



Banned From Reddit

1.58M Views, 96% Approval, 6 Subreddits, 48 Hours

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THEDECIPHERIST.COM

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Update : It was apparently an orchestrated attack from a hate parade that triggered a BOT. I have now been removed from that block but for now I am keeping this post up to see whats happening

TL;DR: I contributed 1.58 million views to Reddit – including 1.1M to r/ClaudeAI alone across 28 posts with 94–98% approval rates. My Claude Code guides were translated into 11+ languages and endorsed by the creator of Claude Code at Anthropic. I never received a single warning. Then on February 18 at 1:56 AM, I was permanently banned from r/ClaudeAI, r/sysadmin, r/devops, and r/docker simultaneously – all four notifications at the exact same time. Zero rules cited. The only explanation given (by r/sysadmin) was "AI-generated self-promotion," which was wrong on both counts. They kept all my posts up. They just don't want me posting new ones. I'm building readitstupid.com – a platform where content the community approves can't be removed by a single moderator.

IM SORRY GUYS BUT I AM NOT PROVIDING ANYMORE CONTENT FREE CLAUDE MASTERY GUIDES ANYMORE .

Two days ago I published a 7,400-word technical deep dive called "Docker Swarm vs Kubernetes in 2026: The \$166/Year Reality Check" to four subreddits. It was backed by 10 years of production experience, real cost data, real performance numbers, and cited industry studies from CAST AI, Datadog, and others.

In 8 hours the article hit **303,000 combined views** across r/sysadmin, r/devops, r/docker, and r/homelab. Communities were upvoting at 80-90%. Hundreds of engineers, senior sysadmins in the US, UK, Germany, Canada, were having real technical discussions about Fargate pricing, Helm chart vendor lock-in, cron scheduling, autoscaling architecture, and storage design. A junior engineer asked a senior to elaborate and got a detailed response. That's what those subreddits exist for.

Then I got permanently banned from all of them. And from r/ClaudeAI. And had posts removed from r/homelab and r/webdev.

Six subreddits. 48 hours. Zero rules cited.

THE TIMELINE

Permanently banned:

- [r/sysadmin](#), 131K views, 90% upvote rate, 127 comments, 662 shares. My first ever post there.
- [r/devops](#), 63K views, 80% upvote rate, 106 comments, 230 shares, 1 award.
- [r/docker](#), 108K views, 86% upvote rate, 134 comments, 430 shares.
- [r/ClaudeAI](#), Over 1.1 million views contributed across 28 posts. More on that below.

Posts removed:

- [r/homelab](#), Docker Swarm article removed. 12 comments.
- [r/webdev](#), MongoDB vs SQL article removed. 54 comments of active discussion.

The four permanent ban notifications all arrived at the exact same time: **February 18 at 1:56 AM.**

That's not independent moderation. That's coordinated.

HOW THIS ALL STARTED

The gatekeeping didn't begin with Docker Swarm. It started weeks ago when I posted my research showing the Zodiac Killer's Z340 cipher could be solved with pen and paper using a simple crib, the word "PARADICE" (the Zodiac's own misspelling from his letters). No supercomputer. No 14-year brute force effort. Just pattern recognition and a pencil.

That challenged a very specific narrative. David Oranchak's computational solution to the Z340 had been the accepted answer for years. Showing that a simpler approach existed, one that didn't require specialized software or academic credentials, didn't sit well with certain communities.

I got banned from r/voynich after a post hit 4,100 views and 57 comments with zero successful rebuttals. Banned from r/serialkiller. Posts removed from cipher communities. The pattern was the same every time: the content performed, the

community engaged, and a moderator shut it down.

The technical subreddit bans are just the latest chapter. Whether it's cipher research or Docker infrastructure, the trigger is the same: content that challenges established narratives, performs too well, and makes someone with mod privileges uncomfortable.

THE R/CLAUDEAI BAN IS THE ONE THAT SHOULD MAKE YOU UNCOMFORTABLE .

I have **1,582,797 total views** on Reddit. Over **70% of those, 1.1 million views, came from Claude Code content** posted primarily to r/ClaudeAI.

