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Chinese clinic treats teen internet addicts with hypnosis, shock therapy

by **Evan Blass**, posted Feb 23rd 2007 at 1:02PM



Normally we don't really like covering this whole theory of "internet addiction," mainly because it makes us nervous about the 12+ hours we spend online each and every day, but a recent look by the Washington Post at one of those clinics for PC-lovin' teens is interesting enough to

warrant a mention. As we've seen before, China -- never one of the more progressive countries when it comes to encouraging online participation -- has followed several other East Asian countries in attempting to diagnose and cure **netizens** and **gamers** of their "unhealthy" dependence on computers, but what we didn't know were some of the rather extreme methods used to achieve this. According to the Post, one clinic in the Beijing suburb of Daxing keeps some of its 12 to 17-year-old patients locked in rooms with barred windows for most of the day, treating them with a combination of counseling, medication, and military-style discipline. While some residents clearly have no need for such a facility -- one young man who only surfed four to five hours a week said he came to Daxing to "get away from my parents" -- there do seem to be more **hardcore cases** of lonely individuals spending all their free time online at the expense of their careers and social lives. At the Daxing clinic, these troubled teens whose "souls are gone to the online world" are housed together on the third floor of the building, where they are subjected to hypnosis and even mild shock therapy in an attempt to rid them of their love of surfing. It's not really clear from the article what the success rate is for veterans of the clinic, but we imagine many of them find the conditions so distasteful that they swear off technology altogether simply for fear of being sent back. As for you, since no one will be sending *you* to internet rehab anytime soon, just continue reading all of the posts on this page while occasionally glancing over at

and clicking on the bright, colorful ads.

[Via **Smart Mobs**]

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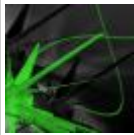
CharlieX @ Feb 23 

2007 1:11PM 

holy sweet medical n...
why don't they send these
kids to a real surf camp,

or a skate park, or go
build houses for the
poor... get some sunshine
and exercise for the love
of humanity. Follow up
with a workshop about
talking to girls. Problem
solved.

Reply



Highest Ranked
Speeddemon2006 +

Feb 23rd 2007 1:14PM

what bright colorful ads?
oh thats right i use firefox
with adblock plus. i
havent seen an ad since i
dont know, forever.

Reply



Neutral
Andrew Lazetera + ov

10th 2008 3:31PM

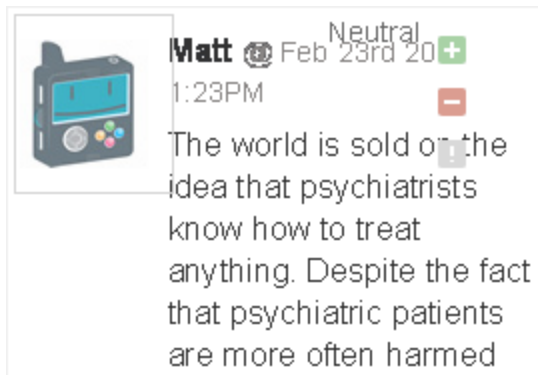
Yeah, after the 1st time I
read "Disclaimer,
AOL/TimeWarner is a
parent company of
Engadget" I took Engadget
out of my allow list for
adblock. None of my
bandwidth will go to finance
AOheLL




Neutral
Matt Feb 23rd 20 +


1:23PM

The world is sold on the
idea that psychiatrists
know how to treat
anything. Despite the fact
that psychiatric patients
are more often harmed






Veritas II @ Feb 23rd 2007 1:26PM
Neutral
^-- Wow, Engadget has managed to ally itself with




Matt B @ Feb 23rd 2007 1:27PM
Highly Ranked
These kids are prime candidates for careers that have them sitting in front of a computer all day. Don't brainwash them into thinking computers are bad. Spin it in a way that can be productive.

Reply



Electromodo @ Feb 23rd 2007 1:41PM
Highest Ranked
Kudos for the picture! :)))
I wish my dad did the same thing to me... its too late now...

