Reddit bans r/watchpeopledie in the wake of the New Zealand mosque massacres

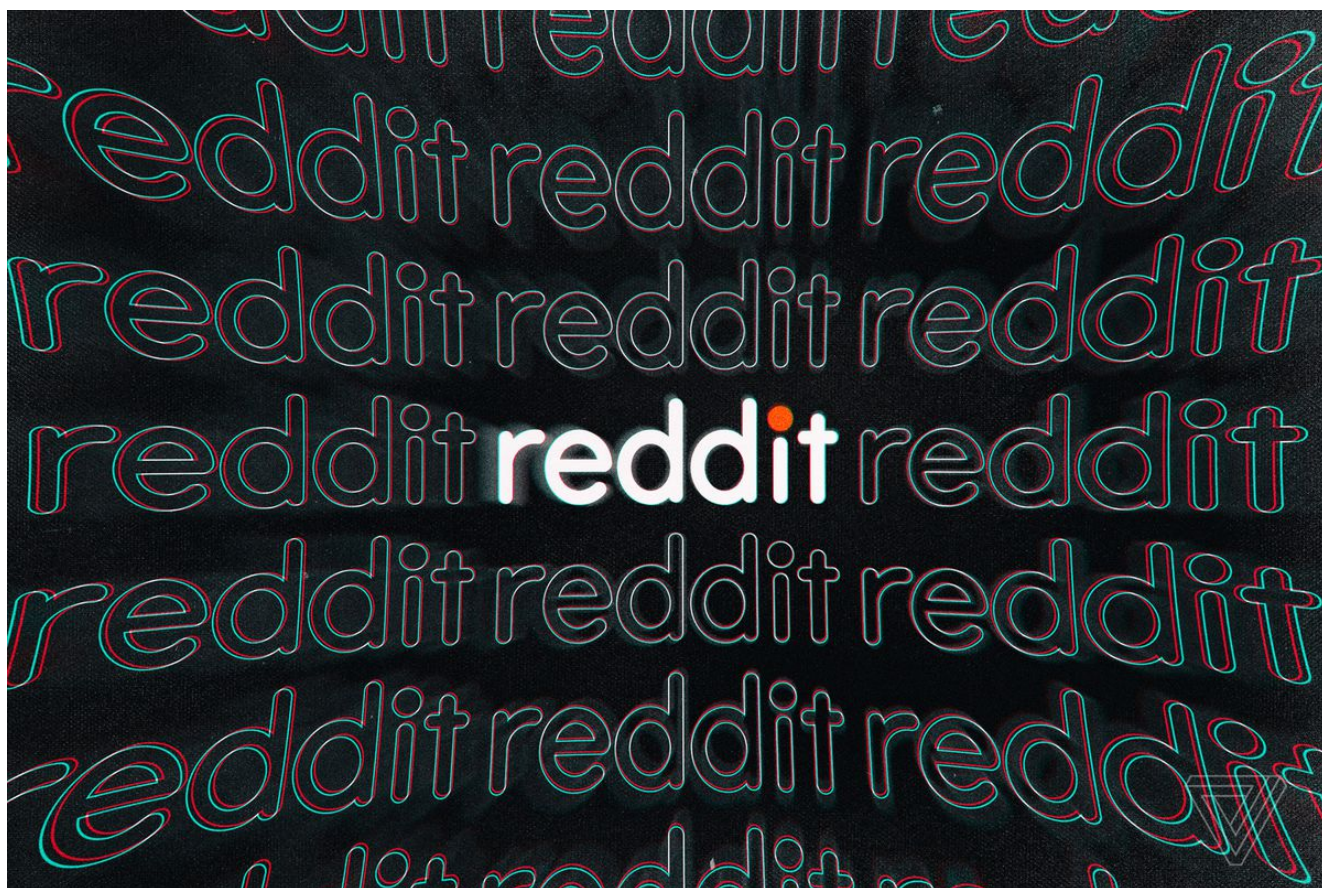The subreddit violated site policy on 'glorifying violence'

Illustration by Alex Castro / The Verge

Reddit has banned r/watchpeopledie, an infamous subreddit that hosted videos of people dying gruesomely. The ban comes after the subreddit re-hosted videos of the recent mosque massacres in New Zealand. According to the new landing page, the subreddit was banned for violating Reddit's content policy about glorifying or encouraging violence.

A Reddit spokesperson provided this statement: "We are very clear in our site terms of service that posting content that incites or glorifies violence will get users and communities banned from Reddit. Subreddits that fail to adhere to

those site-wide rules will be banned."

A source at the company agreed with that assessment, confirming that when communities encourage posting either the shooter's manifesto or the video, they will be banned. The site's approach is more contextual; it depends on the conversation around the offensive material. The manifesto and video of the shooting in particular have been banned from Reddit entirely, and are being removed across the site. However, r/watchpeopledie's ban had to do with their handling of both materials. "These communities are not abiding by those rules and are in fact tipping over to the glorification of violence or celebrating violence," the source said. "That is when the ban hammer comes down."

The new ban falls in line with Reddit's recent change to its content policy, which made the site's moderation guidelines much more explicit. It used to be that just about everything that wasn't illegal was allowed on the site, and now, that's not the case. Even so, the subreddit had been active since 2012, and it had been quarantined — Reddit's way of describing communities that are explicitly hidden from the public — before the site's content policy had changed.

- 17 March

Facebook says that it removed 1.5 million videos of the New Zealand mass shooting

By Andrew Liptak@AndrewLiptak
Another 1.2 million were 'blocked at upload'

- March 16

Valve takes down user tributes memorializing the New Zealand shooting suspect

By Andrew Liptak@AndrewLiptak
More than 100 profiles utilized the name or picture of the alleged shooter

- March 16

Sky New Zealand yanks Sky Australia after Christchurch footage sparks outrage

By Sean Hollister@StarFire2258

"We stand in support of our fellow New Zealanders"

- March 15

Questions about policing online hate are much bigger than Facebook and YouTube

By Adi Robertson@thedextriarchy

Small sites pose complicated questions about stopping hate

- March 15

How to turn off autoplay videos on Facebook, Twitter, Reddit, and more

By Cameron Faulkner@camfaulkner

Turn off this annoying and potentially harmful feature

- March 15

Reddit bans r/watchpeopledie in the wake of the New Zealand mosque massacres

By Bijan Stephen

The subreddit violated site policy on 'glorifying violence'

- March 15

Why can't YouTube automatically catch re-uploads of disturbing footage?

By Julia Alexander

It's not just a matter of flagging and deleting

- March 15

The mass shooting in New Zealand was designed to spread on social media

By Elizabeth Lopatto@mslopatto

Killing in the age of SEO

Source:

https://www.theverge.com/2019/3/15/18267645/reddit-watchpeopledie-ban-new-zealand-mosque-massacre-christchurch

[Disclaimer]