

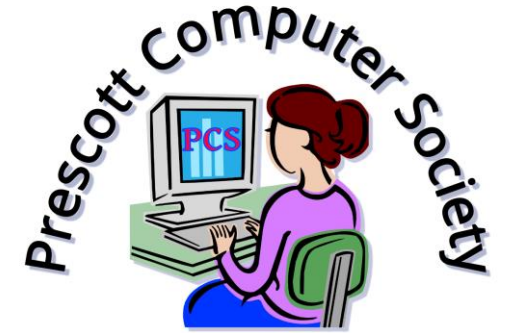
PCS is a Special Interest (SIG) group of ...



<https://www.yc.edu/v6/lifelong-learning/oli.html>



An International
Association of Technology
& Computer User Groups



Sharing and Learning Since 1988
PCS4ME.COM

Touring the Web #11

Election 2025 Edition (*Without Politics*)



Touring the Web #11
JB Burke – Prescott Computer Society

Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner executes flawless vertical takeoff

- This Boeing 787-9 took to the air in an impressive vertical takeoff
- It was performed at the 2015 Paris Air Show
- Aviation fans were highly impressed with the display
- The plane in question belongs to Vietnam Airlines, the country's state owned enterprise.
- In the video, which has gained more than 18 million views, the plane expertly takes off from the runway.
- It almost looks as if the aircraft lifts off its own accord, with no need for a long build to get into the air.

<https://supercarblondie.com/boeing-787-9-dreamliner-pilot-steep-takeoff-grand-theft-auto/>

Boeing Vietnam Airlines 787-9 Dreamliner
Vertical Takeoff & Steep Turns 2015 Paris Air Show Prep

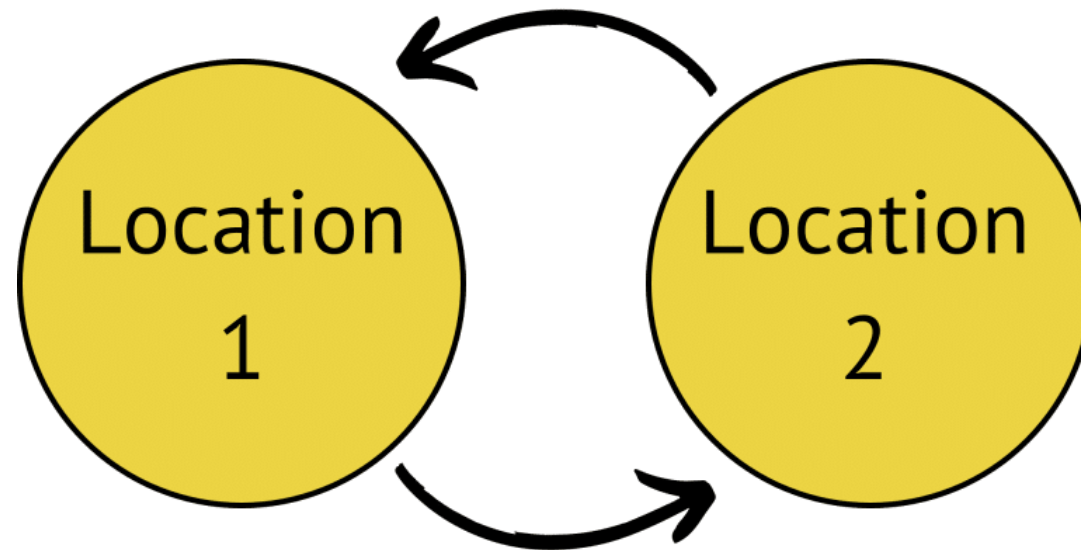
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KYbM-3E11Qo>