Reply



Brian @ Feb 23rd 2007 2:14PM
Highest Ranked
back in my day, we had to walk 15 miles in the snow, up hill both ways, just to gain access to the internet.
kids these days...

Reply

Paula @ Feb 26th 2007 1:09PM
Internet, schmineternet...
I had to dial-in to a BBS

for MY porn. And ASCII art was good enough for us back then. None of this "moving pictures" crap. If I wanted my pictures to move, I shook my screen.



Jean-Michel Deco+be

Neutral

@ Feb 23rd 2007 2:50PM

Love the picture :::chuckle:::
Someday, people will be treated for real life addiction when they are unable to live 24/7 in Second Life.

Reply



eric @ Feb 23rd 2007

Neutral

8:01PM

ONline Gaming is just ... too... dman shit.

Reply



What?! @ Feb 24th 2007

Neutral

12:00AM

Just make the addicts surf through Myspace pages, especially ones with embedded videos of what they hate and backgrounds that make them want to vomit.

Reply

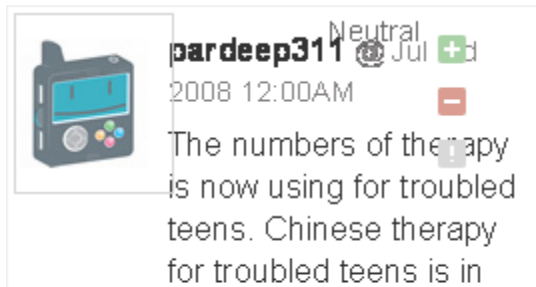
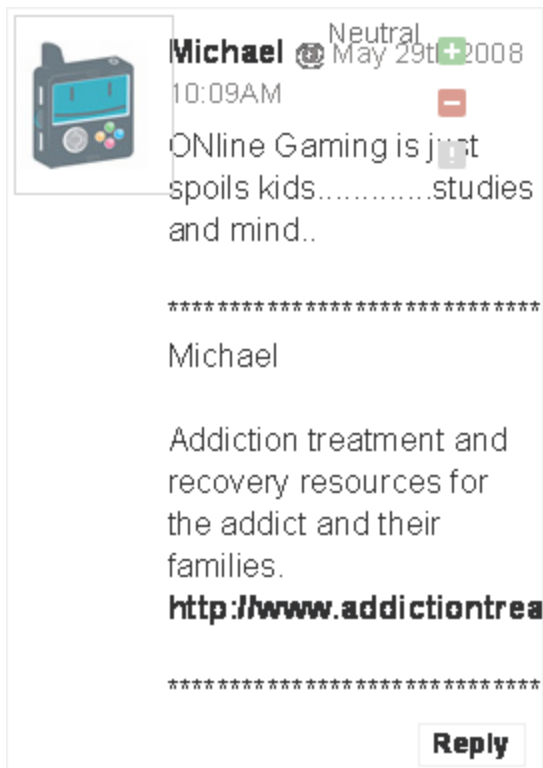
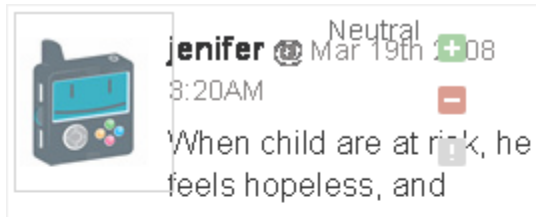



jenifer @ Mar 19th 2008

Neutral

8:20AM

When child are at risk, he feels hopeless, and






pardeep311 @ Jul 2008 12:00AM

The numbers of therapy is now using for troubled teens. Chinese therapy for troubled teens is in

Neutral + -



Ashish @ Nov 19th 2008 4:55AM

For struggling youth there are various troubled teen options. These options include boarding schools, boot camps, rehab centers and others that are supportive in their recovery from conduct problems, drug, alcohol or chemical substance abuse, and psychological disorders.

<http://www.teenageprobl>

Reply

Neutral + -

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