

The Complete Circle Saga

2018 Reddit April Fools

Event Log of /r/CircleOfTrust

1st April 2018

The tooltip “🐍 **sssoon** 🐍” appeared when hovering over the Reddit Snoo mascot, as the April Fools gag is postponed to 2nd April 2018.

At this point many prank subs were formed, the foremost of which was /r/sneksnek. These subreddits repeatedly updated their descriptions throughout the day with new cryptic clues, leading visitors down a rabbit hole. Many standard [ARG](#) techniques were used: base64-encoded strings, Morse code, ASCII strings in binary representation, and so on. At least three Discord servers were formed to try to solve the puzzles, under the impression that these puzzles were organized by the Reddit admins.. The time of 1:11 PDT started appearing across several different subreddits, leading many to believe the “official” April Fool’s experiment would be released then. When the time approached, after speculation of pictures of pixelated snakes and private subreddit messages with snakes moving through imgur links, it was revealed that none of the subreddits, [in particular r/sneksnek](#), were in fact real. The Discord servers merged to form the Snake Alliance Discord server and this was the beginning of the Snekroom Alliance.

When a screenshot of /u/spez was leaked denying that there was going to be an April Fools experiment several of the subreddits started going dark in the /r/snekblackout protest, forcing the admins to leave some pretty obvious hints that Monday was the day, including [replies](#) to users’ inquiries with YouTube music videos referencing Mondays in the lyrics or the titles.

At some point in the night, The Snekroom Alliance decided to have people search through the source code of the Reddit’s Android APK. They found nothing, at first, until they searched for April Fool’s, and found references to /r/CircleOfTrust, joining, and betrayal. With this information, /r/CircleOfTrustMeta was created, and discussion threads began in /r/aprilfools. Users likened the game to a cross between Robin and Prisoner’s Dilemma. People started messaging /u/MiamiZ and asking her about when the April Fools event would be released. Although she never gave a straight answer, her various interactions with the community at such a tense time lead to an increase in her notoriety. In fact, some users went as far as to dedicate a subreddit shrine to the admin. After a while, u/Creatable_ from the Snakeroom Alliance discovered a way to make the popup for Circle of Trust visible client-side, and shortly after successfully enabled the Circle of Trust interface elements early. Of course, the servers

weren't active yet, so they weren't able to see what a circle looks like, [but the entire Circle creation menu was leaked](#).

2nd April 2018

Many users in the Sneakroom Alliance were waiting for the Reddit admins to launch the experiment. MiamiZ, in Reddit Chat, told the users that they were eating donuts before releasing the experiment. They got KeyserSosa to post [an image of the donuts next to a laptop in the Reddit office](#). After more hours of waiting, the subreddit went public and everyone rejoiced.

Later that day, Circle of Trust was launched. A circle appears as a top-level Reddit post with extra functionality. It is created once per account and is protected by a key. Upon entering someone else's circle link and key, you are prompted to "join" or "betray". Joining increases the circle's size by one, while betraying will *permanently destroy the circle*, freezing the member count. Each user who participates receives a subreddit flair consisting of two-comma separated numbers. The first number is the count number of the members in the user's circle, the second number is the count of the circles the user has joined. Before the user participates, the flair is "0, 0" with a grey background. When the user joins a circle, the flair's background changes to blue. When the user betrays, the flair's background permanently changes to red and the empty-set character "∅" is appended to the flair.

At this point, most people were randomly betraying and creating circles with simple or default keys. The default keys being sequences of a few English words, each capitalized and without spaces. As things further developed, the actions became more organized.

3rd April 2018

The first of likely many factions took hold this day. The **April Knights** were once again resurrected from their yearlong slumber to make their mark on the world of the Circle. However, opposition was equally quick to arise.

A massive, military-like force going by the name **Circular Swarm** appeared seemingly overnight! The Swarm claims their objective is the destruction of every circle, and they do hold true to their claims. The Swarm have three main objectives: to advertise their existence, to destroy circles en masse, and to infiltrate high-ranking circles. The Swarm uncovered and reported an exploit that allowed them to betray any circle they wished (for a brief period of time). A Swarm Discord user posted a description of how to use the exploit. The admins, however, deleted the description and asked the members to not utilize this exploit. However, many members of the Swarm ignored the wishes of their commanders and independently utilized the aforementioned exploit.

The Violet Hand of old also woke after a three year slumber.

At the moment, the highest circles reached the mid-100s, and the main Knight factions were in the 40-50s.

4th April 2018

As expected, many new factions have formed. Although most are still in their infancy, it is expected that many will grow into powerful forces as more organization develops. Unsurprisingly, the Swarm has continued their advance, efficiently taking thousands of circles with their sleeper agents; users with near 1000 joined circles, preparing to betray them all. This event has been dubbed “The First Purge”, and consists of the destruction of nearly 1400 circles (<https://goo.gl/mM8ZR5>).

