

EXHIBIT N



Email

by Mike Masnick
Tue, Mar 8th 2016
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ayyaduraiPermalink.
Short link.

Guy Who Pretends He Invented Email Whines At Every Journalist For Writing Obit Of Guy Who Actually Helped Create Email

from the *give-it-up-shiva* dept

Over the years, we've written a few times about **Shiva Ayyadurai**, a guy who's basically staked his entire life on the misleading to false claim that he "invented" email. Every couple of years he pops up again as he's able to fool some reporters into believing him. In 2012, he fooled the Washington Post and, astoundingly, the Smithsonian. In 2014, he was somehow able to get the Huffington Post to publish a multi-part series claiming he had "invented" email -- though after we called them out on it (and after they stood by it) -- those stories were **eventually deleted**. Ayyadurai also threatened to sue us for calling out his false claims, but there's been no lawsuit yet.

In those previous stories, we've explained why his claims are false in fairly great detail. Here's the quick version:

First off, no one denies that V.A. Shiva Ayyadurai -- an apparently very bright 14-year-old at the time -- wrote an email software program for the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) in 1978. By all accounts, it was a perfectly decent email system that allowed the UMDNJ staff to send electronic messages. Further, no one doubts that, in 1981, Ayyadurai registered the copyright on his program, which was called EMAIL. The problems are that (1) email was invented long before 1978, (2) the copyright is merely on the specific software code, not the idea of email, and (3) while Ayyadurai may have independently recreated the basics of email (and even added a nice feature), none of his work was even remotely related to what later became the standards of email. What's most sickening about this is that as part of this new PR campaign, Ayyadurai is ridiculously arguing that the reason no one believes him isn't because he's simply wrong, but because they can't stand to believe that "a dark-skinned immigrant kid, 14 years old," invented email, and that it was done in "one of the poorest cities in the US" rather than at a famous university.

Again, that might make for a nice story line if there were some factual basis behind it, but there isn't. The history of email is **well-documented** from **multiple sources** and it began way, way before 1978. And while early versions were somewhat crude, by 1978 they had basically everything that Ayyadurai claims to have invented (it is entirely believable that Ayyadurai, as a bright kid, independently came up with the same ideas, but he was hardly the first). There was a messaging system called MAILBOX at MIT in 1965. You can read [all the details of it here](#), including source code. Ray Tomlinson is frequently credited with inventing the modern concept of email for the internet by establishing the @ symbol (in 1972) as a way of determining both the user and which computer to send the email to. By 1975, there were things like email folders (invented by Larry Roberts) and some other basic email apps. As is noted, by 1976 -- two years before Ayyadurai wrote his app -- email was 75% of all ARPANET traffic.

There's also the fact that even if Ayyadurai had done something different at that dental school (and there's no evidence he really did), that had **no impact at all** on the growth and success of email. No one else built out email systems because of what they saw Ayyadurai build. Email came and grew out of all of that other work (most of which pre-dated Ayyadurai). Hell, just look at **RFC 733** from 1977 (before Ayyadurai started working at the school), which basically lays out all of the features of email.

Despite all of this, Ayyadurai refuses to give up his claims. Part of the way he's tried to get around this is to redefine email to include an increasingly long list of features, most of which are not at all necessary for email. The list changes over time and grows -- basically every time someone points out that all of the things he had on earlier lists were found in programs pre-dating

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Throughout all of this, Ayyadurai and the weird collection of supporters he's built up -- bizarrely including Noam Chomsky and PR guru Larry Weber -- seemed to keep targeting Ray Tomlinson as some sort of evil mastermind behind the racist plot to take down Ayyadurai, because Tomlinson worked for Raytheon, and Weber, Chomsky and Ayyadurai could spin this bizarre and totally made up story of a big American defense contractor wanting to rewrite history to write out someone with "brown skin."

Tomlinson, as you probably have heard already, [passed away this weekend](#), and received tremendous praise across the internet. Many referred to him as the "inventor of email" even though Tomlinson himself had long insisted that was not true either. Instead, he (unlike Ayyaudurai) long admitted that the growth and success of email involved many people working in pieces, building on each other's work successfully to build out the tool that we all use today. Still, Tomlinson *actually does* deserve tremendous credit for making email what it is today. The most notable claim -- and the one that everyone rightly talks about -- is his decision to make use of the @ symbol as a part of email addresses, in order to send email messages across networked computers, rather than just on a single machine (as had been done previously).

But, much more importantly, Tomlinson was *actively engaged* in setting the standards for email, such as in [RFC 561](#) in 1973 (five years before Ayyadurai did anything), in which he and others laid out the standards for email headers.

Given all this, you'd hope that Ayyadurai could let Tomlinson's passing go in peace, and let people celebrate all of the work he did to actually bring email to the world. But, nope. That's not what's happening. Instead, Ayyadurai has gone on a Twitter rampage, tweeting at basically every journalist who has written about Tomlinson, and calling them liars. This is only a small snippet of about 3 hours worth of his tweets.

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http://m.theregister.co.uk/2016/12/08/winter_is_coming_time_for_the_touches_and_pitchforks_I_think.

Dark Helmet: Touches and pitchforks is my new favorite typo win

Jeffrey Nonken: hah.

Well, mobile interface. That's my excuse.

Vidiot: WaPo article on copyright fight gets it wrong, of course... ASCAP and MPAA seen as the Office's only constituents. How about us citizens instead?

