



COMPETITIVE GAMING. Two models in game costume pose for fans before the 2016 Coca-Cola League of Legend Summer Final match between the Rox Tigers and KT Rolster at Jamsil gymnasium in Seoul, South Korea. South Korea started the e-sports industry in the early 2000s, and it continues to be a world leader in competitive gaming. There are not only professional video game players, but also broadcasting channels and professional leagues for different kinds of games. South Koreans can easily watch professional gamers playing on both television and the internet. (AP Photo/Jungho Choi)

In South Korea, the crowd goes wild for competitive gaming

By Jungho Choi
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea started the e-sports industry in the early 2000s, and it continues to be a world leader in competitive gaming. There are not only professional video game players, but also broadcasting channels and professional leagues for different kinds of games. South Koreans can easily watch professional gamers playing on both television and the internet.

According to the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism, e-sports was a \$410 million industry in South Korea last year. The country of 50 million has more than 18,000 PC cafés, filled with gamers trying to perfect their skills. Lists of the world's top players in popular games such as League of Legends and Starcraft are filled with South Korean names.

There were two final matches of League of Legends and Starcraft 2 professional leagues in recent weeks. Rox Tigers, a six-member team of players in their late teens and early 20s, won the 2016 Coca-Cola League of Legends Summer League with a victory over KT Rolster. Young players shed tears for their hard work and practice after becoming champions.

For StarCraft, a team named Jin Air Green Wings became the champion, with KT Rolster again finishing second. More than 5,000 fans watched the best plays of professional gamers each day.

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6					8	
	5	4	6	3		
7		1	3			9
	8	7	1		6	
2	3			5		4
	5	2	4		9	
4		6	8			5
		7	3	5	8	
	2					3

Difficulty level: Easy #68546

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that the digits 1 through 9 appear one time each in every row, column, and 3x3 box.

Solution to last issue's puzzle

Puzzle #59283 (Hard)

All solutions available at <www.sudoku.com>.

1	3	5	4	9	6	8	2	7
9	8	4	7	5	2	1	3	6
7	2	6	1	8	3	9	5	4
4	6	3	8	1	5	2	7	9
8	5	1	9	2	7	4	6	3
2	7	9	6	3	4	5	1	8
3	9	8	5	7	1	6	4	2
6	1	7	2	4	8	3	9	5
5	4	2	3	6	9	7	8	1

No longer invite only, "robo-cars" offered to Singaporeans

By Annabelle Liang
The Associated Press

SINGAPORE — Autonomous vehicle software startup nuTonomy has made rides on its self-driving taxis available to the general public in Singapore for free, expanding a first-in-the world run that was initially invitation only.

While multiple companies, including Google and Volvo, have been testing self-driving cars on public roads for several years, nuTonomy announced in August it was the first to offer autonomous taxi rides. It beat Uber, which started offering rides in autonomous cars in Pittsburgh in mid-September.

The Singapore trial was limited to a 2.5-square-mile business and residential district called "one north." NuTonomy CEO Karl Iagnemma said the test area has since been doubled by the government. The approved route does not include any highways.

NuTonomy, a spinoff from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, announced the public can now book self-driving taxis through an app by Grab, the biggest ride-hailing company in Southeast Asia. The companies announced a year-long partnership.

To book a ride, passengers have to select the 'robo-car' option on Grab's app, which has been downloaded more than 20 million times. Passengers must be older than 18, book in advance, and sign a liability waiver.



ROBO RIDES. A driver leaves his hands off the steering wheel of an autonomous vehicle during a test drive in Singapore. Autonomous vehicle software startup nuTonomy has made rides on its self-driving taxis available to the general public in Singapore for free, expanding a first-in-the-world run that was initially invitation only. (AP Photo/Yong Teck Lim, File)

Rides will be free for at least two months.

"We will be combining nuTonomy's self-driving car software with Grab's app, with their proven fleet routing technology and their mapping capabilities," said Iagnemma.

The cars — modified Renault Zoe and Mitsubishi i-MiEV electrics — have a safety driver in front who is prepared to take the wheel and a researcher in back who watches the car's computers.

If a pick-up or drop-off point is out of approved testing perimeters, the driver will take over for the rest of the

journey, Iagnemma said.

"It's an evolution to identify where are the easy parts, where are the trickier parts, where we need to spend more time," he said.

Iagnemma would not say how many rides nuTonomy provided in the trial period but said thousands signed up for the invited trial within the first 48 hours. The company said there have been no problems.

The company expects its six-car fleet to grow to a dozen by the end of the year. It plans to make its Singapore taxi fleet fully self-driving by 2018.

Once, kids played like their lives depended on it. If only kids still did.

Chunky. Hefty. Big-boned. For parents of overweight children, it's all too easy to minimize reality. But the consequences of a heavy childhood may actually result in a generation of children with shorter life spans than their parents.

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Japan naming 88 manga, animation landmarks to boost tourism

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manga-related products for sale.

The government's Japan Tourism Agency has begun to study not only the numbers of tourists coming to Japan, but what compelled their visits. The agency's survey of French and Thai people found that, although the two groups varied on what they hoped to do, they both said they became interested in Japan through movies and other entertainment content.

"But we are still not taking full advantage of such resources," said agency commissioner Akihiko Tamura. "A lot of work still needs to be done."

AP videographer Koji Ueda contributed to this report.

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