

Documentation on preventing the abusive use of the Filehorst internet service.

(filehorst.de, filehorst.at, filehorst.ch, filehorst.eu, filehorst.com, filehorst.net, filehorst.org)

As of January 10, 2024

Filehorst is an internet service that allows its users to upload files (hoster). It provides them with storage space and offers the generation of links to share the uploaded files over the internet. Filehorst itself does not upload files, does not categorize them, does not make them searchable, does not publish them and does not promote them. The links to the files and the file download pages on filehorst.de are known only to the user who uploaded them. Others can access them only through proactive sharing by this user. Sharing on or via filehorst.de itself is not possible. At the same time, Filehorst does not set or offer any incentives for uploading or sharing files but acts as a neutral intermediary of data without any active role.

Filehorst has a strict set of rules (<https://filehorst.de/agb.php?lang=en>) that its users must adhere to, and it strives to enforce compliance through a variety of measures. These measures are always oriented towards current German legal jurisdiction and the provisions of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA). These efforts are driven not only by legal and moral obligations but also by the need to uphold agreements with advertising partners, which may serve as a source of financial support for Filehorst.

In the following text, the measures are presented. If you have any questions, please reach out to

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Measure #1: Adherence to German legal foundations and orientation towards the Digital Millennium Copyright Act

Filehorst is a service exclusively operated in German data centers by a company with a German location and legal form. Consequently, the legal foundations are of German nature. Additionally, voluntarily and for the benefit of all rights holders, advertising partners, and ourselves, we are also orientated towards the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA).

Measure #2: Provision of a proactive abuse management system

To make the reporting and deletion of files violating the platform's rules effective and efficient, Filehorst provides a proactive abuse management system. This system is available in both German and English. Specifically, the abuse reporting page (<https://filehorst.de/contact.php?type=abuse&lang=en>) is designed for clarity, requesting all necessary (and no excessive) information for file deletion. Upon form submission, the report is sent directly to the relevant authority, which is immediately notified via email and can take appropriate action. Optionally, the reporter can specify, through a query, the URL where they observed the violation of the rules (see Measure #7 for context).

Measure #3: Fast removal within (at most 24) hours

Uploaded files reported via abuse@filehorst.de or the abuse page (link mentioned in Measure #2) are promptly deleted by us without undue delay. Filehorst strives to remove the files from all systems within a few hours, but no later than 24 hours.

Measure #4: Implementation of a hash filter after file deletions

When reported files are deleted on Filehorst, a hash value of the files is calculated and added to a blocklist if the nature of the deletion request requires it (e.g., in cases of copyright infringement). This ensures that the deleted files, even under a different name, cannot be reuploaded. The system also has a retrospective effect, meaning that files uploaded before the processing of the deletion request and associated with the blocked hash value will also be removed.

Measure #5: Implementation of a file name filter after file deletions

If reported files are deleted on Filehorst, the operators of Filehorst have the option to set up a file name filter. This makes sense and is done when the names of the uploaded files (or parts thereof) suggest that further uploads with this name would exclusively constitute a violation of the rules. In this case, files containing the then-filtered name (or parts thereof) cannot be uploaded anymore. This system also has a retrospective effect by blocking relevant files.

Measure #6: Contacting affected users and initiating actions

Users of Filehorst who have uploaded reported files are, whenever possible, contacted and asked for their statement. If their response is unfavorable or absent, and there is a reasonable suspicion that additional files violating the rules have been uploaded, these files, and potentially the user themselves, will also be deleted. Hash filters and, if necessary, file name filters will be implemented in such cases.

Measure #7: Examination and blocking of known external URLs for violations of the rules

Filehorst examines external URLs known to him where a violation of the rules has occurred for possible further violations. The platform conducts deletions of files, sets hash filters, and, if necessary, applies file name filters if found files suggest a violation of the rules. The list of known external URLs expands based on information provided in reports of violations (Measure #2). Furthermore, the URL is blocked for calls from links to downloads on filehorst.de, where it is sensible and technically feasible.