**Plus a video about
how that was done.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jLPCqFC1IJ0>

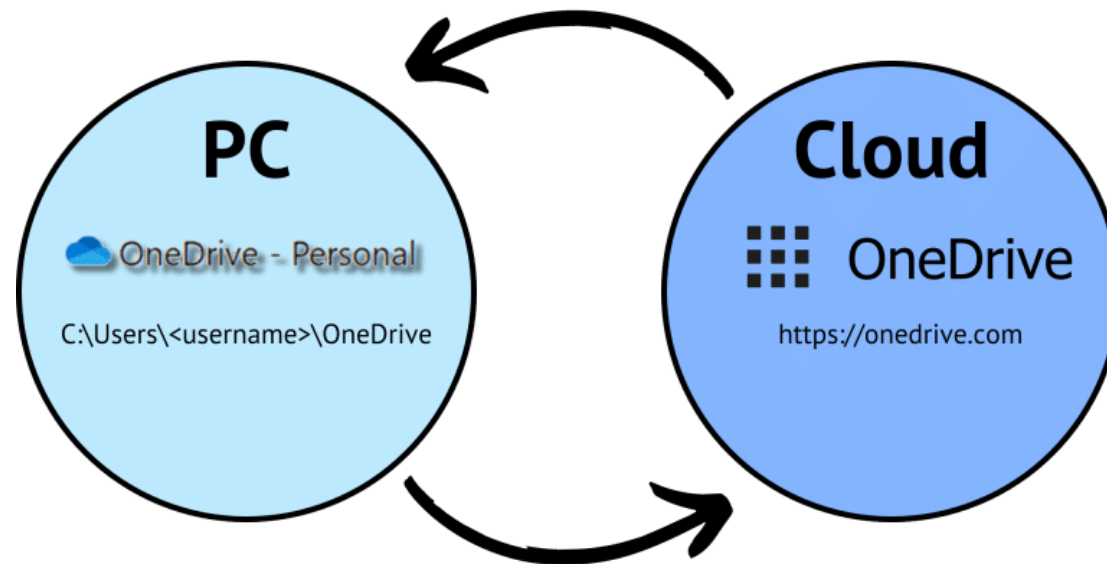
OneDrive Is Not Backup

- OneDrive is not a backup solution. OneDrive is for file synchronization. It's critical you understand the difference.
- File synchronization means the contents of the locations are kept in sync: as a mirror reflection of each other.



OneDrive Is Not Backup

- **OneDrive is file synchronization**
- OneDrive keeps two locations in sync: the OneDrive folder on your computer and the online copy at onedrive.com.



OneDrive Is Not Backup

- Hopefully, it's now clear exactly what OneDrive is supposed to do.
- **Question:** I put files into my OneDrive on my PC. They uploaded to the cloud, so I deleted them on my computer. The damn thing deleted the online copy, and now the file's gone!
- **About that delete ...**
- You deleted the file from the OneDrive folder on your computer, and the file was deleted in your online OneDrive account. **This is exactly what OneDrive is supposed to do: keep the two locations in sync.**

https://askleo.com/onedrive-is-not-backup/?awt_a=7qbL&awt_l=6yBbd&awt_m=JdPlmbf6OZdfbL

Iconic Photos From Each Decade of the 20th Century

- In the mid-1820s, French inventor Joseph Nicéphore Niépce stood at an upstairs window of his estate in Saint-Loup-de-Vareennes in Burgundy, France.
- In his hand he held a primitive camera.
- After at least eight hours of exposure, Niépce created the world's first — or at least oldest surviving — photograph, known as “View From the Window at Le Gras.”
- In that moment, an entirely new medium was born.

<https://historyfacts.com/arts-culture/article/iconic-photos-from-each-decade-of-the-20th-century/>

The First Photo



In the 1930s, a skyscraper was rotated 90 degrees while everyone kept working inside.

- In 1929, the **Indiana Bell Telephone Company** purchased the **Central Union Telephone Company**, along with its eight-story headquarters in downtown **Evansville, Indiana**.
- Architect Kurt Vonnegut Sr. suggested they could move it across the lot — 52 feet sideways, followed by a [90-degree turn](#) — and expand from there.
- **The eight-story, 11,000-ton building** end up safely in its new location, but the **offices remained fully operational during the monthlong moving process, with no disruptions to telephone service.**

<https://historyfacts.com/science-industry/fact/skyscraper-rotated-90-degrees-people-inside/>

Map Shows the Language Each Country Around the World Wants To Learn the Most

- Today, it is easier than ever to learn a new language.
- And while AI translators and dubbed shows are more common, many people understand the true beauty of immersing oneself in a different tongue.
- However, *which* language people wish they could speak varies around the world, as it is dictated by a ton of circumstances. To answer this question,
- [WordTips](#) set out to map which language each country wants to learn the most—and their findings are quite revealing.
- Some Examples follow.

<https://mymodernmet.com/map-language-each-country-wants-to-learn/>

In-N-Out Workers Reveal Which ‘Secret Menu’ Items Are Fake



- For years, **In-N-Out** has nurtured rumors of several off-menu orders.
- While the items aren't listed on the restaurant's dining room menu, hence their "secret" label, they're available for anyone to reference on the official In-N-Out [website](#).
 - **Double Meat: Two patties on a single bun**
 - **3x3, or Triple Triple: Three patties with three slices of cheese on a single bun**
 - **4x4, or Quad Quad: Four patties with four slices of cheese on a single bun**
 - **Grilled Cheese: Melted cheese on a bun with no patties**
 - **Protein Style: Patties wrapped in lettuce instead of a bun**
 - **Animal Style: A burger with extra spread, grilled onions, and a patty cooked with mustard**
- Strictly speaking, these are semi-custom orders, not "secret" items.