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/arts-and-entertainment/wp/2016/12/09/congressional-panel-calls-for-independent-copyright-office>

Mike Masnick: well, they do quote new head of the ALA too, and he's good

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Are you familiar with office communication systems of the 1970's? Then you'd understand the truth about my invention ow.ly/ZcpXJ

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06:25 Legacy Recording Industry To Trump: Please Tell Tech Companies To Nerd Harder To Censor The Internet (19)

03:23 A Nasty New Twist In Ransomware: To Decrypt Your Files Without Paying, Spread The Infection To Others (18)

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@lambgoat they didn't create email, thought it impossible and years later attempt to do historical revisionism. Wakeup.
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@elkos @cifarivar @samfbiddle @Gizmodo Inventorofemail.com
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@BosBizDavid Please read: vashiva.com/correction-the...
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-via @inshorts #IND

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@lambgoat Crocker has been exposed as a lying hound of Raytheon historyofemail.com . Read and weep.

Dr. Shiva Ayyadurai @va_shiva · 2h
White journalists since 2012 have joined in the lynching and whitewashing of facts on #email. I challenge all and any to a f2f debate !!

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#unfairandlovely usatoday.com/story/news/wor...

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Jodi Koberinski @JodiKoberinski · 2h
@rsclndian @va_shiva @Indiatimes @shivaayyadurai this kind of revisionism is appalling. At least acknowledge the original copyright!

Dr. Shiva Ayyadurai Retweeted
RamShankarChaudhary @rsclndian · 2h
@Indiatimes @va_shiva @shivaayyadurai I think India must recognize and support him.

In reply to The Hacker News
Dr. Shiva Ayyadurai @va_shiva · 2h
@TheHackersNews Please read: vashiva.com/correction-the...

Dr. Shiva Ayyadurai Retweeted
RamShankarChaudhary @rscIndian · 2h
@indiatimes @va_shiva @shivaayyadurai I think India must recognize and support him.

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In reply to The Hacker News
Dr. Shiva Ayyadurai @va_shiva · 2h
@TheHackersNews Please read: vashiva.com/correction-the...

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Dr. Shiva Ayyadurai @va_shiva · 2h
An open letter : "CORRECTION: THE INVENTOR OF EMAIL IS STILL ALIVE" ow.ly/ZcfbR #InventorofEmailIsAlive

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Dr. Shiva Ayyadurai @va_shiva · 2h
@cifarivar Please read: vashiva.com/correction-the...

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Dr. Shiva Ayyadurai @va_shiva · 2h
@Johnribeiro Please read: vashiva.com/correction-the...

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Dr. Shiva Ayyadurai Retweeted
Siddhartha Basu @babubasu · 14h
How myths take on a life of their own. Ayyadurai has the copyright but Tomlinson gets the credit in his obits : timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/us/On-Ma...

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In reply to The Independent
Dr. Shiva Ayyadurai @va_shiva · 2h
@Independent Please read: vashiva.com/correction-the...

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Dr. Shiva Ayyadurai @va_shiva · 3h
@jonfingas Please read: vashiva.com/correction-the...

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In reply to NDTV
Dr. Shiva Ayyadurai @va_shiva · 3h
@ndtv Please read: vashiva.com/correction-the...

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Dr. Shiva Ayyadurai @va_shiva · 3h
@toi_tech Please read: vashiva.com/correction-the...

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Dr. Shiva Ayyadurai @va_shiva · 3h
@tleepoldcnn Please read: vashiva.com/correction-the...

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Dr. Shiva Ayyadurai Retweeted
Indiatimes @indiatimes · 9h
"I'm the real inventor of #email and I'm still alive" - [@shivaayyadurai](http://shivaayyadurai)

Read on!- bit.ly/21YhNXu





17 12 ...

Dr. Shiva Ayyadurai Retweeted



Rajesh Kalra @rajeshkalra · 15h

Lovely piece! On Mahashivaratri, email pioneer Shiva Ayyadurai prays for recognition @chidu77 timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/us/On-Ma

...

7 7 ...

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Dr. Shiva Ayyadurai @va_shiva · 3h

@JohnRussell99 Please read: vashiva.com/correction-the...

... 7 7 ...

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Dr. Shiva Ayyadurai Retweeted

Nikhil Karampuri @nikhilkarampuri · 3h

@va_shiva we are proud of you! dailyo.in/technology/ema...

2 2 ...

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Dr. Shiva Ayyadurai @va_shiva · 3h

@LeenaRao Please read: vashiva.com/correction-the...

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Dr. Shiva Ayyadurai @va_shiva · 3h

@DaveLeeBBC Please read: vashiva.com/correction-the...

... 2 2 ...

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Most of those are pointing to his "correction" posted to his website, claiming that anyone claiming Tomlinson invented email is wrong. He repeats the false claims about how it only qualifies as email based on his totally arbitrary list of features and also that people who say he's wrong are simply backing up Raytheon trying to deny him his rightful due because he's "not white." And, amazingly, he's actually **convinced some publications** to write about his claim, with very little fact checking. Meanwhile, when some point out that he's lying, Ayyadurai yells at them that they're **repeating "racist lies,"** despite the fact that all the evidence is well-documented.

Once again, to Shiva Ayyadurai: you were almost certainly a very bright kid, who created a nice software program as a teenager at the school where you were employed. That's great. And you should be proud of your accomplishments. But you did not invent email. You had nothing to do with the invention of email. And to continue to claim otherwise makes you look petty and silly -- especially at a time when everyone is celebrating the very real accomplishment of Ray Tomlinson.

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