

recent EPISODES

WHO OWNS THE INFORMATION YOU PUT ONLINE?

07/15/10 08:08 AM

The inventory in a grocery store is eggs, milk, bread. But in a social media website, the [\(more...\)](#)

GO TO MARS FROM YOUR COMPUTER

07/14/10 06:00 AM

Do you want to go to Mars? Of course you do. And of course you can't. Sorry. But you [\(more...\)](#)

LIKE LOTS OF PEOPLE, GOOGLE SHELLS OUT MONEY FOR FARMVILLE

07/13/10 06:00 AM

Have you played Farmville ? There are estimates that one in ten Americans has. It's [\(more...\)](#)

THE I.T. GUY WHO KNEW TOO MUCH

07/12/10 06:00 AM

Turns out, that's probably a large proportion of them. A new survey (PDF file) from [\(more...\)](#)

NSA BUILDS PERFECT CITIZEN TO PROTECT INFRASTRUCTURE

07/09/10 06:00 AM

Wednesday's Wall Street Journal reports on a new classified project by the National [\(more...\)](#)

THE HORRIFYING HELLSCAPE OF THE FUTURE,

Like lots of people, Google shells out money for Farmville

07/13/10 06:00 AM

 LISTEN  DOWNLOAD

Have you played [Farmville](#)? There are estimates that one in ten Americans has. It's a video game that people mostly play on Facebook where you get a little patch of land that you get to / have to take care of. You tend the soil, raise crops, acquire animals. Your farm grows as you work at it and acquire points and fake money You can also pay real money for it to grow. It's a silly game.

But Google is taking it seriously. [They've apparently invested at least a hundred million dollars in Farmville's parent company](#), Zynga, who also makes other similar games that are played online. Games like Frontierville and Mafia Wars.

Google is seen as getting ready to take on Facebook with a much more aggressive push into social media. The idea is for Zynga games to be at the heart of a new Google gaming site. We talk to [Dean Takahashi](#) from Games Beat who says he's [confirmed this story about Google's investment](#). He fills us in on what Google is doing here.

We also talk to A.J. Patrick Liskiewicz. He's in the process of completing an MFA in the Department of Media Study at SUNY Buffalo. He's [written about Farmville online](#) and says that what's really at the heart of Farmville's popularity is a compulsion toward politeness.

Filed Under: [google](#) [farmville](#) [zynga](#)

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07/08/10 06:00 AM

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ARE YOU PAYING FOR APPS YOU DIDN'T WANT TO BUY?

07/07/10 06:00 AM

When you think about it, 4th of July weekend was a great time to pull a heist online. People [\(more...\)](#)

please be brief, civil and relevant.

AN EYE EXAM ON A SMART PHONE

07/06/10 06:00 AM

There is no shortage of dumb things you can do on a smart phone. There are apps that [\(more...\)](#)

ELENASINBOX.COM REVEALS KAGAN'S EMAILS

07/05/10 06:00 AM

What if all the emails you wrote at work were published online? All the gossip, meeting [\(more...\)](#)

WHAT IS AMAZON UP TO WITH ALL THESE KINDLES?

07/02/10 04:30 AM

When Amazon.com first launched the Kindle electronic book reader, it was a fairly simple [\(more...\)](#)

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