In-N-Out Workers Reveal Which **'Secret Menu' Items Are Fake**

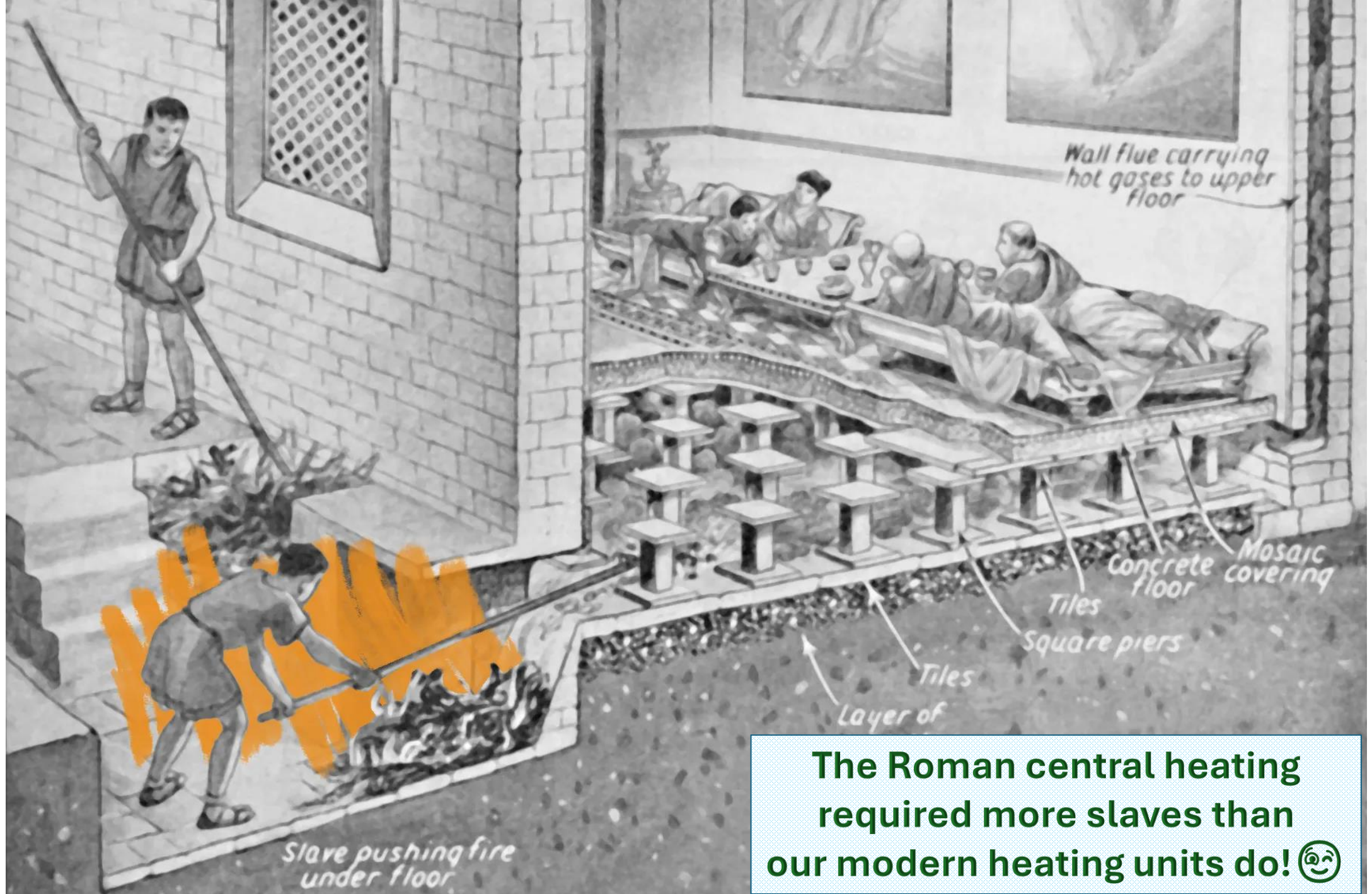


- There are a few more that appear legitimate:
 - **Flying Dutchman: Two plain patties with cheese and an optional onion wrap**
 - **Lemon Fries: French fries with squeezed lemon**
 - **Scooby Snack: Plain patty in a wrapper**
 - **Roadkill Fries: French fries with crumbled meat**
 - **Neapolitan Shake: Chocolate, vanilla, and strawberry milkshake**

https://www.mentalfloss.com/posts/fake-secret-menu-in-n-out?mc_cid=5c2b56c357

The ancient Romans had central heating.

- The ancient Romans used many technologies that seem surprisingly modern — including hypocausts, a precursor to central heating that's like today's radiant floors.
- The technique was used to heat public bathhouses, and also used in private homes and villas, in chillier areas of the Empire.
- Buildings heated with a [hypocaust system](#) were raised up on pillars, creating an empty space underneath.
- An external furnace called a *praefurnium*, which was often wood-burning, piped in hot air to the area. That air would warm the stone or tile floor above, known as a *suspensura*.



The Roman central heating required more slaves than our modern heating units do! 😊

Download 1,000+ Digitized Tapes of Sounds from Classic Hollywood Films & TV, Courtesy of the Internet Archive

- Watch enough classic movies and you'll swear you've been hearing the very same sound effects over and over again.
- That's because you have been hearing the very same sound effects over and over again: once recorded they could be re-used in another, and another, and another.
- No such frequently employed recording has a more illustrious and well-documented history than the so-called "Wilhelm scream," which, [according to Oliver Macaulay at the Science + Media Museum](#), "has been used in over 400 films and TV programs."
- On this website, you can hear that and many, many mores

<https://www.openculture.com/2024/09/download-1000-digitized-tapes-of-sounds-from-classic-hollywood-films-tv.html>

Advanced Moon Photography

- **This is the most advanced moon photography ever**, featuring interesting surface details that perhaps no one has ever seen before.
- It's also the clearest and sharpest moon image I've captured.
- It required 4 days of continuous moon observation and shooting, below are some facts about this image:
 1. The image size is **708 gigabytes**
 2. **Over 81,000** images were stacked

Advanced Moon Photography

3. By merging 4 different moon phases and merging the shadow area it reveals an interesting topography of Lunar surface.
4. Telescope : **Skywatcher Flextube 250p** dobsonian modified on equatorial mount NEQ 6pro.
5. Camera : **Canon EOS 1200D** for minerals, ZWO ASI 178mc for details.
6. **No AI involved** in this image.
7. Image resolution is **159.7 megapixel**.
8. This is what the moon looks like if it was a flat disk with mountains on it.

