

Top 15 Most Viral IMGUR Posts in 2015

As 2015 comes to a close, we'd like to take a moment to reflect upon the amazing OC that graced Imgur this year.

Truth be told, choosing only 15 posts to represent the pure awesomeness of Imgur in 2015 was a difficult endeavor. The posts we selected are some of the most memorable and influential posts of the year--they lifted the world's spirits, helped shape a bit of our culture this year and, dare we say, represented the biggest memes on the Internet. We think an older, more mature you will show these posts to your grandkids and say, "this! This is what the internet was about in 2015. Also, when I was your age, Pluto was a planet. So there."

This year on Imgur there were:

- 900 billion total image views
- 234.6 petabytes (yes, that's 2 with 17 zeros) of data transferred
- 852,000 trophies awarded
- 36,991 total pet taxes paid
- 20 Imgur couples formed (that we know about) Thank you for being a part of it.

Without further ado, we bring you Imgur's Best and Most Viral 15 Posts of 2015!

15. The Year of the Trash Panda



The Internet's favorite animal in 2015 was undoubtedly the wash bear, er, trash panda, ehem...raccoon. Their adorable masked faces, tiny little hands and overall fluffiness made them the perfect target for countless GIFs and images to d'aww over. This little guy just wanted to help his family make sure everything in sight was clean, and in doing so stole the hearts of 5.9 million while earning 17,143 points on Imgur.

Original post: <http://imgur.com/m8nOy6S>

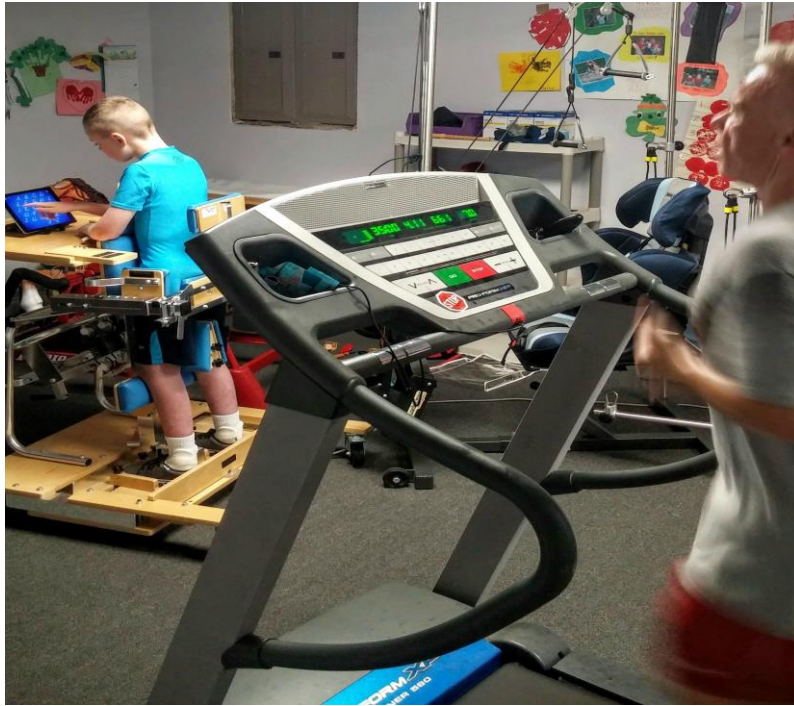
14. Fallout 4 Pre-order



The most anticipated video game of the year had to be Fallout 4. Since Fallout 3 was released in 2008, fans had plenty of time to come up with creative strategies to get excited about the new release. The most awesome of those came from Imgurian GatorMacheteJr, who, throughout his 4.5 years of undergrad and 3 years in a Master's program, saved bottle caps (bottle caps are the standard currency in Fallout). He eventually totaled 11.2 pounds of caps, which he then sent in several boxes to game makers Bethesda as payment for the pre-order. Bethesda accepted GatorMacheteJr's bottle caps as legal tender. "They told me since I was the first person to do this, I would be receiving a copy of the game this November," he explained. "I just wanted to say 'thank you' to everyone who helped in making this happen," he added. "People were simultaneously worried about my rate of drinking (I'm fine, thanks), and were also disappointed in my lack of drinking (I'm fine, thanks). Someone on Imgur even offered to gift me a copy of the game if I didn't get one. So thanks again everyone!" Not only did he get Fallout 4, but he also earned 1.1 million views and 21,836 points.

