

The Luddite Lounge

Episode 9 Transcript, 11/18/15

www.ludditelounge.com/episode9

You're listening to The Luddite Lounge where we're serving up news, views and how-tos for the digital world we've all come to depend on—whether we like it or not!

This is Episode 9 of the Lounge, and another Five Five Tech edition, where I discuss 5 items in 5 minutes. You can find show notes with related links at ludditelounge.com/episode9.

Let's go!

Number 1: It's been a few weeks since the last show as I've been focused on putting together some more content for the Streaming Media Players section on T4L. There's now a PDF version of the player comparison chart that you can sign up to receive by email and some video demos for the Amazon Fire TV. I'll be doing more of these demos for the other players and, even more exciting, I will be doing some live demos where you can ask me questions about them! To keep up to date with all these happenings, go to techforluddites.com/streaming.

Number 2: Some Google stuff.

First, our efforts to bring back Classic Google Maps earlier this year may not have fully succeeded, but they have made a couple of changes recently that are reminiscent of the older version. For example, the left-hand box has been somewhat redesigned and, even more important, it's now collapsible by clicking the arrow at the top right of the box. Also, if you hover over the zoom buttons at the bottom right of the screen, it gives you an option to display the full zoom slider again. Yay!

Second, Google Play Music is going to be adding podcasts to the service in the (perhaps) near future. Actually, details are pretty slim right now but The Luddite Lounge has been accepted into their library so that will be another way to listen to it if you're already a Play fan. Don't worry – I'll definitely let you know when it's live!

And third, filed under "Oh, fer crying out loud," the company is working on another revamp of Google Plus, the social media platform I never really got. So that's all I'm going to say about that for now, but you can find a link to more info in the show notes.

Number 3: A quick tech tip for Facebook. This year they've made a big push for video and they are giving newsfeed priority to videos uploaded natively to Facebook vs. linked from YouTube or other sources, so a lot of brand pages are posting them that way now. But it's not really clear how you can share them outside of Facebook. So when you see one in your newsfeed, at the top where it says "So-and-so shared Such-and-such's video," click on the word "video" and you'll be taken to that video's page so you can copy the URL to send to someone by email or to share on Twitter or anywhere else you can

post a link. And because all brand page links are public, even people who aren't on Facebook will be able to watch them.

Number 4: Speaking of email, if you upgraded your computer to Windows 10, one of the things people complained about (including me) was that the default Mail app forced you to use conversation view, also known as threaded messages, even if you preferred unthreaded ones. Well, in one of the recent software updates, they have added back that capability under Settings > Options. So now you have the choice, which is always the best option. Yay!

And finally...

Number 5: Full disclosure: This is actually an Untech item, but it's so great I couldn't resist posting it. If you have kids who are Lego fans (and are there any kids who AREN'T Lego fans?) then you know the very real pain of discovering one of the bricks right under your foot. Well, Lego has now come out with special Lego slippers with a padded sole to save YOUR soles! Unfortunately, they're not available for the general public as they've only produced 1,500 pairs of them and the only way to get a pair is to enter a wishlist on the Lego France website. But I'm going to go out on a limb and make a prediction that with the publicity I'm seeing around this genius idea, it won't be long before the company realizes they have a real moneymaker on their hands here and they reconsider that decision.

And that's it for this episode of Five Five Tech. Again, you can find the show notes at ludditelounge.com/episode9.

Thanks for listening! Until next time...