Photo by:
Darya Kawa Mizra
Irbil, Iraq

https://www.instagram.com/p/C-dWgkdAomS/?img_index=6

7 Innovations That Came Out of World War II

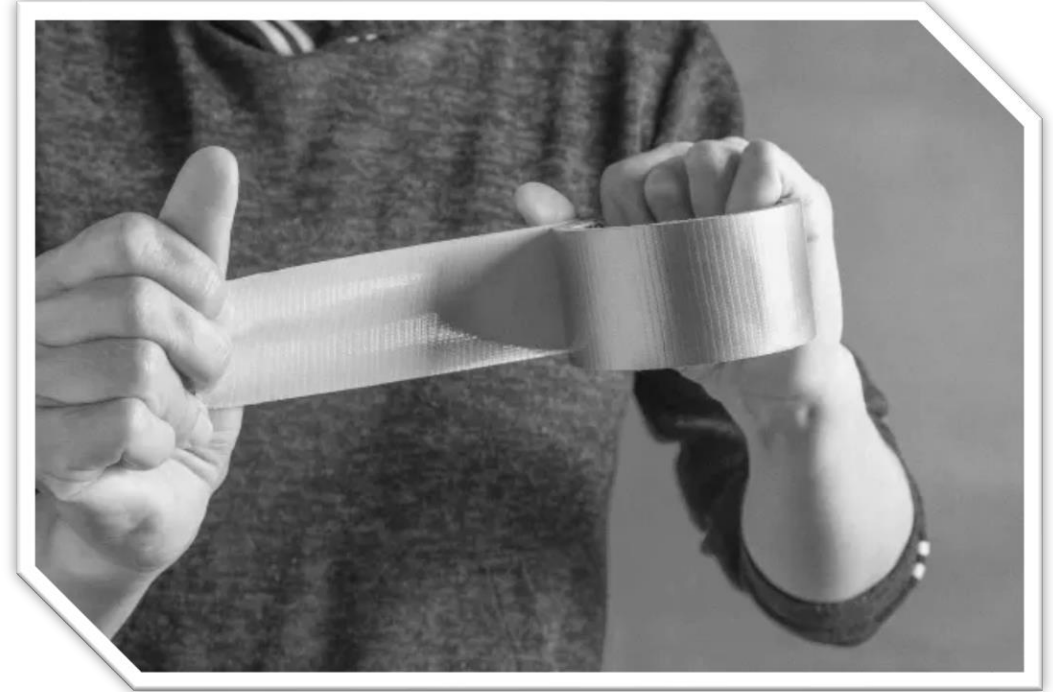
- According to some studies, there tends to be a **significant decline in inventiveness immediately after the outbreak of a war, followed by a marked surge**, the net result being a fairly standard rate of innovation overall.
- Creation through necessity or even desperation certainly happens, but **prosperous, peaceful, and free societies tend to be just as inventive, if not more so**.
- That said, plenty of technological innovation took place during World War II, especially in fields that had military applications.

<https://historyfacts.com/science-industry/article/7-innovations-that-came-out-of-world-war-ii/>

7 Innovations That Came Out of World War II

Duct Tape

In 1943, Vesta Stoudt, an Illinois woman with two sons serving in the U.S. Navy, was working in an ordnance plant when she noticed a problem with the ammunition boxes she was packing. **The boxes were sealed with paper tape with a tab to open them, but this tab could easily tear off, leaving soldiers potentially scrambling to open the boxes in life-threatening situations.** So, Stoudt came up with the idea of a waterproof fabric tape with which to seal the boxes — **an idea she sent to none other than President Franklin D. Roosevelt.** Impressed, the President sent her letter to the War Production Board, which soon came up with what we now know as duct tape.