Original post: <http://imgur.com/gallery/tYZPO>

13. "He used to be in a coma, I used to be fat."



This dad is doing teamwork right. As his son was improving from a brain injury, he vowed to also improve himself by running to lose weight. "If he's standing, I'm running. He's up to 90 minutes and I'm down 70 lbs," wrote Stink3y3. The image reached 3.6 million views, 26,432 points and appeared in Runner's World magazine, The Ellen Show, NBC and Sports Illustrated. Best of all, it inspired people all over the world to get up and do something great for themselves.

Original post: <http://imgur.com/gallery/U4hDWli>

12. Cat's reaction when its owner comes home



Behold the #1 highest scoring cat post of the whole year! This excited kitty who would give anything to see its human proves that cats may not be the heartless murder machines we thought. This feline's glass cage of emotion was viewed 7.3 million times and earned 25,741 points.

Original Post: <http://imgur.com/gallery/BALTONo>

11. Netflix and Chill



The Internet did it again--the phrase "Netflix and Chill" blew up this year, appearing in memes, videos, hilarious reactions, and some of the best posts on Imgur. (In case you missed it, it's a euphemism for hooking up.) In September, vrpowell2000 personified the saying by donning this hilarious costume and bringing the joke to life. The image reached 3.3 million eyes and scored 17,793 points, all while giving thousands of people a great Halloween costume idea.

