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TechTips

Technology news, information and interesting stories. Published monthly for Geeks and non-Geeks.

Has Technology Hacked Your Mealtime?



Tired of fighting with certain members of the family about cellphone & tablet use at the supper table? Give them the grind! The anti-tech pepper grind that is.

Australian pasta sauce maker <u>Dolmio</u> plans to reclaim family suppers and hijack technology. The weapon of choice? The Pepper Hacker. It looks like a standard wooden pepper mill, but it's way cooler. It has a secret feature. You look like you're just flavoring your meal, but with a quick turn of the pepper mill, you shut down TVs, WiFi, and mobile devices.

Dolmio's YouTube video features what happened when they gave the 'pepper mill' to frustrated parents. There was confusion. There were tablets & tantrums thrown.

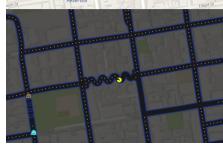
Apparently...the world did not end.





in Google Maps April 1st. Google is now famous for

Play Pac-Mac



April 1st. Google is now famous for some sort of practical joke on this day. This year, though, they might have topped them.

While looking at the map in the browser, you could click on a Pac-Man icon in the lower left corner. This would allow you to play Pac-Man right in Google Maps, using real locations as your levels. You could run Pac-Man up and down your city streets, running from the ghosts gobbling little dots all the while.

The game didn't work everywhere Google Map did, however. If there weren't enough roads, the game wouldn't start. If this was the case, they did provide an "I'm Feeling Lucky" button you could click on. Clicking would take you to a random world destination, where you could gobble dots to your heart's content.

I clicked on it, and it brought me, and the Pac-Man team, to the Taj Mahal, which actually looks like the game screen.



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20 MINUTES...OR IT'S OVERCOOKED?

Friday night, relaxing. Pizza time, right? Google the phone number and...but wait! You have a pizza box right there. AND it comes with its own oven!

The <u>Pizza Box Oven</u> by <u>CuiZen</u> is a portable pizza oven, has a rotating cooking surface and gets as hot as 525° and can cook both fresh and frozen pizzas up to 12" wide. It sells for \$55.19 on sale at <u>Amazon</u>.

ORIGINAL 'WAR OF THE WORLDS' ILLUSTRATIONS UP FOR AUCTION

Inspired after reading H.G. Wells' The War of the Worlds, Henrique Alvim Corrêa created these pencil drawings, based on the book.

The Brazil-born artist was living in Belguim with his wife & child, trying to make a name for himself.

Inspired by Wells' book, he drew



these creep images, then took them to London to show to Wells himself.

Wells was so impressed that he invited the artist to illustrate the upcoming special edition of *The War of the Worlds* by Belgian publisher L.Vandamme.

How, more than 100 years later, the originals are up for <u>auction</u> at <u>Heritage Auctions</u>. The prices of the individual drawings range from \$1875 to \$8000 (at the 'buy now' prices).

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EXTREME SPORTS CAMERA

Want to record your latest extreme sports adventure, but don't want to look stupid wearing a camera on

your head? Introducing Lily. The drone camera that follows you.



According to the ad, you just "throw &

go". Lily boasts 20 minute flight time with easy landing,, full HD Slo Mo, a tracking device with a water-proof case that fits around your wrist. Oh yea, Lily is waterproof too. The drone also records sound, and takes pictures, from which you can select your "Lilyshot".

To pre-order, it'll cost you \$519 after shipping, until June 15th. After that, it'll be \$1019 with shipping.

3 MEN & AN APOLOGY

Two guys from twofanatics.com convince Baseball legend Jose Canseco to apologize to the fellow baseball players that he famously named as steroid abusers in his book.

Twofanatics.com presents some, uh, innovative ways to apologize.

Check out: https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=JONfmOdTWYQ&feature=youtu.be



FBI SPYING ON U.S. CITIES

This story sounds like a conspiracy theory novel where the main



character disappears mysteriously in the end.

The Associated Press has learned that the FBI is operating a small air force with scores of low flying planes across the country. The planes carry video and, at times, cell phone surveillance technology. The planes, and the surveillance equipment, are hidden behind fictitious companies that are fronts for the government.

The planes' surveillance equipment is generally used without a judge's approval, and the FBI says the flights are used for specific, ongoing investigations.

U.S. law enforcement officials confirmed, for the first time, the wide-scale use of the aircraft. The Associated Press has traced the planes to at least 13 fake companies, such as FVX Research, KQM Aviation, NBR Aviation, and PXW Services.

Spokesman Christopher Allen said in a statement, "The FBI's aviation program is not secret. Specific aircraft and their capabilities are protected for operational security purposes. Allen also stated that the FBI planes "are not equipped, designed, or used for bulk collection activities or mass surveillance."

However, the planes can capture video of unrelated criminal activity that could be handed over to the appropriate authorities for prosecution.

Some of the aircraft can also be equipped with technology that can identify thousands of people below, through the cellphones they carry, even if they're not making a phone call, or in public.

LEGO CREATES A MINECRAFT COMPETITOR

ESO Works Trailer

The inevitable has happened. Lego finally made a video game that mimics Minecraft. Of course, Minecraft was a lot like playing with Legos in the first place.

The video game, developed for Lego by TT Games, is called Lego Worlds. The game allows players to build and interact with worlds of their own using virtual Lego blocks.

Marketing the game as "Plastic Minecraft", Lego has made Lego Worlds <u>available for download</u> now on Steam, although it is still in beta testing. This means it's unfinished and only has a portion of the planned features.

Lego would like players to give feedback "for continual improvements and the integration of additional content over time." Although players can currently build and modify worlds, as well as drive vehicles and ride horses and dragons, there is currently no online multiplayer mode. Lego Worlds is expected to remain in "Early Access", or beta testing mode, until the end of 2015.

This is the 71st game in Lego's multi-game lineup. Some of <u>Lego's games</u> include Lego The Hobbit, Lego

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turles, Lego Star Wars and Lego Marvel Super Heroes.



LOVES WEIGHS A TON... 45 TONS TO BE EXACT.



For starry-eyed lovers that visit Paris, purchasing a lock, and attaching it to the Pont des Arts bridge, then throwing the key into the river, is a popular (and romantic) gesture. Even David and Victoria Beckham were so inclined.



Paris' famous bridge closes this week for the removal of brass locks purporting to symbolize the unending love of visiting tourists.

Paris officials have announced that they will be cutting close to 1 million "love locks" from the bridge, the BBC reports. The locks, which weigh an esti-



mated 45 tons, pose a safety risk, as the weight of them has been causing structural damage.

Last year Paris started a campaign trying to encourage couples to simply snap a selfie or show their affection in other ways, after part of the bridge collapsed under the weight of the "love tokens".

The Pont de l'Archeveche will also have its locks removed.

