

IP users in Wikipedia - opportunities or threats?





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IP users (unregistered editors) contribute without an account. Their IP address is known to the public and can be used to trace their physical location.

Some of them have a static IP, but most of them have a dynamic IP.

IP users can start new pages, edit articles* and participate on talk pages.

* The approved versions by trusted editors (**reviewers**) are known as **sighted versions**. It means that the articles are free from obvious vandalisms. Sighted versions are visible to everybody but readers may also view the current draft version at any time by clicking on the draft link.

We are going to present two different attitudes towards unregistered users, which are common on Polish Wikipedia society:

1) **Most of them are troublemakers**, so unregistered users should not be allowed to edit articles.

2) **Most of them edit in good faith**, so experienced users should not discourage them.

Statement 1:

Most IP users are vandals or people without any knowledge about Wikipedia rules and aims.

Statement 1: Our opinion

We do not agree. We should assume good faith and do not bite newcomers even if some of them do not know everything about Wikipedia policies and guidelines.

Most editions from IP users **are valuable!**
We should help them to be a part of our society.

Statement 2:

Registered users (with an unique account) can build trust and respect through a history of good edits, and it is easier for everybody to assume good faith, communicate and collaborate. Having an account promotes more responsible editing and more civil discourse.

Statement 2: Our opinion

Yes, but we cannot force anybody to have an account. We should encourage IP users to do it showing them benefits.

Everyone should be able to contribute (*„Wikipedia is a free online encyclopedia with the aim to allow anyone to edit articles“*).

Statement 3:

If everyone is registered, vandals and trolls would be easy to eliminate.

Statement 3: Our opinion

No, they can easy create an another account.

Conclusion:

Most of IP users are beginners in Wikipedia world. We cannot treat them as our enemies (threats!), but our **friends (opportunities!)**.

We should have more patience and understanding. 😊

Thank you for your attention!



We hope to start discussion about the IP users and their place in the Wikipedia society.

What is **your opinion**?

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