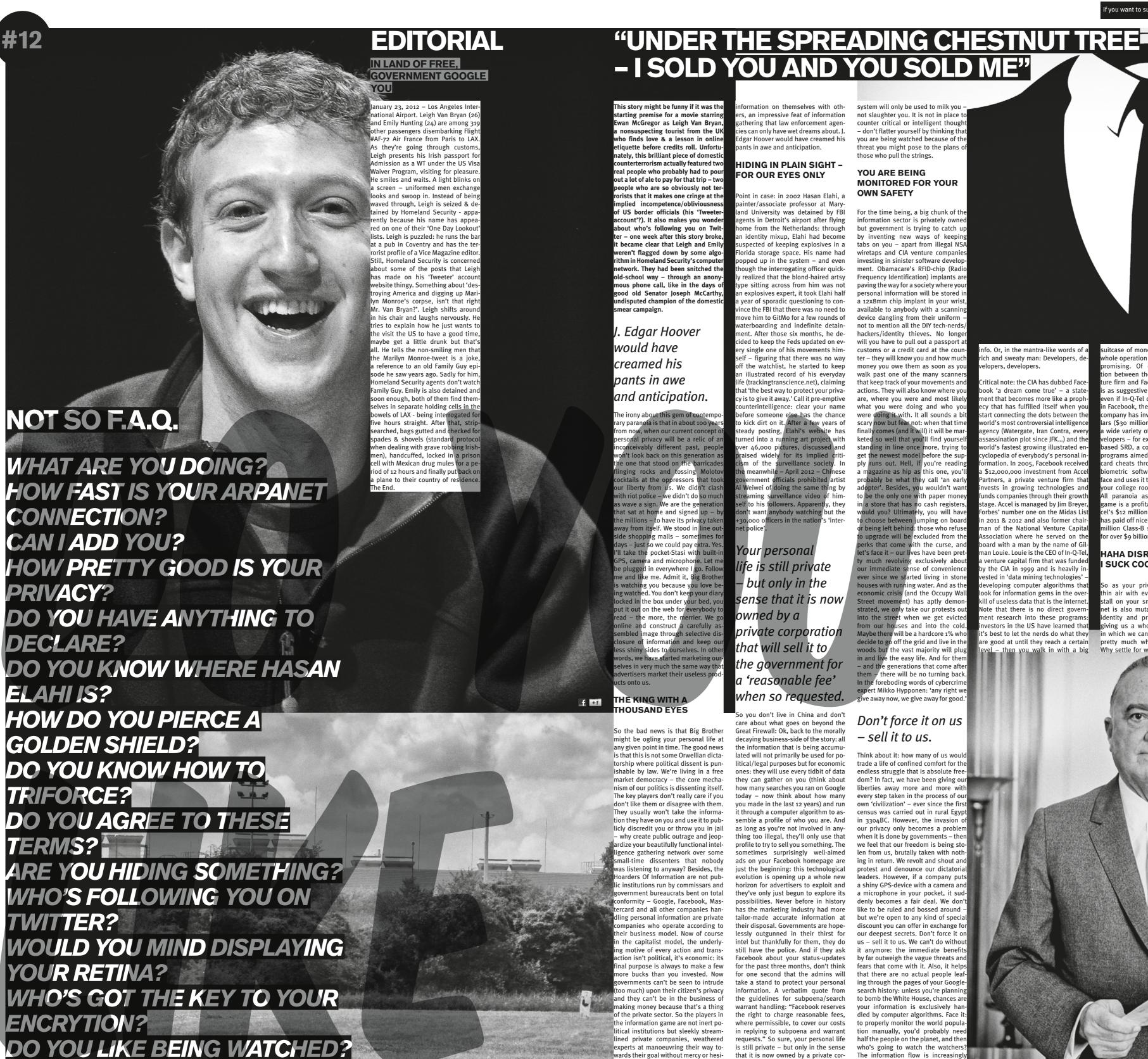


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This story might be funny if it was the information on themselves with othstarting premise for a movie starring ers, an impressive feat of information athering that law enforcement agen-

pants in awe and anticipation.

Point in case: in 2002 Hasan Elahi, a

wan McGregor as Leigh Van Bryan, nonsuspecting tourist from the Ul vho finds love & a lesson in online tiquette before credits roll. Unfortu ately, this brilliant piece of domesti real people who probably had to pour out a lot of ale to pay for that trip – tw eople who are so obviously not ter rorists that it makes one cringe at the of US border officials (his 'Tweeteraccount'?). It also makes vou wonde bout who's following you on Twiter - one week after this story broke, veren't flagged down by some algoithm in Homeland Security's compute etwork. They had been snitched the nous phone call, like in the days o good old Senator Joseph McCarthy, ndisputed champion of the domestic smear campaign.