7 Innovations That Came Out of World War II

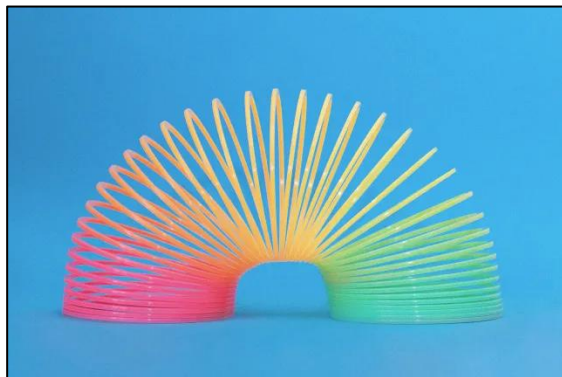
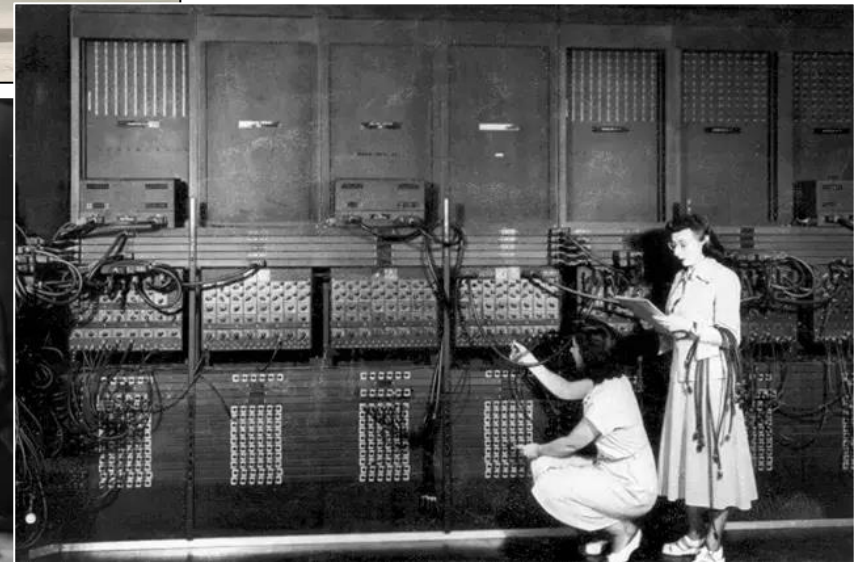
Radar

The fundamental principle underlying modern radar (which is actually an acronym for “**radio detection and ranging**”) was [first observed in 1886 by physicist Heinrich Hertz](#), who found that electromagnetic waves could be reflected from various objects. **It was during World War II, however, that modern, practical radar was developed.** Britain had already established a chain of radar stations along its south and east coasts by the outbreak of the war, allowing for the detection of enemy aircraft at a range of 80 miles. The British then invented the cavity magnetron in 1940, paving the way for far [more compact, powerful, and sensitive radar units](#) (and, as it happens, **[microwave ovens](#)**).



7 Innovations That Came Out of World War II

- And ...
- Mass-Produced Penicillin
- Jet Engines
- Electronic Computers
- Super Glue
- The Slinky



Every Country's Favorite Ice Cream Flavor, Mapped

https://www.mentalfloss.com/posts/every-countrys-favorite-ice-cream-flavor?mc_cid=33abf63c55

And now, the News from Colorado

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K92-o1iRSD4>

Dinosaurs were alive longer than they've been extinct.

- Dinosaurs have been extinct for **65 million years**.
- But they were alive for **165 million years**.
- Our own time on earth began a few hundred thousand years ago, and accounts for just 0.007% of the Earth's history.
- If you compressed the planet's history into **one calendar year beginning with the Triassic**:
 - Dinosaurs would have appeared on **January 1**
 - Would have gone extinct in **the third week of September**
 - Humans wouldn't have shown up until **December 31**

<https://historyfacts.com/science-industry/fact/dinosaurs-were-alive-longer-than-theyve-been-extinct/>

Giant catapult launches satellites into orbit without the need for rocket fuel

- SpinLaunch plans to loft small satellites into low Earth orbit by 2026
- SpinLaunch, a California-based start-up developing a rotating arm that can fling small satellites into near-Earth space has pulled off its 10th successful suborbital test launch in less than a year.
- The 10th successful flight demonstrated that "standard satellite components are inherently compatible with SpinLaunch's launch environment"
- The payloads had to survive up to **10,000 Gs** (that's 10,000 times the force of Earth's gravity) as the 108-foot-long rotating arm hidden inside a white casing spun up the payload faster than the speed of sound.

Animation of SpinLaunch Launch Sequence

<https://www.thebrighterside.news/post/giant-catapult-launches-satellites-into-orbit-without-the-need-for-rocket-fuel/>

10 Of The Most Historically Significant Aircraft In Aviation History

<https://www.slashgear.com/1647077/most-historically-significant-aircraft-aviation-history/>

How To Freeze Your Credit If Your Information Was Leaked in the Social Security Breach

- It recommended the public take a number of steps to safeguard their information, including freezing their credit, which “means potential creditors cannot get your credit report.”
- It also means bad actors cannot take out loans or open credit cards, since the freeze locks the data at the consumer reporting agency until the individual gives permission for the release of said data.
- There are other alternatives to a credit freeze, including a credit lock and a fraud alert, but a credit freeze is the most effective.

How To Freeze Your Credit If Your Information Was Leaked in the Social Security Breach

- The best way to go about freezing your credit is creating an account with the three big credit bureaus: Experian, Equifax and TransUnion.
- These agencies are also [recommended by the U.S. government](#).
- A request must be made separately to each, though the service is free.
- Once an account is created with a username and password, users can simply click a button and freeze their credit.
- This request can also be submitted by mail or phone with each agency. Typically, the freeze will take place within one business day if requested over the phone or online, and within three business days if requested by mail.

