

Cool Stuff Issue #1

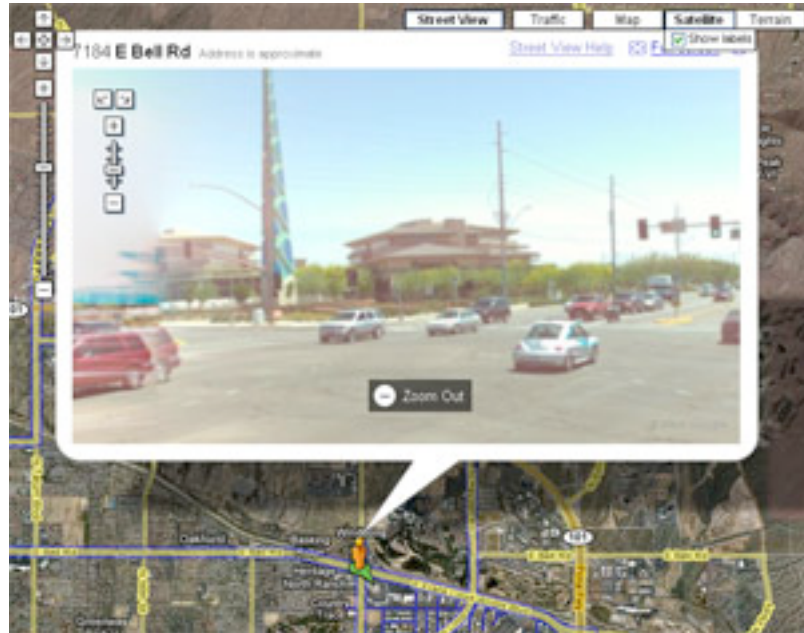
Google Adds “Street View” to Google Maps

This is the wildest thing I think I’ve ever seen. The future is coming fast. Personally I like [Google Maps](#) over MapQuest however, I know a lot of people use MapQuest. This is definitely worth a look.

When you input an address in Google’s search bar and select the maps option you will be presented with a map with a pin designating the location. You can zoom

in and out and move back and forth. You can also switch the view to satellite which is one of my favorites.

Now you can switch to **Street View**. [Try it](#) and see what happens! They did this in 13 cities so far. You can pan around to see the buildings on that street. Better yet you can even move up and down the street. It’s almost creepy!



Linksys Wireless Internet Camera



Need inexpensive surveillance? Take a look at this, a wireless webcam that can be accessed remotely. Linksys has upgraded the webcam. This camera has improvements over regular webcams. This one shoots 30 frames per second full screen video with audio. It is built to be very versatile and with high quality.

It also has a motion sensor and will automatically email photos as well as video

when something passes in front of it. It can also track the movement like an eyeball.

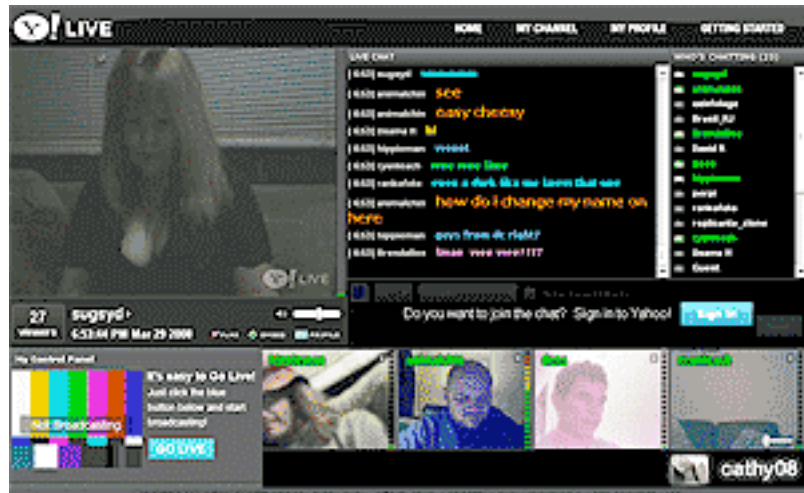
If you have a Linksys wireless router you can easily make this camera part of your home network to use as security or to just spy on family members. Just imagine being able to keep an eye on your pets while you are on vacation. Tiger Direct has the [Linksys Wireless PTZ Internet Camera](#) for about \$260. It has built in audio but you can also plug in an external microphone as well.

Live Video Webcams

There is plenty to do when it is raining outside when it comes to the internet. Do you like to people watch? Or maybe jump into a live conversation with strangers from all over the world! That is what is going on with webcams, live video streams.

Many of these webcam sites are free to use and all you need is a broadband connection and a webcam sitting on the top of your computer.

Be prepared for culture shock. What I mean is that live webcams give you a very real look at humanity. If you have never seen this before it is very interesting. Don't worry, you can gawk without anyone seeing you. If you are not shy go ahead and click the button to go live yourself. Many of these sites show a group of people conversing. You can manipulate the audio to hear one person over another.



What I find the most interesting is that there is very little shame. Perhaps these people forget that we can see behind them and there sits a mountain of laundry and pizza boxes. I've scanned a few of these sites to keep up with the technology and for the most part people are nice. As you can see in the screen shot above, there is also live chat. So, you can see people typing messages to each other while you can also hear them respond to chat messages with the live audio.

Many of the pay sites are adult and I don't need to tell you what goes on in those. The free sites have their own checks and balances to make sure the nudity and profanity is kept to a minimum. Mostly what I have been seeing is people listening to music together and talking about their favorite bands. If you ever get offended just remember where you are and click the browser off.

Here are some places I found that you can try out:

[Live.Yahoo.com](#) :: [Stickam.com](#) :: [Justin.tv](#) :: [CamStreams](#)

Posted on March 29th, 2008 by Karl Knelson