J. Edgar Hoover would have creamed his pants in awe and anticipation.

bly different past, peop i't look back on this generation a s wave a sign. We are the generati ne and signed up - I de shopping malls - sometimes ys – just so we could pay extra. Ye pocket-Stasi with built-i PS, camera and microphone. Let m ne and like me. Admit it, Big Broth watching you because you love be g watched. You don't keep your dia cked in the box under your bed, you out it out on the web for everybody t read - the more, the merrier. We nline and construct a carefully as

THE KING WITH A HOUSAND EYES

ertisers market their useless pr

So the bad news is that Big Brother might be ogling your personal life at any given point in time. The good news is that this is not some Orwellian dictatorship where political dissent is punshable by law. We're living in a free market democracy - the core mechanism of our politics is dissenting itself. The key players don't really care if you don't like them or disagree with them. tion they have on you and use it to publicly discredit you or throw you in jail why create public outrage and jeoprdize your beautifully functional intelence gathering network over some vas listening to anyway? Besides, the parders Of Information are not pubng personal information are private panies who operate according to the capitalist model, the underlyng motive of every action and transion isn't political, it's economic: its no much) upon their citizen's privacy and they can't be in the business of litical institutions but sleekly streamtation. In fact, they are so good at their ob that Facebook has at this time managed to draw over 900,000,000 mem-

system will only be used to milk you cies can only have wet dreams about. J. Edgar Hoover would have creamed his

HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT -**YOU ARE BEING** FOR OUR EYES ONLY **MONITORED FOR YOUR**

OWN SAFETY

ainter/associate professor at Maryland University was detained by FBI For the time being, a big chunk of the agents in Detroit's airport after flying information sector is privately owned nome from the Netherlands: through but government is trying to catch u an identity mixup, Elahi had become by inventing new ways of keeping uspected of keeping explosives in a tabs on you - apart from illegal NS orida storage space. His name had wiretaps and CIA venture companie opped up in the system - and even investing in sinister software develor ment. Obamacare's RFID-chip (Radi nough the interrogating officer quicky realized that the blond-haired artsy Frequency Identification) implants are paving the way for a society where you n explosives expert, it took Elahi half personal information will be stored a year of sporadic questioning to cona 12x8mm chip implant in your wrist ince the FBI that there was no need to available to anybody with a scannii nove him to GitMo for a few rounds of device dangling from their uniform vaterboarding and indefinite detainhackers/identity thieves. No longe ent. After those six months, he decided to keep the Feds updated on evwill you have to pull out a passport a ery single one of his movements himcustoms or a credit card at the counself - figuring that there was no way off the watchlist, he started to keep illustrated record of his everyday walk past one of the many scanners fe (trackingtranscience.net), claiming that keep track of your movements and hat 'the best way to protect your privaactions. They will also know where you y is to give it away.' Call it pre-emptive are, where you were and most likely what you were doing and who you were doing it with. It all sounds a bi to kick dirt on it. After a few years of scary now but fear not; when that time steady posting, Elahi's website has finally comes (and it will) it will be mar keted so well that you'll find yoursel over 46,000 pictures, discussed and raised widely for its implied critiget the newest model before the sup be the only one with paper mone surveillance video of hima store that has no cash registers

> - and the generations that come after there will be no turning back

In the foreboding words of cybercrime

expert Mikko Hypponen: 'any right w

give away now, we give away for good

Don't force it on us

trade a life of confined comfort for the

liberties away more and more wit

in 3304BC. However, the invasion

tion manually, you'd probably need

that the ethics of information flow wi

increasingly reflect the ethics of tho

sell it to us.

Your personal life is still private - but only in the sense that it is now owned by a private corporation that will sell it to the government for

a 'reasonable fee'

when so requested.