5th April 2018

On this day, this document went public. Initially, it was spread to 4 of the largest circle-related servers.

Factions continued to appear left and right. Many circles now advertised respective groups, the Knights and Swarm being the most prevalent examples.

Additionally, many players are now exchanging keys for objects of value! In the beginning, keys were released for favors or unimportant information; you could earn a key by answering a question, or sharing your favorite color. This method of sharing became the most prevalent, and the subjective “price” of keys began to increase. A key is denoted as a unit with value. You can trade keys for services -- ranging from betrayal assassins to handcrafted commissions. One can only assume this trend will continue into the coming days. An economy based on key barter seems like the next logical step. The Swarm was occupied with the #StompTheSwarm ARG developed in the ccKufi War Room Discord server, or TCWR.

6th April 2018

After the Epilepsy episode, the Swarm leaders made truce with April knights and approached ccKu for a compromise. It was suggested that major factions, including the Swarm, should join hands to create a charity circle and defeat the top circle (believed to be made of mostly alts). This would bring the community together and send a positive message. A circle called rise against the machine was created in this regard. However, the Swarm had broken too many hearts by then, and the idea couldn't come to fruition.

The CoT moderators announced a message at [insert time], saying that CoT would end in an hour.

Edited by the Circle of Trust community

Just before the end of the circle, a user named ArGJolan promised a leak of 2400 keys to the Swarm, which would make it the biggest one they'd ever had. 33 minutes before the subreddit shut down, a .zip file was uploaded to the Swarm, but it contained nothing but a copy of Rick Astley's "Never Gonna Give You Up". (this might be better in the Swarm section)

List of known events by day:

31st March 2018

- Reddit site admins MiamiZ and andytuba post ascii art of a snake and a mushroom, respectively. dmoneyyyyy posts a comment reading “Watch out for the ssssnaks...”.
- The Snekroom Alliance is founded
 - Main goal: discover the reddit 2018 april fools event.
- Circle is founded.

1st April 2018

- The Reddit Logo hover text changes to 🦩 **sssssoon** 🦩, as the April Fools gag is postponed to the 2nd April 2018

2nd April 2018

- Century Club is the first circle to reach 100+
 - 1st green circle
- Initial awakening of old factions
 - April Knights
 - The Church
 - Swarm
 - a void-like faction, like the shade and disbanders written of in ancient April texts - continuation of The Void from /r/Place
 - The Violet Hand
 - ccKufiPrFaShleWoli0 (T17 Robin chatroom)

3rd April 2018

- Swarm creates their 2-part plan
- Knights mobilize in small circles
- Subreddits attempt to coordinate for large circles
 - DDLCARG begins work on their circle
- A flaw in the iOS app and the Reddit API caused Circle to shut down temporarily
 - In the iOS app, a user can share the key of a circle without being joined
 - The flaw was discovered by /r/CircularSwarm who alerted the admins and shut down their operation
 - In the Reddit API, a user can append **.api** to the URL and grab the JSON data stored in the key **vote_key**
 - This flaw was found simultaneously by The Snekroom Alliance
- A fake extension claiming to intercept “Sneket” keys is “screenshoted” by /r/CircularSwarm

- This was a scare tactic to scare The Snekroom Alliance
- This caused The Snekroom Alliance to stop use of the extension, and develop a server-side based script
- A fake /r/CircularSwarm extension is deployed by The Snekroom Alliance.
 - Advertised as an “auto-betray” script, the script enlists people to join circles automatically. The extension was originally functional, but discontinued use due to the Swarm being able to intercept circle keys (see above).

4th April 2018

- /u/ArGJolan (user with 700 circles joined) is outed as being a member of the Swarm
 - Although unconfirmed, it is likely that all 700 (and climbing) of those circles will be destroyed in the coming days
- Circle of Purity is formed
 - Promises 100% join guarantee
 - Worries of Swarm infiltrators
- Century Club is the first to reach 200
- The /r/VioletHand betray the /r/NoColoreds circle as revenge for their actions during the Button
- Snekroom and CircularSwarm begin a competition to see who can fundraise the highest amount for charity
 - [Circular Swarm Link](#) \$12.42 (23:24 Thursday, 5 April 2018 UTC)
 - [Snakeroom Link](#) \$63.00 (23:24 Thursday, 5 April 2018 UTC)
- “Vote Manipulation” measures by Reddit delay the release of The Snakeroom Alliance “Sneknet” Botnet

5th April 2018

- 1st Swarm purge, ~1400 keys leaked by u/lorenzvc and u/kai_okami
 - Very few 100+ circles remain
- New circle creation has begun to noticeably slow down due to lack of users with available circles.
 - Leaked keys becoming more and more common, people are beginning to develop a much more fearful approach to giving out keys
- Top circles becoming “invincible”
 - Internal organization, no leaks