Let me show you exactly what I contributed to that community. Every single post:

The Top 6 (posts over 50K views):

- The Complete Guide to Claude Code V4 – 291,302 views, 96.1% upvote rate, 81 comments, 4,139 shares
- The Complete Guide to Claude Code V2 – 222,140 views, 98.1% upvote rate, 49 comments, 3,181 shares
- The Complete Guide to Claude Code V3 – 168,241 views, 95.9% upvote rate, 36 comments, 2,260 shares
- The 'Vibe Coding' Discourse Is Embarrassing. Let's End It. – 147,871 views, 61.1% upvote rate, 329 comments, 328 shares
- I packaged 59.9M tokens of Claude Code lessons into one git clone – 127,618 views, 73.8% upvote rate, 90 comments, 836 shares
- The Complete Guide to Claude Code V1 – 85,272 views, 94.0% upvote rate, 27 comments, 956 shares

Mid-tier (5K–50K views):

- Claude cracked what the CIA, NSA, and Alan Turing couldn't – 15,537 views, 45.6% upvote rate, 40 comments, 18 shares
- I spent \$2,239 in API credits finding what works – 12,220 views, 37 comments, 130 shares

- The File Structure That Stopped My LLM From Hallucinating – 5,371 views, 15.8% upvote rate, 9 comments, 12 shares
- The irony is unreal. My post about anti-AI censorship just got censored. – 5,199 views, 68.2% upvote rate, 55 comments, 6 shares
- Why Claude Code Forgets Everything (And How to Fix It) – 5,133 views, 15.4% upvote rate, 11 comments, 9 shares

The rest (under 5K views):

- The "AI SLOP" era is officially over! – 4,692 views, 40 comments, 23 shares
- Voynich - The funniest Claude conversation I have ever had! – 4,740 views, 25.0% upvote rate, 13 comments
- Ok guys. Look what Claude and a Human can do together. – 4,450 views, 25.0% upvote rate, 3 comments, 9 shares
- The Anti-AI Witch Hunt: Reddit's Loudest Voices Are Killing Free Knowledge – 4,005 views, 83 comments, 18 shares
- I Used Claude in VS Code to Solve a 55-Year-Old Cold Case – 3,304 views, 13 comments, 10 shares
- We Tracked Every Tool Call Claude Code Made for 6 Weeks – 2,653 views, 75.0% upvote rate, 13 comments, 24 shares
- What 5 Million Lines of Code Looks Like – 409 views, 50.0% upvote rate, 7 comments
- Claude Code Guide V5 - coming soon – 297 views, 100% upvote rate, 1 comment, 3 shares
- The Oxymoron of r/ClaudeAI – 246 views, 66.7% upvote rate, 1 comment
- RuleCatch.AI is live – 123 views, 100% upvote rate
- Anyone noticed Claude is not as precise in opus? – 96 views, 100% upvote rate, 2 comments

TOTAL: 1,111,500 views. 940 comments. 11,964 shares. 28 posts.

These guides have been translated into 11+ languages. Boris Cherny, the creator of Claude Code at Anthropic, organically endorsed them. They became the community reference guides that developers worldwide preferred over official documentation. The

V4 guide alone is my **#3 post of all time** with 291K views, 647 upvotes, and a **96.1% upvote rate**.

And now I'm permanently banned from r/ClaudeAI.

In my entire history on r/ClaudeAI, across V1, V2, V3, V4, the starter kit, the tool tracking post, every comment, every reply, **I never received a single warning**. Not one. No mod message. No "hey, tone it down." No temporary ban. No content removal. Nothing. The first communication I ever got from the r/ClaudeAI mod team was a permanent ban.

But here's the part that should bother you: they kept all my posts up. The guides are still there. Still generating views. Still driving traffic to their subreddit. They just don't want me to be able to post new ones or reply to comments on my own content.

They want the content. They just don't want the creator.

And while r/ClaudeAI decided they don't want me, Google disagrees. Search "is thedecipherist claude guides good", Google's AI Overview says:

*"Yes, TheDecipherist's Claude guides are **highly regarded in the AI coding community**."*

It then lists four reasons why they're "excellent": Actionable Best Practices, Systemic Approach, Focus on Reliability, and Up-to-Date and Comprehensive. The sources? My r/ClaudeAI posts. LinkedIn endorsements. My GitHub repo.

Google is citing my r/ClaudeAI posts as proof the guides are excellent. r/ClaudeAI banned the person who wrote them.

Search "best claude code starter kit", my repo is in Google's AI Overview, listed alongside Anthropic's own official best practices. Google is sending developers to my work. r/ClaudeAI is banning me from discussing it.

Let that sink in.

