
Subject: Goodbye TechTV and Sony Clie
Posted by [spreegem](#) on Thu, 03 Jun 2004 21:14:42 GMT
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I got an E-Mail today and this is what the contents were. Please forward this to all of the people you know who used to watch TechTV

A Lamentation for TechTV

It's a fact of high-tech life: things move fast. Don't fall too much in love with anything, because it might not be here this time next year.

Like Sony's innovative Clié palmtops, which Sony announced this week that it will no longer sell in the U.S.

Or like TechTV, a cable station dedicated to technology lovers. For years, I've regularly TiVo'ed several of its shows < especially "The Screen Savers," "Call for Help" and "TechLive" < and then, by fast-forwarding, cherry-picked the best tips, tricks, news, trends and Web links. I learned something new every time.

Last Friday, TechTV as we know it disappeared. It was swallowed up by Comcast, the cable-TV giant, who has merged TechTV with its own G4 channel (all video games, all the time).

The new, combined channel, called G4TechTV, will include some of TechTV's shows in a new form. But several shows have been canceled, including "Call for Help" and "Tech Live," and the hosts of the remaining shows may be replaced.

The timing couldn't be worse. After struggling for years to get into the channel lineups of the nation's cable and satellite providers, TechTV was finally making some headway and building a following. (The Times wrote about "Call for Help" as recently as December, in a story about its live, 24-hour "Help-a-Thon.")

But for whatever reason, Microsoft co-founder and billionaire Paul Allen, whose Vulcan Programming company owned TechTV, put the channel up for sale. (Insert joke about Paul Allen needing the cash here.)

Comcast is trying to put a bright spin on things, proclaiming "G4techTV will be the one and only network that is plugged into every dimension of games, gear, gadgets & gigabytes."

But behind the press release, you'll find a lot of very unhappy people. For starters, there are the 285 TechTV staffers whose jobs are being eliminated.

Then there are "The Screen Savers" (TSS) fans, who already miss original host Leo Laporte since his departure a couple of months ago, and may soon see the departure of his co-host, Patrick Norton. (A G4TechTV spokesman says only that the new channel is "in negotiations with several TechTV hosts.")

One laid-off employee told me that in pursuit of the young male demographic, Comcast has an incentive to replace these veteran computer-industry personalities with 20-somethings.

If that's true, I worry that we won't be seeing any more of TSS's trademark interviews with brilliant-but over-30-industry pioneers like Jef Raskin, Robert Moog, Don Norman and Douglas Engelbart.

In fact, you have to wonder what interviews and cutting-edge demos they'll offer at all, since Comcast is moving what's left of TechTV from San Francisco (high-tech country) to L.A. (video-game country).

Then there's the new Web site, G4TechTV.com, which is a blinking, pulsing organizational disaster. Its chaos doesn't say much for the show's new guardians, although the G4TechTV spokesman reminded me that the two channels merged only last Friday, on a holiday weekend. He assured me that the Web site will constantly improve.

The real tragedy is that a merged gamer-PC channel might not be any more likely to succeed than two separate channels did; in fact, you might argue that the combined channel will disappoint both constituencies equally. As one disappointed fan wrote on G4's feedback board: "They think they can attract a larger, younger demographic by just putting on younger faces. These people, however, will not feel the pinch until the ratings plummet down the road. It happened where I worked before.

"These fools would let an aging Robin Williams go to bring in Carrot Top. We can only hope that these short-sighted morons realize the errors of their ways and bring back Leo Laporte before the ratings take a nose-dive to the point where they decide to cancel G4/TechTV altogether."

In fact, G4TechTV is indeed in negotiations with Mr. Laporte about an increased role at the new network. Meanwhile, G4TechTV exhorts viewers to give the new channel a try, send feedback at its Web site, and be patient; the merged network will "constantly improve" over the next 12 months.

That may be so-but in the short term, at least, I'll miss my old on-screen friends at TechTV.

Subject: Goodbye TechTV and Sony Clie

Posted by [DarkDemin](#) on Thu, 03 Jun 2004 22:19:55 GMT

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I hope G4"TechTV" is ruined I never watch it anymore because it is not worth the channel it is on. I watch PBS more than I watch G4"TechTV" and that is saying something. I rather see older people that know what they are talking about than this stupid ass kids that ruin shows with the exception of the guys on TSS especially The Darktipper.

Subject: Goodbye TechTV and Sony Clie

Posted by [Aircraftkiller](#) on Thu, 03 Jun 2004 22:24:44 GMT

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Forgive me for this.

IT'S JUST A FUCKING TELEVISION CHANNEL VERY FEW PEOPLE GIVE THAT MUCH OF A DAMN ABOUT IT WHY CAN'T YOU FIND SOMETHING BETTER TO HARP ABOUT THAN SOME TECH TV CLOSURE HOW ABOUT SPENDING THAT WASTED TIME ON SOMETHING LIKE IMPROVING YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD OR DOING WHAT YOUR PARENTS NEED YOU TO DO AROUND THE HOUSE?

