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dox



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Est. 1828



[Dictionary](#)

- [Definition](#)
- [Definition](#)
- [Example Sentences](#)
- [Word History](#)
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dox

[verb](#)

['däks](#)

variants or doxx

doxed or doxxed; doxing or doxxing; doxes or doxxes

[transitive verb](#)

informal

: to publicly identify or publish private information about (someone) especially as a form of punishment or revenge

... Facebook, like other platforms, wants to prevent users from being doxed or otherwise targeted for harassment ...—[Karissa Bell](#)

On general principles, I support Internet anonymity and look askance at people's efforts to "out" or "dox" anonymous Web commenters whose views they disagree with, much less for simple sport.—[Damon Poeter](#)

This isn't the first time the LAPD has been doxxed. In 2011, a group affiliated with the online hackers Anonymous claimed responsibility for posting personal information of more than 40 officers, including their home addresses, campaign contributions, property records, and names of family members after they claimed the LAPD oppressed them by shutting down the Occupy L.A. Movement.—[Christine Pelisek](#)

doxing noun

or doxxing

plural doxings or doxxings

informal

They were doxed when an anonymous Wikipedia user edited their pages. The information was quickly removed after the doxing was discovered and aides contacted authorities. —[Alex Horton and Reis Thebault](#)

... "doxxing"—the term used for the troll harassment technique of finding and then posting a user's sensitive personal information, including addresses, phone numbers, and even Social Security numbers. —[Harry Bruinius](#)

The Bergen County Prosecutor's Office Cyber Crimes Unit began investigating a pattern of doxxings and harassing phone calls that targeted the employees, authorities said. —[Chris Sheldon](#)

Example Sentences

Recent Examples on the Web My sister's social media profiles were also used to *dox* her. —[Pallabi Muni, CNN](#), 7 Feb. 2023 The company has faced criticism recently for providing security services to Kiwi Farms, whose users frequently *dox* and harass transgender people and where a campaign that specifically targeted a popular trans Twitch streamer pushed her into hiding. —[Emily Mae Czachor, CBS News](#), 1 Sep. 2022 One of the women who initially posted about Caleb shared a video Thursday asking people not to *dox* him. —[Washington Post](#), 23 Jan. 2022

These examples are programmatically compiled from various online sources to illustrate current usage of the word 'dox.' Any opinions expressed in the examples do not represent those of Merriam-Webster or its editors. [Send us feedback](#) about these examples.

Word History

Etymology

respelling of *docs*, plural of *doc* (short for [document entry 1](#)), verbal derivative based on earlier *dropping docs*, *doc-dropping*, etc., describing the same act

First Known Use

2009, in the meaning defined [above](#)

Time Traveler

The first known use of *dox* was in 2009

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WORD OF THE DAY

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Test Your Vocabulary

What Did You Just Call Me?

- Before we went to her house, Hannah told us her aunt was a *flibbertigibbet*.

Complimentary

Insulting

You know what it looks like...
but what is it called?

TAKE THE QUIZ

Can you make 12 words with
7 letters?

PLAY

WORDS AT PLAY

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13 Unusually Long English Words

- Pulchritudinous and many more

Every Letter Is Silent, Sometimes

When each letter can be seen but not heard

-

'Dunderhead' and Other 'Nicer' Ways to Say Stupid

As illustrated by some very smart pups

-

When Were Words First Used?

- Look up any year to find out

ASK THE EDITORS

Weird Plurals

One goose, two geese. One moose, two... moose. Wh...

-

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Irregardless

It is in fact a real word (but that
• doesn't mean ...

Bring vs. Take

Both words imply motion, but the
• difference may b...

Defenestration

The fascinating story behind many
• people's favori...

WORD GAMES

Name That Flower

Can you tell the difference between
a lilac and a...

• **TAKE THE QUIZ**

Are You Feeling Lucky?

A charming quiz about fortunate
and unfortunate w...

• **TAKE THE QUIZ**

Name That Thing

You know what it looks like... but
what is it cal...

- [TAKE THE QUIZ](#)

Spelling Bee Quiz

Can you outdo past winners of the
National Spelli...

- [TAKE THE QUIZ](#)

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