<https://time.com/7011943/how-to-freeze-your-credit-social-security-breach/>

Top 10 Smallest Countries by Population

<https://www.sciencefocus.com/planet-earth/smallest-countries-in-the-world-population>

7 reasons why a Chromebook is the best laptop for most people



- Forget Windows laptops, MacBooks, and iPads. If you want a fast, reliable, and secure laptop for cheap, get a Chromebook.
 - *It'll be one of the best tech decisions you'll make.*
- Whenever people are looking for a new laptop, their minds almost immediately go to Windows laptops or MacBooks, but there is a third classification that should be considered: Chromebooks.
- Chromebooks have grown into user-friendly laptops that you can productively use for both personal and business workflows.
- Since most of our work now happens within web browsers, Chromebooks offer a perfect marriage of simplicity and usability.

7 reasons why a Chromebook is the best laptop for most people

- **1. Chromebooks are cheap**

- Finding an inexpensive piece of hardware can be a big plus for anyone looking to stay productive.
- You can purchase a very respectable Chromebook, such as the [ASUS Chromebook Flip C433 2 in 1](#) for \$319.88.
- Acer is selling its [Chromebook Plus 514](#) for \$317 on Amazon.

- **2. Chromebooks are user-proof**

- ChromeOS' ease of use is light years ahead of the competition.
- No matter your experience level, you can sit down with a Chromebook and **put it to use immediately**.
- OS upgrades are something even grandparents can handle.

7 reasons why a Chromebook is the best laptop for most people

- **3. Chromebooks are fast**

- It's not just about how quickly Android or Linux apps open but also how fast the machines boot.
- ChromeOS boots in a fraction of the time it takes any other operating system to boot.
- If you want a fast laptop at a reasonable price, get a Chromebook.

- **4. Chromebooks are reliable**

- That's partly because ChromeOS is "mostly" a web browser masquerading as an OS, but even with Linux and Android app support enabled, you'll seldom have a problem.

7 reasons why a Chromebook is the best laptop for most people

- **5. Chromebooks are flexible**

- Work done on a Chromebook is automatically saved onto Google's cloud servers.
- This leaves your on-device storage space free for whatever you want.
- For this reason, Chromebooks tend to have small SSDs -- Google figures everything will be saved on its servers.
- If you ever decide to upgrade your laptop, you won't have to transfer files to the new machine. But: accessing files on the cloud requires constant internet access.
- Chromebook Plus laptops have solved this with the [File Sync](#) feature, which gives you offline access to your Google Drive accounts.
- You can do your work while away from a connection, and when you return home, the files are automatically uploaded to the cloud.

7 reasons why a Chromebook is the best laptop for most people

- **6. Chromebooks are secure**

- Thanks to the Linux kernel, ChromeOS is a very secure option.
- Chromebooks are also secured with verification at boot, a read-only OS that blocks executables, data encryption, sandboxing, and more.
- In Chromebook's 10-year history, [only 57 ChromeOS security exploits](#) have been documented.
- You won't need antivirus or anti-malware. Just make sure to apply all updates when they become available, avoid suspicious websites, and only install extensions from the official Google Chrome Store.

7 reasons why a Chromebook is the best laptop for most people

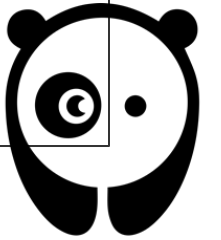
- **7. Chromebooks can be easily restored**
 - Should you wind up having a problem with ChromeOS misbehaving (extremely unlikely), you can simply do a "powerwash" (a factory reset) and log back into your Google account.
 - You'll find everything there, minus whatever problem you were experiencing (and anything you'd previously saved to the Downloads folder).
 - No other operating system can compete with ChromeOS' ability to factory reset and return you to a pristine working state without losing your data, bookmarks, and apps.
- **Note:**
 - *Not for serious video editing, audio recording or other CPU heavy apps.*

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/7-reasons-why-a-chromebook-is-the-best-laptop-for-most-people/>

Top 10 World's Longest Bridges

<https://www.sciencefocus.com/science/top-10-worlds-longest-bridges>

“Data Is Beautiful”: 40 Charts And Guides That Might Change Your Perspective On Things



boredpanda

- Infographics are [instant eye-catchers](#).
- They tend to draw interest and [curiosity](#) because the aesthetic presentation makes information digestible.
- We’ve compiled a list of visual trivia for you to munch on.
- A few of them are life essentials, like [picking the right apple](#) and laundry cycles.
- You may also come across a handful that may come in handy one day, like Germany’s cultural do’s and don’ts or pricing [psychology tips](#) to help you sell more stuff.

<https://www.boredpanda.com/interesting-charts-maps-cool-guides/>

Top 10 Countries with Increasing Forest Areas.

<https://www.sciencefocus.com/nature/top-10-countries-growing-forest-area>

Here are Seven Apps that May Convince You About AI

- **1. ChatGPT**

- This advanced language model developed by [OpenAI](#) is great for generating human-like text responses.
- With its ability to understand and reply to queries on a plethora of subjects, it's ideal for those new to AI.
- The chatbot is great for interactive conversations, content creation and so much more.

Here are Seven Apps that May Convince You About AI

• 2. Google Gemini

- [Google](#) is likely a site you are familiar with, but you might not know they have an AI tool.
- Because of your comfort level with Google, you may find [Google Gemini](#) an easy transition to AI.
- This common AI app delivers highly personalized search results using large language models.
- Its unique ability to analyze preferences and user behavior enhances overall searches to deliver a cutting-edge browsing experience.