Subject: Goodbye TechTV and Sony Clie

Posted by [spreegem](#) on Fri, 04 Jun 2004 01:27:32 GMT

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You know AK, you just wasted time by posting here. Also I only watch Tech TV while Excersizing to improve my self. alsoon the weekends when I have free time. I am quite able to and do get my chores done such as taking care of my pets, cleaning dishes, cooking, general cleanign around my house, mowing the lawn. taking care of the pool I have, helping fix up the basement so it can be my bedroom, and keeping my grades up, the lowest grade I got all year was B- because I didn't do half the homework in that class. So please do not say that we are all wasting our time watching Tech TV and not doing anything around our houses because I am, and I am sure that there are others that do as well. And don't say anything about me not doing anything to help my neighborhood either because I was in Boy Scouts for 4 years, from 4th - 8th grade, then I quit due to always having the same old campouts, and service projects year after year, but now they are changing it up so next year I will be rejoining. And if you would like proof I can show you pictures of me doing most of these things.

Subject: Goodbye TechTV and Sony Clie

Posted by [sniper12345](#) on Fri, 04 Jun 2004 08:01:52 GMT

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for once, Aircraftkiller becomes a hypocrite.

"You don't have to read it if you don't like it."

Subject: Goodbye TechTV and Sony Clie
Posted by [KIRBY098](#) on Fri, 04 Jun 2004 14:44:02 GMT
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AircraftkillerForgive me for this.

IT'S JUST A FUCKING TELEVISION CHANNEL VERY FEW PEOPLE GIVE THAT MUCH OF A DAMN ABOUT IT WHY CAN'T YOU FIND SOMETHING BETTER TO HARP ABOUT THAN SOME TECH TV CLOSURE HOW ABOUT SPENDING THAT WASTED TIME ON SOMETHING LIKE IMPROVING YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD OR DOING WHAT YOUR PARENTS NEED YOU TO DO AROUND THE HOUSE?

Or you could make a map for an abandoned, unsupported video game.

It's what he enjoys using his extra time for. It's no less pathetic than staying up until 4 in the morning making level maps.

Relax.

Subject: Goodbye TechTV and Sony Clie
Posted by [England](#) on Fri, 04 Jun 2004 19:01:09 GMT
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KIRBY098AircraftkillerForgive me for this.

IT'S JUST A FUCKING TELEVISION CHANNEL VERY FEW PEOPLE GIVE THAT MUCH OF A DAMN ABOUT IT WHY CAN'T YOU FIND SOMETHING BETTER TO HARP ABOUT THAN SOME TECH TV CLOSURE HOW ABOUT SPENDING THAT WASTED TIME ON SOMETHING LIKE IMPROVING YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD OR DOING WHAT YOUR PARENTS NEED YOU TO DO AROUND THE HOUSE?

Or you could make a map for an abandoned, unsupported video game.

It's what he enjoys using his extra time for. It's no less pathetic than staying up until 4 in the morning making level maps.

Relax.

Burn.

Subject: Goodbye TechTV and Sony Clie
Posted by [Aircraftkiller](#) on Fri, 04 Jun 2004 20:06:03 GMT
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sniper12345for once, Aircraftkiller becomes a hypocrite.

"You don't have to read it if you don't like it."

Did I say I didn't like it? Nope, I didn't. Notice I said "very few people care," and I happen to be one of the few who care enough to read and reply to this topic. Find somewhere else to troll, and do it with some semblance of intelligence... Thanks!

Quote:Or you could make a map for an abandoned, unsupported video game.

It's what he enjoys using his extra time for. It's no less pathetic than staying up until 4 in the morning making level maps.

Relax.

Is that supposed to be insulting? Or what? I don't get it, I'm not feeling any malicious intent there... Care to find something that might upset me?

Just so you know, I wasn't tense. Using capital letters in oversized text doesn't necessarily mean that I'm flustered behind the monitor.

Subject: Goodbye TechTV and Sony Clie
Posted by [SuperFlyingEngi](#) on Sat, 05 Jun 2004 01:37:50 GMT
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AircraftkillerJust so you know, I wasn't tense. Using capital letters in oversized text doesn't necessarily mean that I'm flustered behind the monitor.

That post you made did convey the general jist of you being mad at everyone, what with you first apologizing for your harsh behavior, then typing really big in combination with bold and obscenities. It would have been much more apparent that you were at the time not mad if you had posted in L33TSP3@k, but you didn't.

I wouldn't think it be terribly inappropriate to offer the advice, "relax," after that little rant.

Subject: Goodbye TechTV and Sony Clie
Posted by [Aircraftkiller](#) on Sat, 05 Jun 2004 01:53:55 GMT
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It would be totally appropriate if I were actually mad or somewhat annoyed with anything in this thread... Except I'm not.

Subject: Goodbye TechTV and Sony Clie
Posted by [\[A-I\]NastyDead](#) on Sat, 05 Jun 2004 03:09:47 GMT

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TechTV was nerdy and homo, G4 is game geekish and stupid all the TV shows suck on it. Im much rather watch Beavis and Butt-Head, and The Man Show re-runs.

Subject: Goodbye TechTV and Sony Clie
Posted by [cowmisfit](#) on Sat, 05 Jun 2004 13:35:10 GMT
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Yes it does suck that TechTV is dead, but who cares?? its just a tv channle, there are millions of them flip to another one and start watching Don't get me wrong, i wish it wouldn't have either but no need in dwelling over it with those things in yoru sigs and such, because no one gives to shits what a few kids like you have to say, it will not bring it back, so forget about it.

I have comcast high speed cable internet, and comcast didgital cable lol.