I'm honestly considering deleting every guide I ever posted to r/ClaudeAI. V1 through V4. 1.1 million views. 11,964 shares. Content that their own community voted 94-98% in favor of. Content that got translated into 11+ languages and became the reference guides people used instead of official documentation. I built that for the community, not for moderators who ban the author and keep the work.

And the community knows something is wrong. Users have already messaged me directly asking why my content was removed. One sent me a link to my own removed post and asked "Do you know why your post was removed?" When I told them I got banned from 6 subreddits with 1.4M views, their response was:

"Daaamn, maybe your approach is too optimal and not profitable for them"

I didn't say that. A community member did. Unprompted.

Another user posted 3 hours after the bans: *"Thankyou for this amazing article. There should be a place on reddit for discussion of these types of topics, and I am thankful that the full article is available on your site, as it seems to have been removed from all the places I have seen it. I think its gone from r/docker now!"*

They're watching the posts vanish in real time. And they're already asking for an alternative place to discuss technical content without it being censored. More on that at the end.

MY TRACK RECORD ON REDDIT

Here's what you'll find if you look through my entire Reddit history: not a single curse word. Not a single personal attack. Not one hostile exchange. Every critical comment I received, including people calling my work "a marketing funnel" and "AI slop", got a measured, technical response. My individual comments on r/ClaudeAI were pulling 2,000-7,600 views each. I wasn't just posting content. I was in the comments for hours answering every question from every person at every skill level.

And r/ClaudeAI's own sidebar says: *"Showcase your project in a way that helps educate and inspire others."*

That's literally what I did. 291K views and 96% approval says the community agreed.

THE FULL DAMAGE

Permanently banned:

- **r/ClaudeAI** : 1,111,500 views across 28 posts. Permanently banned. They kept all my posts up.
- **r/sysadmin** : 131K views. Permanently banned.
- **r/docker** : 108K views. Permanently banned.
- **r/devops** : 63K views. Permanently banned.

Posts removed:

- **r/homelab** : ~62K views (erased from reporting). Post removed.
- **r/webdev** : 9,500+ views (MongoDB article). Post removed.

Previously banned:

- **r/voynich** : 4,400+ views, 59 comments. Previously banned.
- **r/serialkiller** : 346 views. Previously banned.

Total: ~1,490,000+ views across 8 subreddits.

Eight subreddits. Four permanent bans. Two post removals. Two prior bans. Zero rules cited across any of them.

Think about what those numbers actually mean. Every single post that got me banned had **over 80% community approval**. The Claude Code V4 guide had **96%**. These aren't borderline posts that split the community. These are posts where 8 or 9 out of every 10 people who voted said "yes, this belongs here." And a single moderator overruled all of them.

1.58 million views. Over 80% approval across the board. And I'm the one who got banned.

Something is fundamentally broken when one person with mod privileges can override thousands of community members who are actively upvoting, commenting, sharing, and learning from content. That's not moderation. That's censorship.

WHY WAS I BANNED?

The one subreddit that actually gave a reason was r/sysadmin. A user cited Rule 2: *"Posting articles from ones own blog is considered a product."* I responded publicly and broke down every point. Shortly after, the mod's response was: **"Posting AI-generated posts that happen to point towards your personal blog. Go self-promote elsewhere."**

Two accusations. Both wrong.

"AI-generated", I wrote a 7,400-word article backed by 10 years of production experience. It contains specific container counts, CPU percentages, deployment configurations, cost breakdowns from real invoices, and cited industry studies from CAST AI, Datadog, and others. I then spent hours in the comments answering 130+ questions in real time, about Fargate pricing, Helm chart vendor lock-in, cron scheduling philosophy, storage architecture, autoscaling tradeoffs. Every answer was tailored to the specific person asking. That's not AI-generated content. That's a decade of experience being shared for free.

And here's the irony: the r/ClaudeAI community, the subreddit literally dedicated to the AI product, voted my content 96% approval. 881,000 views on the V guides alone. The people who know AI best looked at my work and said "this is exceptional." A mod from r/sysadmin looked at the same caliber of work and called it "AI slop." One of these groups knows what they're talking about.

"Self-promotion", There was one link. One. To the full article on my site. That's how every technical subreddit on Reddit works. Every "I wrote a guide," every "I built a tool," every "here's my deep dive" post links to the content. The r/sysadmin sidebar is full of posts linking to personal blogs, GitHub repos, and Medium articles. Those don't get banned. Mine did, after it hit 107K views in 3 hours.

