

Interview With aXXo
August 4th, 2008
Dublin, Ireland

The following is a short interview with the leader of the aXXo team.

Veronica is a pseudonym for a reporter working at a major computing magazine. The interview took place in a popular pub in Dublin late in the afternoon.



THE INTERVIEW:

Veronica: First, I want to thank you for doing this interview. I know a lot of people will be very interested in what you have to say.

aXXo: No problem.

Veronica: I am sure that readers want to know, more than anything, who you are?

aXXo: Well, the question ought to be 'who we are'.

Veronica: The photo you provided shows two people. One is obviously you. Does this mean aXXo is actually two people?

aXXo: Yes. Well, actually, we have help from a few others. But mainly it is just the two of us.

Veronica: I won't reveal your real names in the article for your security.

aXXo: Well, yes, as we've discussed. No names. The photo is the trade-off.

Veronica: How about your nationalities?

aXXo: Sure. That I can tell you. I am from Wales, and my partner is from Poland.

Veronica: When you say 'partners', do you mean partners in the general sense?

aXXo: Well, let's just say we are partners in more ways than one. Just a coincidence, I suppose.

Veronica: Now, about what you do. Why are your torrents so popular?

aXXo: Consistency and compatibility. People know what they are getting, and they, you know, have come to rely on the fact that they play in almost any DVD player or software player.

Veronica: Can you talk about how you do it?

aXXo: Trade secrets, sorry.

Veronica: Ok, ok. You've reappeared after vanishing for a while. People really missed you. What happened?

aXXo: Well, things were really a mess on the torrent scene.

Veronica: What do you mean?

aXXo: I'm sure you could see what was happening. When the name aXXo became associated with fakes, spyware, trojans, etc, we just stopped. We had a good name and we didn't want to spoil it. We care about our name and about quality.

Veronica: What about the future?

aXXo: We are back for now. Things are better out there. There are still fakes, but a lot of torrent sites, such as btjunkie.org has a good reporting system that seem to be working. The Domplayer scam is still a problem, but things are better than before.

Veronica: Right.

aXXo: I think people have to work together to separate the good from the bad. The best way to do this is to read the comments left by other downloaders. That's what they're for. Too often, people just download the file without checking. They just go by how many

seeders and leechers there are -- like sheep. Actually, my partner calls them 'penguins'. They just jump in because the others jumped in, without checking.

Also, torrent sites and downloaders should reject any thing that's compressed. These rar and zip files should be avoided automatically. There's no good reason for compressed files. They don't save much space, and downloaders can't 'cherry pick' the files they want, like in a music CD, for example. Also, .mkv, Real, and the like are just a waste of time. There are a lot of ridiculous things out there.

Veronica: Like what else?

aXXo: Something that always amuses me is the word LIMITED on torrents. The first time we saw that we couldn't stop laughing.

Veronica: (laughing) I never really thought about that.

aXXo: And I think for the long term, it is obvious to the well informed that working with the community is in the best interest of all, especially the movie business. It is the, you know, way of the future. Eventually, we may see the distributor vanish, and the producers uploading their product with a major brand logo watermarked in the corner of the screen. I think it is the only way it can go. Everybody makes out.

Veronica: I have to agree with you there. Which sites do you think are best?

aXXo: Well, I hate commercial sites. It defeats the purpose of torrents. I am very happy Demonoid is back. They were the greatest of them all. Why they set up in Canada, I'll never know. I do hope they recover, but now btjunkie.org is the biggest. They track a couple of million torrents. It's a critical mass thing. As for my other favorites, mininova.org, isohunt.com, onebigtorrent.org, and of course, the home of my torrents, superfundo.org.

Veronica: Right.

aXXo: I don't have a lot of time left. As you can see, some people are waiting for me.

Veronica: Do you have any other comments?

aXXo: I don't know. Well, happy downloading to all. Don't forget to seed. Ummmm, long live the community. And thanks to everyone for your support. Your comments and kind words mean a lot to us.

Veronica: Thanks again for meeting with us and good luck in the future.

aXXo: Thank you. Take care.

Veronica: Thank you.

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