't want anybody watching but the

ooo officers in the nation's 'inter-

care about what goes on beyond the Great Firewall: Ok, back to the morally decaying business-side of the story: all the information that is being accumulated will not primarily be used for political/legal purposes but for economic ones: they will use every tidbit of data they can gather on you (think about how many searches you ran on Google today - now think about how many you made in the last 12 years) and run it through a computer algorithm to assemble a profile of who you are. And as long as you're not involved in anything too illegal, they'll only use that profile to try to sell you something. The sometimes surprisingly well-aimed ads on your Facebook homepage are just the beginning: this technological evolution is opening up a whole new horizon for advertisers to exploit and they've only just begun to explore its has the marketing industry had more tailor-made accurate information at their disposal. Governments are hopeintel but thankfully for them, they do still have the police. And if they ask Facebook about your status-updates for the past three months, don't think information. A verbatim quote from the guidelines for subpoena/search where permissible, to cover our costs in replying to subpoena and warrant requests." So sure, your personal life is still private - but only in the sense that it is now owned by a private corporation that will sell it to the government for a 'reasonable fee' when so not slaughter you. It is not in place to counter critical or intelligent though - don't flatter yourself by thinking tha you are being watched because of the threat you might pose to the plans o those who pull the strings.

nfo. Or, in the mantra-like words of a rich and sweaty man: Developers, deritical note: the CIA has dubbed Face ook 'a dream come true' – a state nent that becomes more like a prophecy that has fulfilled itself when yo tart connecting the dots between the vorld's most controversial intelligenc agency (Watergate, Iran Contra, ever sassination plot since JFK...) and the ing in line once more, trying to vclopedia of everybody's personal in runs out. Hell, if vou're reading mation. In 2005. Facebook received gazine as hip as this one, you'l tage. Accel is managed by Jim Brever orbes' number one on the Midas Li erks that come with the curse, and board with a man by the name of Gi

let's face it - our lives have been pret man Louie. Louie is the CEO of In-Q-Tel, y much revolving exclusively about venture capital firm that was funded by the CIA in 1999 and is heavily in ever since we started living in stone ested in 'data mining technologies' houses with running water. And as the leveloping computer algorithms that economic crisis (and the Occupy Wal ook for information gems in the over strated, we only take our protests out into the street when we get evicted from our houses and into the cold. decide to go off the grid and live in the ve the easy life. And for them

kill of useless data that is the internet. Note that there is no direct govern ment research into these programs: investors in the US have learned that regiving us a whole new public arena many, the UK and the US. At the same are good at until they reach a certain pretty much whatever way we like. in a .zip format for everybody with ad-

uitcase of money and piggyback the hole operation when it starts to look on between the CIA's personal venure firm and Facebook's rise to glory lars (\$30 million annual budget) into wide variety of private software deard cheats through 'link analysis' el's \$12 million Facebook investmen has paid off nicely. The company's 190 nillion Class-B shares are now goo

HAHA DISREGARD THAT,

So as your privacy evaporates into

hin air with every new app you in net is also mutating the concepts of identity and privacy themselves by

could be so much more? Single? Go o girlfriendhire.com (seriously, do it) nd pick out a girl who you can pay 55/month to be your online girlfriend service description entails official 'X s now in a relationship with Y' status. omantic wall-posts and even private riends to generate feeling of jealousy, Back posted a status update saying Took all my pills be dead soon so bye iends managed to find out if she was luffing – she died in her apartment as such keep track of who had what for reakfast when – but it can be disissed whether or not that develop ent is bringing us closer together or ist making us more irritated with each ther. Maybe that's why the list of ountries that have reported incidents of live online suicides now includes not only Japan and China but also Australia, Norway, Sweden, Canada, Ger-

critics, Hoover tended to exaggerate the dangers of these alleged subversives and many times overstepped his bounds

ou can lock the door.

While the train is moving it is fine to

ave the door locked as long as other

me strange reason you will encoun

r certain people, typically fuzzyaired women of an older age, who

ill stand outside your toilet until you

so be aware of what is happening out

ide the toilet even when the door is

ocked. The age of the train will dictate

ill have some sort of small hole or

crack which you will be able to see out

Once you've set up camp in the toilet,

wait for the outside to be clear and

take some time to absorb the train's

layout. Ghosting trains is a game of

angles, so make note of available sur-

face reflections that will allow you to

Peer down the aisles and make sure

there are no agents in the vicinity, then

check for other nooks and crannies phone booths, sink stalls etc.) that

you can occupy in a pinch. Given the

ateral nature of train design, it can be difficult to avoid an incoming agent, so

one must always be aware of spaces to

duck into in order to remain invisib

Above all, always go with your gut. I you you've been spotted, walk the

other way, pop into another toilet, wait

a few minutes, flush it, then return t

your original stall, If you think they'r

on to you, get out at the next stop

There's always another train to cate

but if you get caught, you could be in

for a world of trouble, or at the very

least, the annoyance of having to pay

No need to worry about the passen-

gers, as the Japanese do not typically

involve themselves in other people's

business. But watch out for certain ru-

ral areas. For example, things can get

a bit hairy in the northern part of the

main island, and you will most likely

encounter swarms of drunken salary-

men who can cramp your style. They

urinate often and will sometimes even

take a piss in the sink, forcing you out

our fare.

of. This is your porthole.

see around corners.

