

Please don't abuse

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I never enjoy writing about comments made on this blog, because a great many of them are of much value, and I know are appreciated by many readers. However, there are always those who abuse.

Yesterday I wrote ten blog posts, recorded three long videos and one short one, and approved over 160 comments on the blog, many of which were of value to me.

Maybe 60 more comments were deleted. Almost all of them were from people who had never commented before, and I judged them to be trolling. The blog appears to be susceptible to a considerable amount of that present. Of course, in its own way, that is a sign of its success.

And then one commentator, who has contributed a reasonable number of times but has also inundated my inbox lately with suggestions for blogs I might like to write, decided to be quite abusive. One of their comments apparently did not get through for moderation. I cannot explain why. They did, however, write three times to blame me, before it transpired that they do not even know how to write a comment on their iPhone's note system, and then copy and paste it into the blog comment submission system to avoid the risk of such things happening, and having a comment get lost.

I spent some time trying to explain to them how to do this before I was told by him that I owed him an apology for wasting his time as a consequence of my not being willing to change our blogging software to suit his convenience.

I can deal with the trolls. They are easy to spot, and easy to delete, and easy to block when it becomes apparent that they are repetitive.

But I really do not have time to waste with people who are supposedly on my side but who think they can repetitively tell me what I should do, how, and why, to suit their own personal agendas and who then become aggressive when, having used up my stocks of goodwill, I have to disagree with them.

There are very few people who have blogged, as I have, for over 19 years, or who have

moderated 400,000 comments over that period, or who engaged with many of those who post, including offering notes of thanks to almost all new commentators who I think have tried to provide something of value, simply as a note of encouragement and thanks, but that is what I do and have done.

So, might I make a simple request? If you really think you can write a better blog than I can, might you start your own rather than telling me what to do? You have the right to do so. You don't have the right to take over this one.

The evidence suggests that this blog is meeting the needs of many people. Unless things change rapidly over the next few days, there will be record traffic this month of in excess of 900,000 views. I can, however, only manage that and handle all the comments if aggression from those who claim to be friends of what I am trying to achieve do not make excessive demands of me. I am human, and that most definitely wears me down.