6th April 2018

- [new events here when tomorrow arrives]

Made by /u/awesomespace2000 (Gabriel Hernandez/Awesomespace/GroundedAndWriting), Loremaster of the Church, shitposter extraordinaire

Edited by the Circle of Trust community

List of notable factions' known alliances- Faction(sub):

Notable factions with their own sections in this list are in* **bold*.*

- **April Knights** (r/AprilKnights)

The Red Guard (r/TheRedGuard)

The Circular Swarm (r/CircularSwarm)

- **The Snakeroom Alliance** (r/TheSnakeroomAlliance)
 - April Fools Devs (r/AprilFoolsDevs) (*r/PlaceDevs*)
 - Was to create the extension for auto-joining, and the Sneknet auto-join botnet
 - Alliance was made due to the involvement in development of the 2017 Reddit r/Place development scene
 - r/sneksnektalk
 - Was created for speculation and completion of the fake r/sneksnek ARG.
 - r/dbrand
 - /u/Cubity First's "affiliation" with LinusTechTips and the server's obsession with dbrand caused an unofficial one way alliance with dbrand
- The Glorious Red Empire
- NeverBetray (r/NeverBetray)
 - Noble Joiners (r/NobleJoiners)
- Cirkle (r/Cirkle)
- ccKufi (/r/ccKufiPrFaShleWoli0)
- The Purple Consortium (May have been deleted, unable to locate their discord server anymore, their main circle is under u/kids_incorporated)
- Example Faction (r/examplesub)
 - Example alliance
 - Example reason for alliance

List of significant factions:

The April Knights-

First born during the Button, the Knights are an ancient organization focused on protect every annual event. In the case of the button, it was prolonging it's lifespan. Now- in the case of the Circle- it is avoiding betrayals and growing a faction circle to rival their opposition.

The Circular Swarm-

Created by /u/theon502 (Coda) and /u/244958 (Hater115) a day prior to the official release of Circle of Trust, this group has become the most influential betrayal faction with over 1000 Discord members and 200 reddit subscribers. The organization had began in response to the Snekroom investigation into the CircleOfTrust source code tidbits hidden within reddit, allowing the Swarm to figure out how things would work early, ensuring their place today.

Their first plan was to invite an old Void alumni onto the server in order to help with the server and also invite members of the old Void onto the new server. After the initial steps were complete, they waited for the event to start and started figuring out how the game works by observing the public, and when they saw what was fit for them to do, they started massively infiltrating circles, and when betraying them leaving a copy pasted message "Betrayed by /r/CircularSwarm" along with their subreddit and Discord link. That allowed them to gain massive notoriety within the COT community and allowed for a massive influx of like-minded individuals.

It was during the second day where it was brought up to the admins of /r/CircularSwarm that there had been an exploit which enabled the ability to steal keys. In response, the Swarm leveraged their massive following to warn every single COT group which had enabled the Reddit Admins to very quickly be alerted, resulting in the second COT shutdown.

During the third day, members from the swarm started planning a huge leak that later would be known as the First Swarm Purge. They contacted /u/kai_okami (a long time secret informer for the swarm that was in 400 different circles) who agreed to give us his keys if he got the "daddy" role on the swarm discord, this request was granted and Kai started working on compiling 400 circles and the respective keys into a text file. After finishing Kai decided to get some more keys and contacted u/lorenzvc (a member who had joined 1000 different circles and was interested in helping). They joined the lists and on the beginning of the 4th day [the list was ready](#).

On the more general side of thing, the Swarm had decided to donate to charity. Their first fundraiser was created on GoFundMe (for the Tor Project) very hastily, having a bunch of errors and trust issues. In response, Snekroom had decided to create their own fundraiser, inspiring the Swarm to migrate onto the same website that the Snekroom was using. This fundraiser was directed instead to the

National Autism Society, and continues to be the current charity they are supporting. Hater115, co-founder had announced he'd eat an entire sock at 100\$. A link to the fundraiser is right [here](#).

On the fourth day of COT, Swarm had released 1300 circles and keys to the public, leading to a mass betrayal.

The Snakeroom Alliance-

The Circle's true first faction, founded on March 31st. The Snakeroom Alliance was born from early speculation regarding the nature of the 2018 April Fools event. The initial teaser was laced with snake references, and this faction was quick to embrace their (apparent) snake overlords. It became the largest CoT-related Discord server, gaining over 2500 members in 24 hours. Although no longer as active as other factions, the Snakeroom Alliance is responsible for the first tool utilized by the people of the circle: an auto-join botnet (thought up by a user named laundmo) in the form of a Chrome Extension. However, after just a few successful uses, this novel tool was corrupted by the Swarm, allowing for many circles to be auto-betrayed. Before they could use it, however, the extension switched to a server-side join system, curbing possible abuse. Since this event, the Sneks have taken a leave from the main faction issues, likely toiling away at their next great innovation.

