

Decisions Monthly

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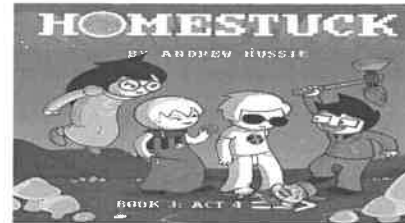
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HOMESTUCK 10th ANNIVERSARY

By: Sarah and Shannon



WHAT IS HOMESTUCK: A webcomic is essentially a digitalized comic book. Usually, they have their own dedicated website where you can read it on. Homestuck is, at its core, a webcomic where four friends come together to play a video game. Despite how simple the plot may sound, as you delve deeper into the story it gets more and more complicated. During the course of the comic more characters are introduced, including a species of aliens called "Trolls" that are humanoid, but have gray skin, orange horns, and a variety of different blood colors that serve as a caste system.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT: Homestuck was a big thing in 2012 and 2013. It was very prevalent in all forms of popular media. One of the reasons it became so big was because of how much it used the internet medium to its advantage and how unique it was. The characters primarily communicate through chat logs, and each character has their own unique way of typing. The 10 year anniversary, on April 13th, shows how timeless a book can be, and even a webcomic. There was a time in the 2012 where the creator, Andrew Hussie, uploaded a flash animation to the website, and hosted it on Newgrounds.com. However, due to the massiveness of the fanbase, there was so much traffic on Newgrounds that it crashed. Hussie had even uploaded it to different file sharing to try and prevent this, but those websites crashed, too. Fans who had managed to load the page tried to stream it through livestream.com, but that subsequently crashed livestream.com too. This was one of the biggest moments Homestuck has had, and affected more than just its own website. Despite the fanbase slowing down since then, it's had a large part in the internet's history and many of the old fans will be coming together for its tenth anniversary.

SARAH: My favorite character is Cronus Ampora. He's kinda awful at talking. His Bs are 8 and he puts Vs with his Ws. **"to be honest, she might be right. sometimes i think i might only be saying im a human to get attention. maybe i should givwe it up."** He is definitely not my all time favorite, but he's neat.



SHANNON: My favorite character is Karkat Vantas. He's always really angry and types in all caps LIKE THIS AND HAS A VERY EXTENSIVE VOCABULARY. He also has a soft spot for rom-coms. Karkat actually has a mutated blood color and because of that he is considered to be at the bottom of the caste system.



Miami, FL

By: Brandon DeHaven



Miami is a great place to visit for vacation. In Miami, there are many, many different activities you can do with your family or friends. Some main attractions are, water skiing, wave riding, surfing, tanning/salons, hiking, fishing, and canoeing. Miami's climate is the perfect weather, it's beautiful, hot, sunny, warm, and sometimes windy. Miami never drops below 75 degrees. You might also get a chance to meet a famous celebrity who lives in Miami. LeBron James, Jennifer Lopez, Shaquille O'Neal, Dwayne Wade and several more live in Miami.

A nonstop flight from Philadelphia to Miami cost \$201 when you fly SouthWest. That may sound cheap, but to vacation in Miami, you will run out of money. Everything from dinner to clothes will cost you double than what you are used to paying. Miami is fun, and exciting to see, I hope everyone can make it there one day.



