



BROOKLYN_BORN

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Where have all my old friends gone? Day 6

Friday, May 13, 2016

Perhaps there should be a subtitle today? Why did they leave?
I'm learning a lot both from my stroll down the memory lane of old friends and also from the comments.

Is the efficiency of the website a reason to leave?

In the beginning I used to have trouble with the trackers. Then veteran sparkers introduced me to shortcuts that reduced data entry to just minutes. It helps that after 7 years here, every imaginable food item or form of workout is already in "favorites." The "recent" feature really works great. Just a few clicks and I'm done with all 3 meals and 2 snacks. Wearing a step counter speeds things up too since my running and walking uploads automatically.

Then there are those ads. Nobody likes ads, but we do like free websites. Some people use ad blockers which solves the problem. I do not. However, I did discover that there was a program (couponprinter) on my computer that kept trying to load repeatedly. Uninstalling that solved most of the "waiting for ad to load" annoyance.

Occasionally my data driven mind was able to identify certain ads that took an inordinate amount of time to load. Then I used the "adreport" feature to inform spark tech people of the offending ad. I included a screen shot and voila! The ad was either gone or fixed within 24 hours. The worst offenders were the ones from Mayo Clinic and Minute Rice.

Now it's only once in a while that I notice any delay and being hijacked to an ad website is a thing of the past. My ads just sit there passively waiting for me to read them or not. They don't impact my site use which is exactly as it should be.

Now for today's results
8 Active & 12 Inactive/Missing
Summary:
42 out of 90 are still active. That's 47%

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Member Comments About This Blog Post

CHANGINGHORSES

Ads are how we get this wonderful site for free. My occasional absence for a few days is





purely time related. Also, sometimes I just have to keep the computer turned off and "just be".
1848 days ago



SUBMOM2

I'm ok with the ads, because I like that the site is free.



I'm enjoying your experiment. Like I said, I kinda wish I hadn't deleted inactive friends, but what's done is done.

Something else I wonder about, occasionally people have dropped me as a friend, even though I consider myself as active, and I strictly avoid controversies!



Maybe I don't blog enough. Anyway, thanks for chasing down the data!
1855 days ago



WATERMELLEN

I'm very interested in your inferences/conclusions about why people stay; and why they leave! I've had periods of very annoying ads but right now, under control: I can ignore 'em!!

1855 days ago



GINIEMIE

Ads, sometimes they are an annoyance but we are getting this site for free. On one computer I don't see any ads, on the other I do but they are tamed and don't interfere with my use of the site. I guess we should thank you and other tech savvy friends who have reported issues instead of



fumed about them.



1855 days ago



SLENDERELLA61

My nutrition tracker is much faster on my phone, whereas my laptop is better for posting and reading blogs. Wish I had the expertise to figure out how to get rid of the offending slow ads.



Very interesting about your friends. Again, I think I should do something similar but have not.
1855 days ago



SEAJESS

 blog! Thanks!



The ads are nowhere near as annoying as the ones Windows 10 forces on users of the formerly free games, in my experience of the interweb world.




I am curious about the "recent" function on the Food Tracker that you mention. I was unaware. Going to go scour the Tracker to see if I can find it. Thanks for the heads up.



For me, SparkPeople has been life changing. Probably the most valuable gift is access to support and shared experience that I do not have in my "real" life. In fact, I have active saboteurs all around me. My 50+ pound weight loss is all down to SparkPeople tools and the SparkPeople community.



on YOUR awesome results and thank you for being one of the sources that changes my

life for the better. Don't you disappear from the Sparkiverse,  !
1856 days ago

TERI-RIFIC

Well, I have an ad blocker that works great. My complaints are that the site doesn't work that well with an iPad and you can only access a mobile site which is very limited from a smart phone. So you can't blog from your phone while on vacation. I see no point to their various mobile sites. Let me access the full site from my phone and I'll be happy.



1856 days ago



LIVEDAILY

Yep, learning HOW to take full advantage of the trackers can be a process, but once you get the hang of it, it becomes second nature, a good habit!
1856 days ago



PRNCSCUP1-2FULL

I have a few complaints about SP, but no more than I have for any othe public web site.... Every time they update I lose my ability to do something or the other! Wht bugs me the most is that I cannot reply to a post on a thread within a team from Internet Explorer, but if I use Firefox I can! So, I find myself bouncing b/t the 2 to get all I want from SP! But, I've threatened to leave a zillion times but yet here I am! Hee. You did not have to change the way you format just for me.... I want your SP experience to be all it can be for you too!! Thanks!
1856 days ago



ANGIEN9

I have a problem with my computer not the site. I have been on it for since 2011. It is very informative and when I use them, they work. I do have a Fitbit which automatically uploads to my spark people exercise. I am excited to be on this journey with all my spark friends. Thank for your blog's. I love reading your blog's and have found this series very interesting. Thanks for sharing



your journey with me. Angie
1856 days ago



PHOENIX1949



1856 days ago



LIVINGLOVINLIFE

The ads...I usually just ignore them. The reason I like the site is friends, all the information, support and trackers to help with accountability. has really helped me.
1856 days ago



PHEBESS

How many friends do you have on SP? Just curious how the final tally will look.
1856 days ago



JEANKNEE

Like some of the others, I have an Ad Blocker. I've also shared offending Ads with Spark Tech and like you, I've noticed a very quick response ... as you've said, voila!



Yeah, I feel immensely grateful for the tools, resources and Spark Community. And, free of charge. Wow!



1856 days ago



DOVESEYES

This is a great site, love the friends I've made over the years. Hope the stats pick up again :)
1856 days ago



CD4114015

I agree with 2BDYNAMIC the good outweighs the bad but SOME days it IS aggravating!



You are SO patient to go through all this to present it to us!
1856 days ago



WILSONWR

I can put up with an occasional ad to have a free website. Again, you're doing some great work!
1856 days ago



50YEARSWIFE

I have really enjoyed reading your observations on this subject. Great blogs! Thanks for





ONEKIDSMOM

I'm going to have to look into those ad blockers... the most annoying part is the "accidental" clicks on ads I did NOT intend because it was taking too long to load and they snuck in under my click on a Spark button or link!

1856 days ago



NELLJONES

I had to add the AdBlock Pro extension to my browser to eliminate the ads. Not only did they take a long time to load, but they bumped the page down about 6 inches and I kept clicking on the wrong thing.

1856 days ago



2BDYNAMIC

Definitely looks like improvement then doesn't it?
Overall I think the good witch there's so much of outweighs the pesky stuff.
And it sounds like you are doing really great so have a good weekend.

1856 days ago



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ADD AN EMOTICON

SPELL CHECK

Post Comment

Disclaimer: Weight loss results will vary from person to person. No individual result should be seen as a typical result of following the SparkPeople program.