Original post: <http://imgur.com/gallery/Uljw8gG>

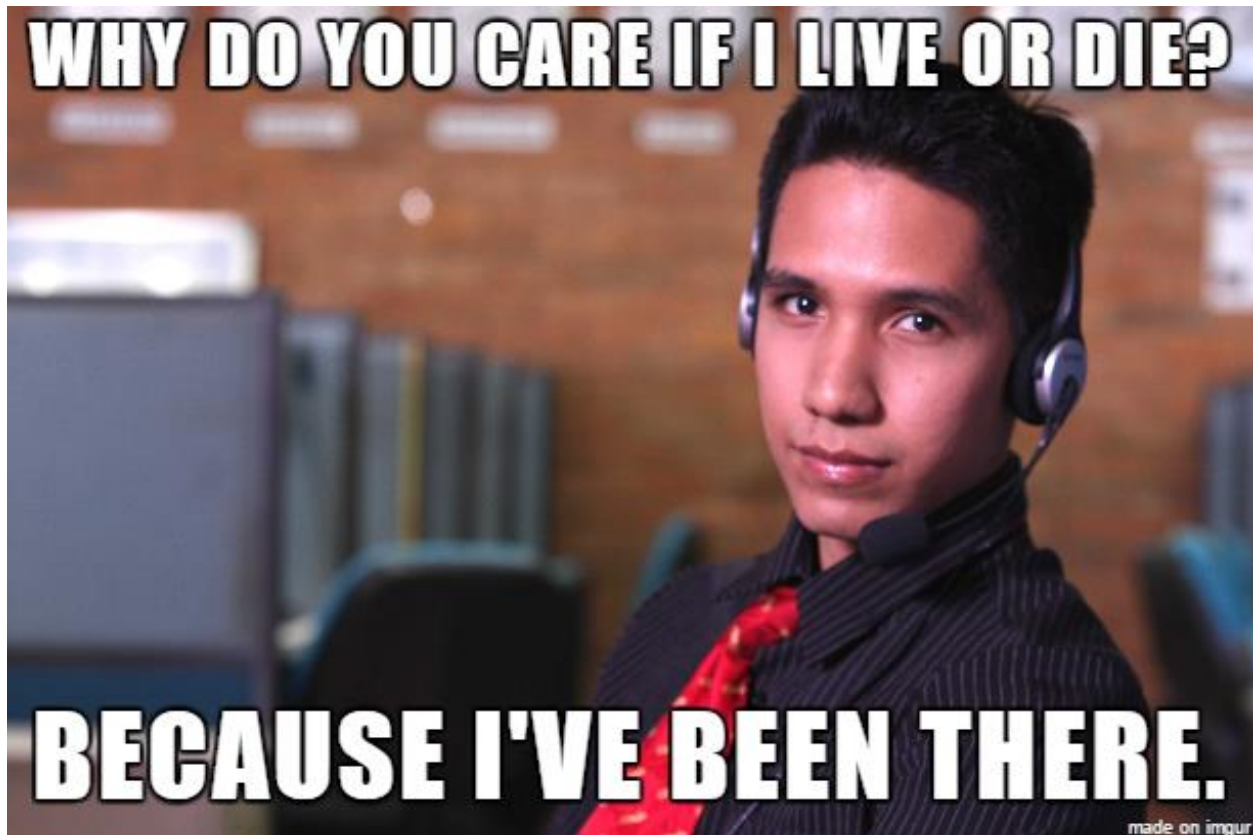
10. A Trip to Puerto Rico



Imgurian Widgetdude won what was supposed to be a dream trip to Puerto Rico, but he went from elated winner to saddest tourist ever when his wife couldn't join him on the trip. To show how much he missed her, he took pictures every where he went wearing a miserable expression and claiming not to have had "one single second of fun." The original post was seen 2.5 million times around the web, sparking Puerto Rico to invite him on a second trip, this time with his wife and child in tow, effectively turning the frown upside down. "It's crazy how much this has blown up," said Widgetdude, "I'm really glad it's made some people laugh."

Original post: <http://imgur.com/gallery/xHDc6>

9. Life as a Suicide Hotline Responder



One of Imgur's most interesting trends this year was Stories from the Workplace, in which Imgurians from all walks of life shared inside looks into their professions and hobbies, giving us a glimpse into the most hilarious, heartfelt, and cringe-worthy moments that come along with any job. The highest scoring of these, coming in at 17,676 points, has been Life as a Suicide Hotline Responder, which struck chords with so many who have been affected by suicide and inspired others to share their stories in the comments. "I don't think too many kids say they want to be a suicide hotline responder when they grow up," wrote CharlesJacobs. "We have all been touched by suicide in one way or another and we know there is a light on the other side of those desperate thoughts. Someone pulled us through. We're paying it forward and hope someday you will be able to as well."

Original post: <http://imgur.com/gallery/kgv4a>

8. Confused Travolta: MRW I ask my daughter what she wants for Christmas and she says, "A doll."



There's nothing more satisfying than a perfectly executed reaction GIF, and this year John Travolta took the cake in what might be his best work yet. The Confused Travolta GIF gained popularity earlier this year when ILikeToWonkaMyWilly posted this rendition, which saw over 5.7 million views. OP then proceeded to break down the barriers of GIF creation by posting a follow-up tutorial on how to very easily make your own. Thousands of creators flooded Imgur with ingenious Confused Travolta reactions ranging from the obvious ("MRW no one tells me class is canceled") to the incredibly detailed ("MRW I bought a new suit but can't find the person to validate my parking") to the meta ("MRW Javert is no longer the most popular meme"). The GIF has far surpassed the usual lifetime of a meme, and is still going strong. May he be confused forever.

Original post: <http://imgur.com/gallery/H3BR7EA>

7. Caitlyn's Comeback



The comeback story of the year goes to Caitlyn the dog. In May, she was found as a stray in Charleston, SC with electrical tape around her muzzle and in critical condition. The Internet rose to arms to help locate the perpetrator, who was eventually found and arrested. All year long Imgurians posted updates about Caitlyn to the tune of 1.8 million combined views. The best part is that Caitlyn not only healed with amazing success, but also sparked thousands of dollars for animal charities and an increased awareness around animal abuse. We love a happy ending!

