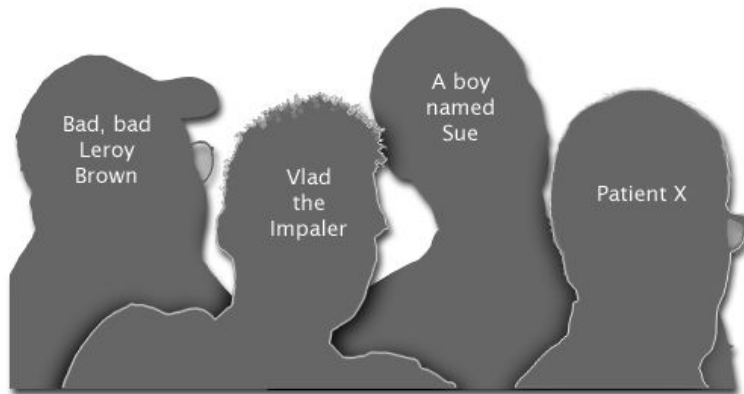


Library Avatars



Creating Your Virtual Self

Representing Yourself Online

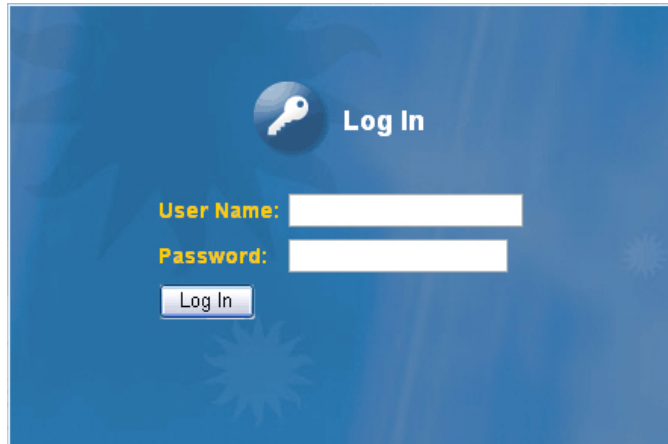
- Name/Title (Username)
- Emoticon or text-based emotional icon/Text Constructs
- Picture or Image (Profile Pic)
- 2D/3D Model (Computer Modeling)

You might consider this the history of avatars - virtual personality - as it pertains to the internet in particular. I'm probably taking a few liberties in stating that a username is a variation of an avatar. However, in viewing the evolution of the "avatar" that I believe the username is quite effective in projecting a specific emotion.

Take my username - LordGrimm?

Username

A username is simply a name used to gain access to content such as a email client, mailing list, message board or online service like Google Docs.

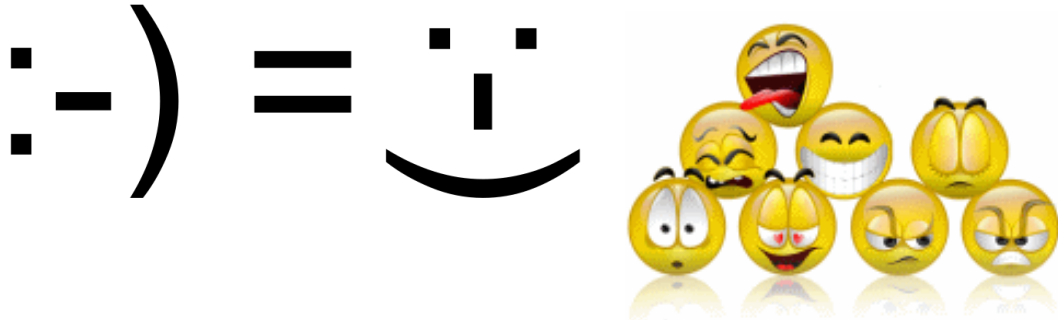


Unless you are not particularly paranoid, you probably wouldn't be too creative when it comes to a username and most likely use a simple variation on your full name such as you would for email or Exchange access.

An alternative, however, would be to use a specific name or title depending on the type of website or message board you are joining.

I use Bryan Bishop, LordGrimm, Edward Grimm, Gorn, Father Grimm, NexGenLib, Bolvine but rarely use my full name unless in a professional or personal manner (and even then I can be hesitate). Jessica Phillips once said, "You are the Bearded Librarian, right?" "What is your real name?".

Emoticon



Emoticons or emotional icons were primarily used to represent a range of feelings during email interaction but their early use as avatars can be seen in AOL Buddy Icons for instant messenger services.

Emoticons will probably last as long as chat and email are a viable forms of communication. They are often used to represent a certain mood or to accent a joke or comment.

Emotional Icons can also be used as a simple replacement for a userpic or profile pic.

Profile Pic

Diatribes



The BEAST is back! Fear the Duck!

Join Date: Mar 2002

Location: West Virginia

Posts: 4,501

Base Posts: **5**

Tag: **Briddley**



2D/3D Model

In a simulated environment like a video game or MMOG (Massive Multiplayer Online Game) such as World of Warcraft or Second Life, a two or three dimension model is created to represent the user.



I initially used the Matrix to mock this presentation. But in using 2D/3D models we are getting into the idea of a "Residual Self Image".

Granted Second Life is a bit limited in creating avatars, but who's to say the guy doesn't have a different internal view of his "big boneness"? Does that kid view

Why an Avatar?

- Anonymity
- Personal Expression
- Website Association
- Trademark
- Vanity



BIG SHAUN

Universal Content

OPEN ID

- Single Digital Identity

You may already have one:

- Yahoo
- Flickr
- AOL
- Wordpress
- Blogger
- Your own website,
URI/URL

Gravatars/Pavatars

- Globally Recognized Avatar/Personal Avatar
- Picture Hosted on Database
- Inhibits information collection
- Associates avatar with email or website.

Avatars in Libraries

- Alternative to Professional Photograph
- Personalizing Content (wiki, blog, chat)
- Virtual "Face" to Virtual Voice in Chat
- Interactive online tutorials and Biographical Sessions
- Librarians in the Classroom

Alt to Professional Photograph - Most people don't like having their picture taken, much less having it on the website for all to see. However, it is useful for not only the public, which we serve, but also to your co-workers . . . especially if the size and time prevent face to face meetings.

Wiki user page, blog "logo", userpic for chat and email,

Docutek doesn't work this way as I understand it, but it would be nice to chat with a librarian and not see just "Shaun the Librarian".

Interactive online tutorials - Librarian Greeter. Who's voice is that?

BI are often face to face, but what if they are moved to an online format?

Creating an Avatar

- [Yahoo Avatars](#)
- [Iconize Me](#)
- [Meez](#)
- [Dopple Me](#)
- [Avatar Generator](#)
- [Simpsonize Me](#)
- [Southpark Studios](#)
- [Design your Own](#)



1. Iconize Me
2. Second Life Alternative
3. Yahoo Avatar
4. Dopple Me
5. Simpsonize Me
6. South Park