SEARCH NO EVIL, FIND NO EVIL

WE GOOGLED AGAIN ended up being a hazardous journey for the second time. The impressive believed to be one of the company's biggest and most efficient on the Euro-pean continent and situated in Saintlain's aspiring Digital Innovation Valley. As expected, it turned out to be a well defended digital fortress, all missing a dragon infested moat. dly as the PR-statements claim us information giant as his prying finger wedged firmly p your dark privacy hole, stretching gradually into a gaping orifice, wide ore and abuse. Read it and weep. gital Innovation Valley is an indusial site in the south of Belgium, which also aives shelter to other technological enterprises such as Microsoft Corporation, IBM and Hewlett-Packard. Three years ago (POSTRmagazine #1: The Media Issue, 2009) we had failed a first time in penetrating the walls of Google's infamous data center – which at that time was still under construction. In the years before our arrival, a strong and secretive lobby had laid the groundwork for way to setting up one of Google's eleven main data centers. X marks the spot: the center would be built right in the middle of the Borinage, one of the nation's most rundown regions. Walloon politicians and Google representatives shaked hands on a 250 million euro investment involving 220 acres of impeccable indus- everything Google does needs to be trial territory in the proximity of water so highly secretive? Why is it that the and a personal power plant producing to 150 megawatt a year. We were intrigued by the project's impact on local society and the faded industrial glory of the impoverished area it was taking ace in. So we ventured out to see how fitted in. However, the kind people of oogle (yes, Mister Benoît Loriaux, we

know who you are) do not appreciate

or tolerate journalists of the snooping

kind. Our journey had only just begun and we already found ourselves run-

ning through fields, chased by Google Security. We decided to leave it at that

and drove off. Just across the street

we spotted a bizarre sports club

the shadow of the data center when

senior citizens were playing a weir

game that looked a lot like golf - w

ask them if they knew what was going

cided to check that out and maybe

behind the fences. While downing

rge glasses of rum to dampen the

rush of being chased around all morn-

ing, we learned that le crossage en

plein or crossage is also nicknamed 'le

golf du pauvre' as the game is roughly

similar to golf - except it leaves out all

of the fancy stuff, is more complicated

Our attempt to survey and uncover the dungeons of private information ended up being a hazardous journey and way more dangerous. Although we got diverted from the story we went out to find, the people here showed us the The Oracle posing for our camara wearing a purple, see-through, Pu shirt, holding his Medium at le Pic et Plat the societies that push them and their 'GOOGLE DOESN'T EXIST' So with the impending release of our Privacy issue, we felt like we had to go back to the valley of secrets and lot has changed since our last visit in 2009, not in the least Google's questionable privacy policy - attuned in this year by pretty much cor This made it possible for Google to everything it knows about anner – the size of a napkin. Although Google Inc. claims to have changed its policy mainly to simplify things after it became subject to a European investigation, it's core business still includes reading your email, taking pictures of your house and checking out and storing what you've been looking at online. Google has a 78% share of the search engine market, has approximately 350 million Gmail clients and it has gained dominion of about half of the global smartphone market. So logically it obtained almost half of the online marketing share too. On top of that, Google is subject to search orders from governments all over the world and asked for information on thousands of us ers at any given point in time. All of this should be enough to not believe in the good intentions of Google anymore. Because honestly, why is it that Belgian government was signing con tracts with obscure companies calle t make an appointement to visit the data e center but when we asked the recep-I visited the center but even then Zenzu or Crystal Computing - withou anyone else knowing that those were attending press photographers tionist about the data center she had absolutely no fucking clue what we see as. In our attempt to get the story. actually false names to hide Google were talking about. 'Could it be there's the 'professional' way, the politicians who no such thing then?!', we sarcastically we contacted remained very vague. At The greatest trick yelled at her, 'After Belgian media re- first we tried to set up a game of 'cros- nearby city of Mons will be the Europeently reported about your company's sage' with PS-politician Elio Di Rupo to the devil ever lans to build a whole new data center discuss the matter in a comfortable atnext to the existing one, for which your mosphere. The current Belgian Prime pulled, was company already bought the neigbour-ing terrain and obtained a planning would appreciate an afternoon session convincing the of connecting with his most local electorate. After all, the data center - and world he didn't After this misguided phonecall, we by extent the whole Digital Innovation decided to do the whole trip again us- Valley - was his showpiece and probexist. ing Google Street View, which was as ably contributed to the PM becoming useful as it was a vivid experience. who he his today. 'Could it be, Mr. Di Still, chasing Google's Street View Rupo, that in the near future, the wide