Here are Seven Apps that May Convince You About AI

• 3. Google Maps

- As one of the most used AI apps, you might already be using [Google Maps](#) without realizing the AI component offering real-time route planning and traffic updates.
- If you are still using TripTiks from AAA, you will be floored by the real-time traffic updates, accurate directions and estimated travel times for your next trip.
- You can also use [Google Maps](#) to find places to visit.

Here are Seven Apps that May Convince You About AI

• 4. Waze

- Another AI travel companion, [Waze](#) offers AI-powered notifications for crash-prone roads.
- If you're a worrier, this AI app will give you peace of mind when using it for trips to and from wherever you go.
- As an added bonus, it is now integrated with Google Assistant, so its at your fingertips by simply saying, "Hey Google."
- Waze leverages AI for crash history alerts as well as your ETA prediction, which is typically very accurate.

Here are Seven Apps that May Convince You About AI

- **5. Grammarly**

- Have you picked up the hobby of writing?
- If you feel nervous about your ability to remember all the grammar you learned in grammar school, then try [Grammarly](#).
- Grammarly is an AI-powered app that empowers users to do their best writing, while allowing them to explore different ways of expressing their thoughts.
- Maybe it will inspire you to finally start that [novel](#) you've been putting off.

Here are Seven Apps that May Convince You About AI

- **6. You**

- Another AI assistant worth exploring is [You](#).
- The ChatGPT-style chatbot delivers quick results to provide answers to questions, generate ideas, translate text and compose emails.
- One reason to suggest it is because it helps summarize articles.
- Everything from news stories to notices can be summarized and broken down into terms that are easier to understand.

Here are Seven Apps that May Convince You About AI

• 7. Microsoft CoPilot

- Similar to Grammarly, [CoPilot](#) from Microsoft is another useful AI writing tool but it also has an AI-assistant component.
- This is suggested especially if you already have Microsoft applications on your computer and have one of the [best Windows laptops](#).
- You might find this app naturally less intimidating.
- Plus, it works across all of Microsoft's applications, including Outlook, Teams, and PowerPoint for supercharged productivity and organization.

Top 10 Countries With Speediest Internet

<https://www.sciencefocus.com/science/top-10-countries-with-speediest-internet>

BBC Science Focus Magazine

BBC Science Focus Magazine

(Libby Magazine)



Series
Published
Edition
Status

BBC Science Focus Magazine
Our Media Limited
Oct 01 2024
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Add to List

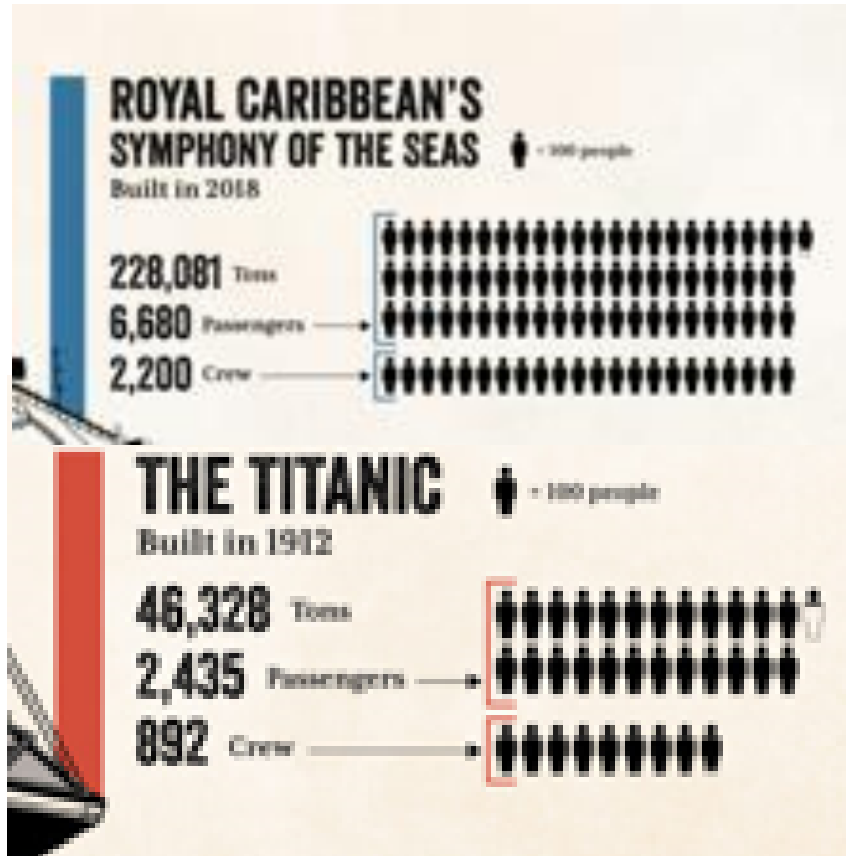
Available to read **free**, via the [Libby App](#) at the [Prescott Public Library](#).