Destin, FL

By: Kristen Bainbridge

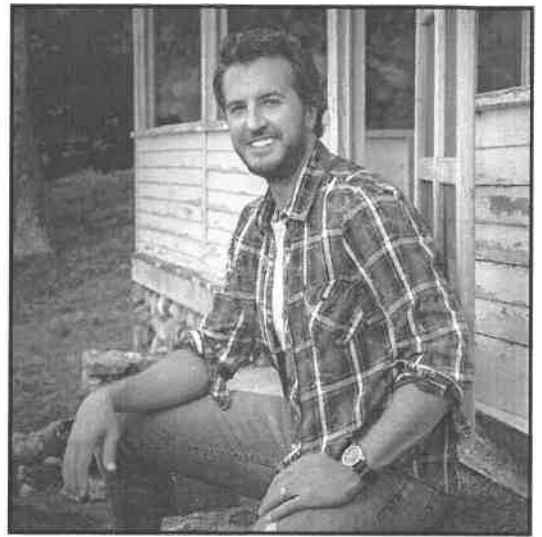


Destin, Florida is a beautiful place. They have several fun things to do. Some examples are like going to the beach and watching the clear water, shopping on the boardwalk, zip lining, snorkeling, watching dolphins, watching fireworks, and even going on sunset cruises! A good hotel in Destin is the Hampton Inn which is around \$170 a night or you could stay at Wingate by Wyndham which is about \$110 a night. They are both very nice five star rated hotels. If you want to fly to Destin, Florida a round trip is \$305 which would take about four and a half hours from Harrisburg to Destin flying on American Airlines.

COUNTRY MUSIC

LUKE BRYAN

By: Tiffany Hausman



I choose Luke Bryan because he is my favorite country singer. I grew up listening to him, I started listening to him when his first album came out. Listening to his songs reminds me when I went to Louisiana for vacation. On the way to Louisiana my step dad played Luke Bryan on a loop.

At the time, I hated country music. When my step dad played Luke Bryan, I fell in love with his music. After that trip, I started listening to more and more country music. I got into other country artist. I have other favorite country artists of course, but he is the reason I started listening to country. The very first song i listened to from luke was *That's my kind of night*. Then from their every album he came out with i listened to. I know pretty much every song he has out.

Luke is now 42 years old. Luke Bryan has two kids. Luke's wife's name is Caroline Boyer. He's a big Georgia Bulldogs fan, even though he went to Georgia Southern. Luke's dad works on a peanut farm in Leesburg, Georgia. His full name is Thomas Luther Bryan. Fun fact is that Luke has his wife's name tattooed on his butt. He also has her initial tattooed under his wedding ring, which I find cute. His son's names are Thomas Boyer Bryan and Tatum Christopher Bryan they are eleven and eight years old. Bryan's career in music began around 2005, when he initially started out by writing songs for Billy Currington and Travis Tritt. Luke Bryan discovered music at the age of 14 years old, after his parents bought him a guitar. Luke Bryan was the only country singer that made Billboard's new faces to watch in 2007.



ALAN JACKSON

By: Angel Figueroa

- He was born in October 17, 1958
- He is 60 years old and about to be 61 soon
- Some of his favorite songs are:
"Remember When"
"Where Were You" (When The World Stopped Turning)

Angry Amphibians

By: Jacob Holcomb



A frog's and toad's role in the ecosystem is mainly prey for birds and predator to small bugs. They are a part of the amphibian animal order, which is an animal that starts life in the water then receives the ability to live on land. The bottleneck being, they have to live near a body of water at all times.

One variant of frog is the poison dart frog: in my opinion the worst way to use poison. Their poison only works when they are touched. And because most of their predators are much larger than they are, the only reason they would be touched is because they are going to be eaten! So they heavily rely on their bright colors to say "I'm dangerous; stay away!" So even if they use their poison and kill a predator they will most likely be killed in the process.

The largest species of toad is the cane toad, the average being about 24 cm and the largest ever recorded being less than a foot long and weighing about 3 pounds. A cane toad's diet mainly consists of rats. Cane toads are native to Central and South America.



LANDSCAPING

By: Brent Hunter



Landscaping is a job where people trim bushes and trees. They also plant flowers and pull weeds. It mostly happens in the summer and around that time of the year because that is when everything starts growing. It's a lot of work, but at the end it's really good. A lot of times if you clean up a lot of that stuff and after that you should plant flowers and other things to make it even better. Then after you are done with all of the work the best thing to do is to get a chair and sit back and look at all of things you did. For example, I do landscaping on my property all the time. Mowing the lawn is part of landscaping because you are fixing up.

A day of a life of a landscaper. When you are a landscaper you have to edge things which is were you get a kind of shovel and you edge flower beds and all of that. You have to trim and you have to pick weeds. When you trim things, you are basically cutting off the dead parts of the plant. You also have to mow the grass and weed wack. You also can mulch it then after you are done, you plant new plants in the ground. If you are a crew man which you would most likely be. You would get \$12.07 per hour, or \$25,110 per year.

