

The Luddite Lounge

Episode 0 Transcript, 09/09/15

www.techforluddites.com/lounge/episode0

This is episode 0 of 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!

Hey there glad you can join me today in The Luddite Lounge. I'm Elizabeth Kricfalusi, publisher of the Tech for Luddites blog and Chief Luddite. We're pretty casual around here so go ahead take your shoes off, pour yourself a drink, close your eyes even. Well, unless you're listening to this while driving, in which case please don't do any of those things. This is Episode Zero of the show which means it's the episode where I'm supposed to tell you how the show is going to work. And I totally would—if I had any idea.

Here's the thing: I'm not much of a podcast person myself. In fact I don't think I'd ever actually listened to one all the way through before I started doing research for this show. And of course then I did listen to a ton of them. But for pretty much all of them I got about three minutes in before my mind just started wondering elsewhere.

This is not at all a reflection of the quality of the shows I was listening to. I've just never really been able to enjoy listening to people talk on the radio. And I know I'm an outlier in that regard and not just because the market research says so. Back in Canada where I grew up, a lot of my friends were huge CBC Radio fans whereas, for me, radio was all about the music.

When I moved to California so many people went on and on about NPR's the Car Show with Click and Clack (I think that's what they called themselves_ and everybody was like, "Oh it's so hilarious, you have to listen to it." So I did. And sure enough, right about the three minute mark I was going, "This? This is what everybody loves?" But hey you know what... I also don't drink coffee and I think The Sopranos was the most overrated television show of all time. So yeah... This isn't the only way I'm weird.

But I figured just because I don't like listening to podcasts doesn't mean I can't put a good one together for other people to enjoy. I'll tell you one thing, nobody has ever accused me of having nothing to say! With that in mind, what do I have planned for The Luddite Lounge? Well, do the words "trial and error" mean anything to you? At least for the first several episodes I'll be trying different things to see what works and, well, just as important, what doesn't.

My initial goal is to try and put together one longer show each week. But by longer I'm not talking about those shows that are like an hour or two long. I listened to a bunch of those during my research phase as well but inevitably I would get to a point where I was like, "Are they still talking?!" I don't want anybody to be asking that question here.

By longer I'm thinking somewhere between twenty and thirty minutes. During that time I'll look at current tech news stories—those that are related to topics I write about a lot on T4L and those that aren't. You know, if I think it's going to be interesting to my listeners. I do hope to include guest hosts for some shows as well as find some interesting folks to interview. And I'd like to include at least one tech tip per episode.

I'd also *really* like to include my readers'/listeners' voices on the show. I've actually set up a page on the website where you can record a message to me. It could be a question, a tip, feedback about the show, feedback about the blog, or pretty much anything you want really. Just head over to ludditelounge.com, you'll see a link to where you can leave the message and—who knows?—maybe you'll even hear yourself on the show in the not too distant future.

Then in between these longer episodes I'm going to try and put together a couple of really short segments. One of which I am calling Five Five Tech, meaning I'll be covering five topics in five minutes. This could be a good way to share interesting tech tidbits I pick up while going about my daily business and then you can find more links to the information in the show notes afterwards. And to test it out, I'm going to do my first Five Five Tech segment right now. I've got my five topics... here goes.

Number one, movies at Netflix. There's now an extension for the Chrome browser called Showgoers and what it does is, it lets two or more people watch the same movie in-sync from different locations. You both have to be signed in to Netflix, you both need the Chrome extension and then you'll see there's a little icon of 3D glasses in the top right. When you click that, a little thing comes up saying, "Start a sync session." They'll give you a link, you can email it to the person you want to watch the movie with, and then you click "Begin Sync" and that's all there is to it.

It will have a little window where you can send text messages to each other to make snarky comments or swoon over George Clooney or whatever it is you like to do when you're watching a movie together. I haven't tried it out myself yet but you can go to The Luddite Lounge and find a link to learn more about it.

Number two, Instagram. I've written before about how I don't really get this app but they've really been going big-time over the last couple of weeks with some new upgrades. One of the big ones and one of the ones I actually complained about when I did write about it is that you don't just have to use square images anymore. Now if you already have images on your phone or your computer that you're uploading, you can do them if they're portrait or landscape and they won't crop them and you don't have to have those stupid black bars on either side. That's cool, I think that's a really good idea.

Another upgrade that they've made is that you can now actually share other people's images. It only lets you share it via direct message and when you send a direct message you're limited to 15 people you can send it to. You need version 7.5 or higher of Instagram and you will see a little arrow icon now beside the Comment and Like icons. It will still maintain the privacy settings that the owner of the picture has attached to it. If they have made it private that it can't be seen by certain people then that's going to stay true even when you share it.

Number three, a big new story this past week that came out is if you use a baby monitor and it is connected to the Internet—for example you can watch what your kiddos are doing when you're at work—they are really vulnerable to hacking attacks. This security company spent a year looking at the nine top models of Internet-connected baby monitors and after giving them a grade, eight of them came away with an F and one came away with a D in terms of overall security. Definitely head over to the show notes, click the link and check out to see if your monitor is one of the ones you have to worry about and learn more about the whole situation. Kind of scary and creepy unfortunately.

Number four. Speaking of babies, we'll talk about something a little nicer which is congratulations to Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer. She announced in the last week or so that she will be giving birth to twin girls due in December. She already has a young son. Now there's a lot of talk and chatter over the Interwebs about the maternity leave she's taking because she said she's only going to take a couple of weeks and, of course, people have to feel the need to weigh in on that.

I am not one of those people. Any woman who's at that level and she is running a multi-billion dollar company and she's having a family, I've got to support whatever choices she's making and hey... Two new babies in the world in December, never a bad thing. So congratulations to Marissa and the rest of her family on this great news.

Number five in today's Five Five Tech segment. We all know that the next big Star Wars movie, Star Wars: A Force Awakens is opening on December 18th. And so between now and then you are going to be flooded with all sorts of stories especially about related merchandise. The number of things I've just seen in the past week online from a BB-8 Droid toy that's \$150... I'm not going to be buying that. There's a drone that looks like the Millennium Falcon that's actually pretty cool to me.

I'm not going to talk about the toys and the money making hoopla. Instead I saw something really cool this week. Now apparently for a while now there's been a real thing, which was the Shakespeare Star Wars parodies. I forgot to write the author's name down here so I don't remember the name of the author but I'll put that in the show notes. What they've done is they've put together an actually sonnet generator.

You go to this website, they ask you four different questions. Number one, what would you like to title your sonnet? Number two, original trilogy or prequel trilogy? Number three it says, would you rather rhyme the word heart with the word art or the word part? Number four, what's your preferred romantic destination, Tatooine or Naboo? After you've answered those four questions you will get your own personalized sonnet and if you want to see the one that I've put together, r guess where you're going to go and find that? You got it... the show notes.

That's the end of today's Five Five Tech. You can find related links to all of these stories in the show notes at ludditelounge.com for Episode Zero.

And I guess that's it then for Episode Zero. Despite the lack of clarity—or maybe because of it—I'm really very excited to be launching The Lounge. Smiley face!

And we will see you at the next show or you will hear me I guess.

PS: Today's tech tip because I said I want to include one in every show. Today's tech tip, you can follow The Luddite Lounge on Twitter at, you guessed it twitter.com/ludditelounge. And PPS: I think I'm also supposed to ask you all to subscribe to and rate and review the show. So please subscribe to and rate and review The Luddite Lounge. Thanks a lot! Until next time.