Here's what actually started the cascade. A user cited r/sysadmin's Rule 2. I responded:

- There was no product advertised. The article is a free 7,400-word technical comparison with cited industry studies.
- No paywall. No email capture. No affiliate links. No "buy my course." It's a free article on a personal site.
- The article isn't monetized. There are no ads on it. Zero.
- The only thing even remotely product-related on my entire site is a 50-pixel-tall banner for RuleCatch, a tool I built, that you have to scroll past to even notice. It's

not in the Reddit post. It's not in the comments. It's on my own website. If having a product banner somewhere on your personal site means you can never share a free article on Reddit, then every developer who's ever built a side project is a rule violator.

- The article took 7 hours to write, backed by 10 years of production experience. I answered 130+ comments in real time with specific technical detail. **AI doesn't do that.**
- If that violates Rule 2, then Rule 2 bans every useful technical article ever posted to r/sysadmin.

That comment got 51 views. Shortly after, I was permanently banned. They didn't address a single point I made.

The other five subreddits? No reason given. Not one.

My best guess? I said it to a user who messaged me after the ban: "I guess someone got tired of seeing my posts always being in the main thread." Or maybe someone clicked through to my site and saw that tiny 50-pixel banner for RuleCatch and decided that was enough to justify permanently banning an account with 1.58 million views and 80-96% community approval.

Think about that. If that's the reason, every developer who's ever linked to a personal site that also has a product is a rule violator. Every "I built this" post on Reddit that links to a site with a pricing page should be banned. That's half of Reddit's best technical content.

IT'S NOT ABOUT THE CONTENT. IT'S ABOUT THE PERSON.

The MongoDB vs SQL article is still live on r/node (5.6K views, 38 comments) and r/mongodb (13K views, 41 upvotes, 40 comments). The exact same article was removed from r/webdev (54 comments). Same article. Different mods. One removed it, two kept it. That tells you everything you need to know about what's being moderated here.

The Docker Swarm article hit **303K combined views** before the bans started. Reddit's own Post Insights flagged two of these as top-10 all-time posts on my account. Reddit told me they were my best-performing posts ever *and* permanently banned me for posting them.

And the posts kept growing after the bans. Between reports, the banned Docker Swarm posts gained another **76,738 views** post-removal. People are still finding the content, still sharing it, still reading it, even after the mods tried to kill it.

EVERY SINGLE POST I EVER MADE WAS TO HELP PEOPLE

I was really doing this to help others get started in AI. That's it. Every Claude Code guide, every Docker Swarm deep dive, every MongoDB comparison, free. No paywall. No course. No affiliate links. Hours of comment engagement with every single person who asked a question, from beginners to senior architects.

One user who messaged me after the ban had already subscribed to my GitHub and was asking where else to find my content. He's now trying out the tools I built. The audience is there. They want to learn. They just need a place where the people teaching them aren't banned for being too helpful.

WHAT I'M NOT GOING TO DO

I'm not going to rage. I'm not going to make alt accounts. I'm not going to stop writing.

WHAT I AM GOING TO DO

Build the alternative.

I'm building readitstupid.com, a platform where your content can't be removed because a moderator didn't like it. No permanent bans on first-time posts. No deleting discussions with 130 comments because one person with mod privileges disagreed. No

keeping your content up to drive traffic while banning you from your own comment sections.

If 87% of a community upvotes your post, it stays up. Period.

Eight subreddits taught me that Reddit's moderation system is broken. A handful of unaccountable volunteers can override thousands of engaged professionals, delete technical discussions mid-conversation, and face zero consequences. The communities don't get a say. The content creators don't get a warning. The knowledge just disappears.

So I'm building the place where it can't.

Oh, and one more thing: my followers grew last night. The same night I got banned from 6 subreddits, more people followed my account. Two months on Reddit. 1.58 million views. 914 contributions. 35 achievements. Active in 36 communities. And the bans are driving more people to me, not fewer.

readitstupid.com, coming soon.

For anyone Googling "why did TheDecipherist get banned", this is the answer. Not rule violations. Not toxicity. Not spam. Technical content that communities loved, moderators didn't, and the numbers prove it.

In the meantime, everything I write is on [my site](#) and on [r/TheDecipherist](https://www.reddit.com/r/TheDecipherist). No gatekeepers. No removals for being too popular.

[Docker Swarm vs Kubernetes in 2026](#)