRPG Community

The TTRPG community thrives on collaboration, creativity, and diverse perspectives. Reddit has been a vital platform for building real-world adventuring parties of every kind. With the API pricing changes, the TTRPG community faces significant challenges:

- **Limited Customization:** Third-party apps, like Apollo and Dystopia, have allowed TTRPG fans to personalize their Reddit experience like a homebrew fantasy world. These tools have facilitated streamlined access to TTRPG-specific subreddits, making it easier to find relevant discussions, game advice, and homebrew content.

- **Community Engagement:** Third-party apps offer advanced features for interacting with Reddit, including real-time notifications, improved search functions, and intuitive interfaces. This gives TTRPG fans [Advantage](#) to engage in discussions, seek advice, and collaborate on projects.
- **Accessibility Barriers:** Many TTRPG players with disabilities rely on third-party apps to overcome the accessibility [Wall of Force](#) in the official Reddit apps and interfaces. The loss of these apps will limit their ability to participate fully in TTRPG communities and access valuable resources.

Broader Impact on Disabled Individuals

While the TTRPG community is directly affected, it is essential to recognize that the API changes have an even greater impact on various disabled individuals:

- **Visually Impaired Community:** [Blind and visually impaired individuals](#) heavily rely on third-party apps to access Reddit content through assistive technologies. These apps provide the necessary features for screen readers, alternative text, and other accessibility enhancements that enable equal participation.
- **Transcribers and Describers:** Reddit is home to numerous volunteer groups dedicated to transcribing and describing images for alt text, making visual content accessible to individuals with visual impairments. The loss of third-party apps may hinder the crucial work of these groups, resulting in a significant loss of accessibility for the broader Reddit community.
- **Other Disability Communities:** The API changes resonate

beyond the visually impaired community. Individuals with motor disabilities, cognitive impairments, or other disabilities may also rely on third-party apps (or hope for new ones that give them better access) to navigate Reddit more efficiently and effectively. The loss of these apps would create additional barriers to access and participation for these individuals.

Unifying for Accessibility and Inclusion

To ensure that the TTRPG community and disabled individuals continue to thrive on Reddit, collective action is vital. By joining forces and advocating for accessibility, we can make a difference:

- **Amplify Voices:** Share the stories and experiences of TTRPG players and disabled individuals affected by these API changes. Spread the word through your social circles like [chain lightning](#).
- **Join the Blackout:** Join and follow [r/Save3rdPartyApps](#) to learn more, or, if you moderate a subreddit, its sister sub [r/ModCoord](#). [Read about the upcoming Blackout](#) on June 12–14, and plan to participate. (And [find more suggestions](#))
- **Message Your Mods:** Encourage the mods of your favorite subreddits to join the Blackout.
- **Seek Media Attention:** This change comes on the heels of Reddit's IPO announcement like a sycophantic imp chasing an arch-devil. Will potential stockholders want to support a company that has received media attention for knowingly making recent discriminatory choices?

It's time to stand together to ensure that Reddit remains an inclusive platform for all, fostering creativity, collaboration, and accessibility within the TTRPG community and beyond.