HOW TO DISAPPEAR COMPLETELY AND RIDE THE TRAIN FOR FREE.

rail transport system is the large inhabitable network on Earth. The To kvo metro alone carries some 15 bi lion passengers per year within its that's more than double the entire hu man species jamming itself into a train every morning and creating a univerof steel and flesh unto itself.

muter railways have attracted hack ers, phreakers, and all other brand of weirdo. The most generic of these is the scammer - those bold individuals who refuse to pony up train fare and game the system for free passage across the archipelago. Unlike hackers, the rail scammer does not belong to community. He commits his acts in psychological privacy, mostly for reasons of thrift, and sometimes to achieve the sensation of covert liberty that comes with shirking the rules of the game. Within the scammer cohort, the most curious subset is the "ghoster", a type of scammer-elite who ride the trains not because they're broke, but for abstract philosophical reasons that are impossible to artic

As it stands, there are currently only a few pieces of literature available in the English language on the subject of ghosting trains. All of which can be found on Internet message hoards ers who waste their breath arguing about the ethics of not paying fare. To date, the most comprehensive guide to ghosting was written by an anonymous Internet user known only as "FRITZCH". Thought to be a German male, his exact identity is unverified, and some have gone so far as to accuse him of being Belgian. In 2003, FRITZCH published a blog (now defunct) titled "Cheating JR" (Japan Railways). The blog contained just one post, in which FRITZCH provides a detailed guide to ghosting trains. FRITZCH was, by all standards, a master of ghosting and his comprehensive instructions provide an excellent intro

duction for anyone interested in th dark art. From his account, it is reasonable to assume that FRITZCH was some sort of neo-hobo who spent an ungodly amount of time hopping trains across Japan. He provides a cogent analysis of numerous lines and types of trains, as well as a brief guide to catching and cooking goldfish, which is disturbing

evade both the eyes of rail staff and

the sensors of the electronic perimeter

that surrounds all train stations. To be successful, one must first get through

the gates without disrupting the mech-

anisms built to register your presence,

and then avoid attracting the attention

of those JR staff members whose job it

is to pay attention.



execute

el anywhere in Japan, as the entire na-

a place to take a ficult because it has an extra gate sysbasics of ghosting, i.e., entering and tem that is guarded by supplementary piss, but a stowexiting ticket gates without purchasing gents who check your ticket personfare. The tricks necessary to accomaway cabin and a Apart from the various sleights of plish this are easy to pick up and typically involve the delayed insertion of a hand one can employ in order to sanctuary. dummy ticket or the side saddling of pass through the gates, the only skill necessary to be a ghost is the ability an honest passenger walking in front to not be seen. As long as no station agents or controllers become aware of Beyond entrance, the most important aspect of ghosting is the ability to your existence, one is free to travel far

After the train has left its port, wait a w minutes and unlock the door while maining inside. There are two reasons for this: the first is to not arouse and wide as much as he or she pleases. However, while this feat is easily the suspicion of overzealous agents, grasped, it can be rather difficult to and the second is that if and when a passenger opens the door, it will afford you to the opportunity to survey into the open. Once you're through, there will be one the situation on deck.

or two agents standing on the platform On a typical express train there will be Other than that, the toilet method is waiting for the train to arrive. It is best two toilets side by side. So if a passen-pretty simple. Using it, I was able to go to be aware of their position in relation ger opens the door, just act startled cross-country without spending a sinto the markers that indicate where the — and they'll be incredibly embarrassed — gle yen. Not the most comfortable or and will hurry off to the next stall. After stylish way to see the world, but certional rail system is completely inter- often provide a secure vantage point they've gone, look around. Are there tainly one of the most absorbing.



This time we were going to do things



and running away from security guards of the data center delivers the unde- Plat will be disowned to make room

might sound like a fun and adventur- niable proof that the center is up and for yet another hideous dungeon of

ous thing to do, but it's really not. running. Only few people other than Above all, it doesn't necessarily con-Google employees have ever entered we are afraid of for some time now and

tribute to an accurate story and that the data center and that seems to be something you would by no means al-

is, after all, what we were out there to get. So this time we called Google to months after our first attempt, King Alwere filled, countries were going bar





To be completed in 2015.