Original post: <http://imgur.com/gallery/iE3u9>

6. Cera Please



Michael Cera of Arrested Development fame saw more screen time on Imgur this year than he did in Hollywood. It all started when one photo of the ultimate awkward celebrity sported a mustache and a red beanie went viral. Imgurians began editing his face onto other faces, hiding it in GIFs, and eventually no popular post was safe from the Cera. What started as an Imgur inside joke quickly spread through the Internet, however, when the trend was picked up by news sources around the web. People even began donating to the annual Movember charity in the name of Cera, racking up \$3,000 for men's health. To date, all Cera posts have been viewed on Imgur over 15 million times, but it all started here with this badly photoshopped Cera Lisa.

Original post: <http://imgur.com/gallery/yglzSRj>

5. Guy falling for 9 seconds while trying to shovel snow



The simplest things in life can sometimes be the hardest. This man's unfortunate moment with snow shoveling, dubbed "a real life infomercial" by one commenter, was viewed a whopping 31.9 million times. In true Internet fashion, his fall was Photoshopped into countless spin-offs that gained millions of views on their own including "guy dancing at the club for 9-seconds," "guy scoring a goal for 9-seconds, and "guy joining the Breakfast Club for 9-seconds."

Original post: <http://imgur.com/gallery/gv2f6nH>

4. Shitty Charmander



On April 14, 2015, this image was published to Imgur with the title, "My friend was drunk and on Xanax when he decided to tattoo a black face Charmander with no experience or artistic ability. The flame saves it." The lizard-like creature aptly nicknamed "Shitty Charmander" quickly garnered 4.6 million views, solidifying one man's bad decision as one of the most viral trends of the year. Shitty Charmander began appearing everywhere. From hilarious parody images & GIFs to games to original artwork to merchandise to Halloween costumes--no where on or offline was safe from the black-faced lizard.

Original post: <http://imgur.com/t/chrmndr/yioKkAo>

3. Lakeside Cleanup



Every now and then post comes along that really inspires some good in the world. This year that post came from PigsWeGetWhatPigsDeserve, the Imgurian who spent a little bit of time every day cleaning up a Dutch riverbank during his commute. In the end, he'd cleared twenty-two full garbage bags of trash and inspired people all over the world to start their own clean-up projects, resulting in hundreds of pounds of trash cleared from rivers and trails! He now manages a Facebook page to spread awareness of people's cleanup stories. "It's really something. We get messages from all over the world: Thailand, Korea, Chile, Canada, Malaysia, Brazil, Greece, Bolivia, Portugal, Italy, Germany, Finland, The UK, Norway, The Netherlands and so on," he wrote. The municipal government even asked him to expand the project and is looking to allocate funds to do just that.

Original post: <http://imgur.com/gallery/U1Tm7>

2. Love Wins



Earlier this year, in a long-sought victory for the marriage equality movement, the Supreme Court ruled that the Constitution guarantees a right to same-sex marriage. In an amazing expression of humanity, the entire Internet came together for an emotional celebration of love and equality following the decision. Even the White House celebrated love with this powerful image that racked up 2.1 million views and 13,652 points on Imgur, easily solidifying itself as one of the best moments of 2015. One commenter even said, "Thanks to this, I came out to my parents today."

Original post: http://imgur.com/topic/Love_Wins/N9Koe2G

1. Poor Pluto



Did you ever think we'd live in a world where satellites could send HD images of Pluto back to Earth in no time flat? It's pretty amazing, but the only one not rejoicing is Pluto. After being officially demoted from a planet to a dwarf planet, it once again had its cold, icy heart broken this year when NASA's New Horizons spacecraft flew by and didn't even stop for a visit. Pluto's loss was our gain, however, because New Horizons sent back the first color images of the former planet, revealing that Pluto has an ice cap and is larger than everyone originally thought. The images and reactions to the images took over the Internet, but none captured the collective feelings better than this GIF from Imgurian BennuBird that gained 4.1 million views and 16,204 points.

Original Post: <http://imgur.com/gallery/7C2GfIF>