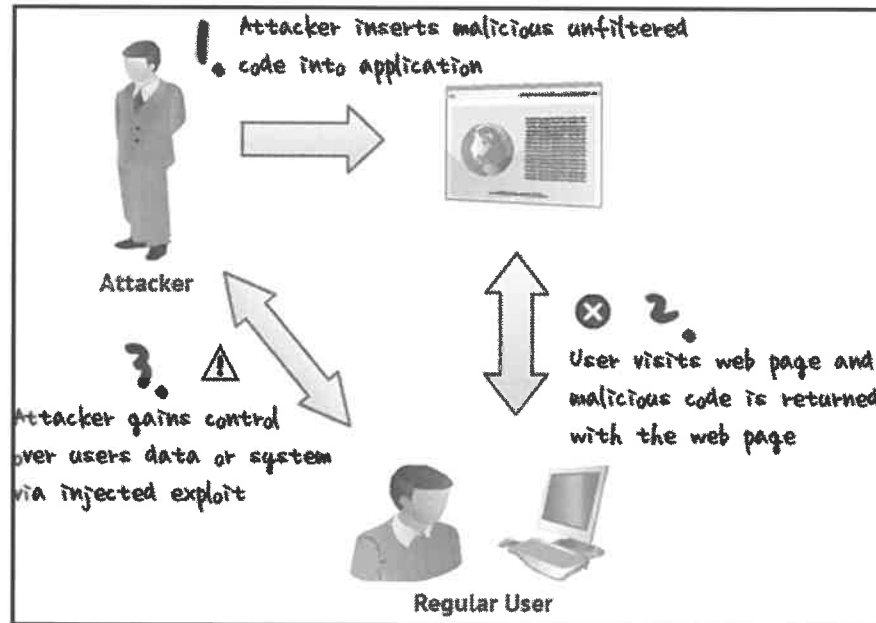
These are pictures of very good landscaping jobs:



Hacking

By Zach Woods

Hollywood movies have ruined most people's expectations of hacking. When you imagine hacking, what do you envision? Some matrix style green text? A dude typing really fast mumbling? In reality, it's actually quite dull. To show how, let's learn about a basic way of hacking a website, XSS (Cross Site Scripting).



XSS is an exploit in HTML, which is a phrase you might have heard before. HTML isn't actually a programming language, like most people think. It might help to think of it as a bunch of blocks (like the kind you played with in preschool) that you stack up to make a webpage. These blocks (or tags), do a variety of things. For example, if you write "` Example `" in the source code of a webpage, it will appear as "**Example**". That's because these tags don't get shown to the user, and are purely used to decide what goes where and how it looks...

Except... I lied. There's a few special tags, including the one we care about. This tag is `<script> </script>`. This tag is special. It does not deal with formatting. Instead, anything typed inside a script tag is programming code, that will be run. This is how programmers make everything complicated work.

Now, script on it's own is not malicious if it's in the source code of a webpage. The danger comes when you can get outside code into the webpage somehow. And that's where the exploit is. In HTML text inputs, if you have something that shows what the user typed in. For example, if you enter "x" into a username box, and it says "x" is not an acceptable username. However, let's say that in that hypothetical username box I put ` x `. What would happen? Well, if the site is badly designed, it will simply take whatever the user typed in and show it back. This is a MAJOR problem because the browser will see that b tag, and treat it as instructions and the output you get will be "x is not an acceptable username." See where this is going? What happens if I put in `<script>` instead of ``? Well, the browser will check what was typed in and output it to the screen, then the browser will see that there's a script tag and think "I need to run this code."

With this, a hacker can do just about anything, so how do we prevent it? Well, instead of directly outputting the username to the screen when an incorrect name is typed, what MUST be done, is "escape strings". What this means, is that the browser will take what you typed in and scan for those tags, and if it finds them, will do complicated code stuff to it to make sure that the browser treats that `<` as a `<`, and not as the start of a tag.