<https://ppl.catalog.yln.info/OverDrive/cfff2830-168f-44b1-ab21-9a635924ba43/Home>

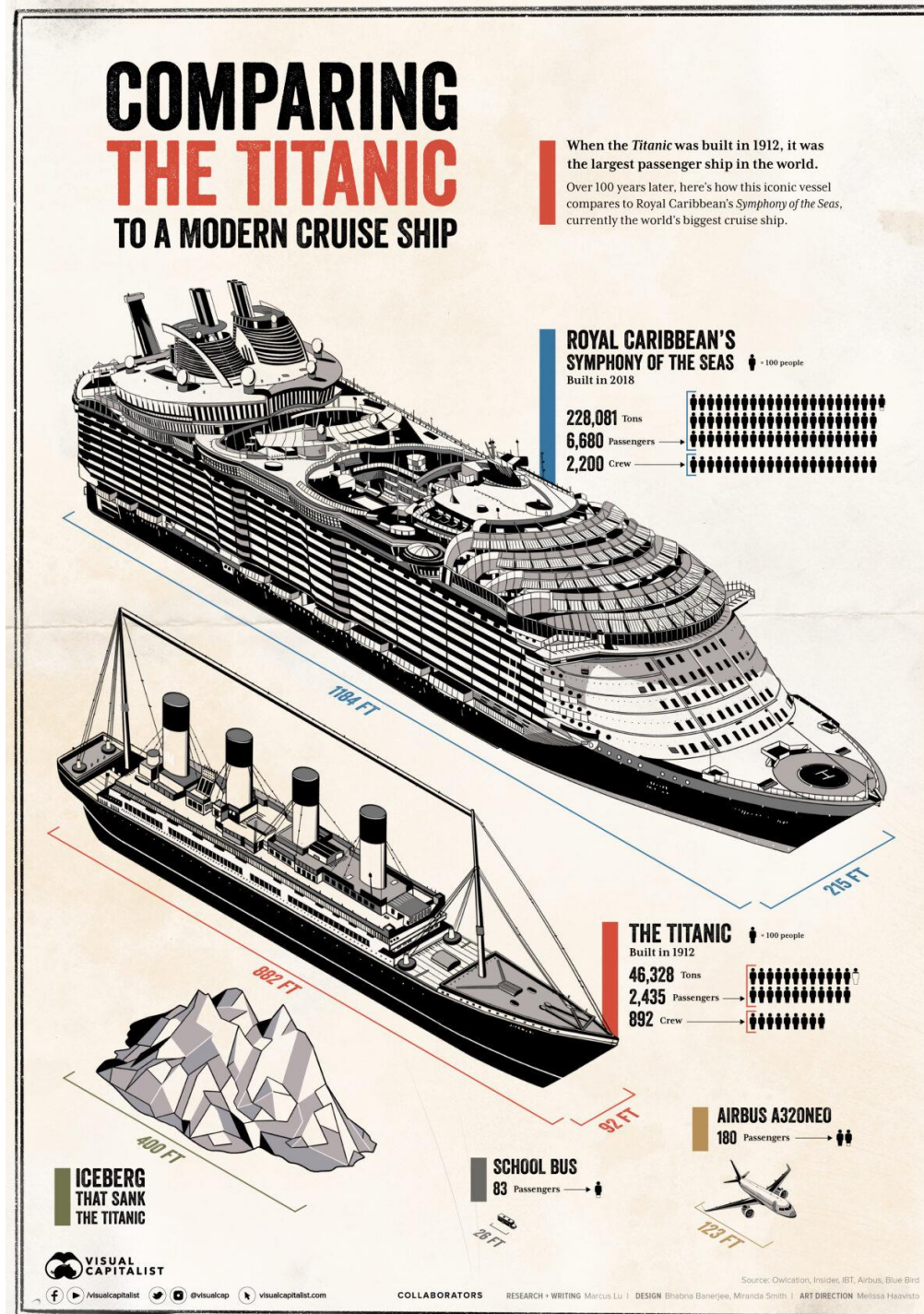
Before FedEx and UPS there was Railway Express Agency

<https://nprymuseum.org/railway-express-agency-room/>

Visualized: Comparing the Titanic to a Modern Cruise Ship



<https://www.visualcapitalist.com/visualized-comparing-the-titanic-to-a-modern-cruise-ship/>



Titanic is SMALL compared to Cruise Ships

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nfe8GueckNA>

Boston Dynamics' new video shows that its humanoid robot **doesn't need a human**

- **The company wants everyone to know its new all-electric Atlas robot can function autonomously.**
- The task of moving engine covers “between supplier containers and a mobile sequencing dolly” isn’t especially exciting, but it demonstrates several of the new robot’s capabilities working together.
- After being provided with only a “list of bin locations to move parts between,” Atlas uses various sensors and machine learning models to determine the location of bins and how it needs to manipulate its body, arms, and three-fingered hands to grasp and relocate the parts inside them.

Boston Dynamics Atlas Goes Hands On

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F_7IPm7f1vI&t=41s

Mental Floss Amazing Fact Generator

AMAZING FACT GENERATOR



Photo source: iStock

During Ronald Reagan's presidency, Air Force One was outfitted with jellybean holders to keep the president's favorite snack from spilling.

Boston Dynamics' new video sho...

MORE FACTS PLEASE! 