While the compromised extension was never put into practice, devs at Snakeroom Alliance made an extension that claimed to autobetray instead of autojoin, but in reality was just reskinned to say it did so. The extension garnered somewhere around 9 installs, before being caught, and eventually removed from the Chrome Store for "breaking the Terms of Service".

The Snakeroom Alliance went on to develop a server-side based backend for auto-joins. However, they were thwarted by Reddit's "Vote Manipulation" measures, which delayed the release of the extension. [At this time, 00:29 UTC+01:00, this is not complete]

Meanwhile, the server's obsession with LinusTechTips and the advertising within the videos caused the server to unofficially be a partner with dbrand. This led to a push to attempt to get dbrand to sponsor The Snakeroom.

Originally, the Snek subreddit was a complex puzzle with no real ending. Many believed this to be a puzzle made by the Reddit admins, however the subreddit moderators eventually denied that the subreddit was owned by the admins.

The Circle of Purity-

A fresh faction. Purity's mission is to provide an environment where every member is guaranteed a join. Initially formed after inspiration from a 4k circles joined user, Purity's leader(s) have claimed that they are able to join on dozens of accounts per circle using technology adapted from the Sneks.

Circle Betrayers-

The circle betrayers were created shortly before r/CircularSwarm. They quickly merged with r/CircularSwarm, but their remains can be found on /r/Circlebetrayers.

The Violet Hand-

The Violet Hand is a faction of old from the days of the button. They believe in the preservation of the colour purple.

NeverBetray-

Group established by GanzTheGreat for the purpose of uniting those who vowed to never betray any circle, no matter the reason. The group's main objective later became to oppose The Circular Swarm. The groups is allied with Noble Joiners and loosely allied with Snakeroom.

Cirkle

Cirkle (/r/Cirkle) is a peaceful faction founded specifically for the Circle of Trust event. It was founded as a place for friendly, open discussion relating mainly to the Circle of Trust. The subreddit was founded the night before the event by /u/PatThePounder, /u/_PM_ME_YOUR_GOALS_, /u/theone9032, and /u/cloudninerains based on the leaked information released 31 March.

They began by merging with smaller CoT Discord communities and exchanging keys via direct messages.

With over 100 subscribers and approximately 15 trusted members, they began creating tiers of circles, dubbed "inner Cirkles", for only their most trusted members.

The group is heavily Discord-focused, with hardly any content or discussion on their subreddit.

On the second day of the event, Cirkle faced internal conflict when members of the Swarm infiltrated the ranks of its trusted members. Within minutes, the majority of its members' circles were betrayed by undercover swarm members. Immediately, many users began pointing fingers, resulting in the removal of multiple users, innocent and guilty alike.

On the third day of the event, administrator /u/cloudninerains was removed from the server following an intervention between the other Cirkle admins. As a result, /u/cloudninerains, rebranded as /u/TheCloudThief, joined CircularSwarm, vowing revenge.

Edited by the Circle of Trust community

The Mischievous Otter

[someone add this shit]

https://www.reddit.com/r/CircleOfTrustMeta/comments/89w8ss/uquaff_bepis_is_the_mischievous_otter_extorting/

The Church

???

[add more factions!]

[text here]

How to edit:

This one's real easy. Just follow the structure of the existing text. Some example bullets exists to help you out. **Feel free to add whatever you'd like, but only remove if you find an error. And try to make everything in past-tense. Remember, this is meant as an archive to be read in the future!**

All your edits will show up as comments, but I'll just manually approve most of them. It's just to prevent grieving.

Note that this won't be the final version. I'll pull from this for my personal copy, which I will manually edit to fit my formatting. That final copy will be what ends up as my annual archive.

Who the hell are you anyways?

I'm *u/ImGroundedAndWriting* and *u/Awesomespace2000*. Since the Button, I've been documenting the factions and "lore" that these April events generate (hence the *Loremaster* title that's been given to me). Some examples of my work include heavy contribution in the [Button's Wiki](#) and a [full compendium type deal for r/place](#)

Needless to say, it's a bit of an intense task to document all of this alone, so the more help I get, the better!

Oh, and one more thing...

I really don't care what faction you're from. What you should know from the get-go is I'm *completely impartial*. It's true I'm registered as an old Knight, but I'm just a writer. In past years, I've been in contact with near every major faction in these events. I'm not trying to paint any group in a good or bad light; I try my best to be as objective as possible.

So please, don't vandalize this document. This isn't a warzone, it's an objective, unbiased archive.