

# RIP Internet Explorer: South Korean engineer's browser 'grave' goes viral

June 17 2022, by Claire Lee



South Korea, which has some of the world's fastest average internet speeds, remained bizarrely wedded to Microsoft's Internet Explorer.

A South Korean engineer who built a grave for Internet Explorer—photos of which quickly went viral—told AFP Friday that the

now-defunct web browser had made his life a misery.

South Korea, which has some of the world's fastest average [internet](#) speeds, remained bizarrely wedded to Microsoft's Internet Explorer, which was retired by the company earlier this week after 27 years.

In honour of the [browser](#)'s "death", a gravestone marked with its signature "e" logo was set up on the rooftop of a cafe in South Korea's southern city of Gyeongju by engineer Kiyoung Jung, 38.

"He was a good tool to use to download other browsers," the gravestone's inscription reads.

Images of Jung's joke tombstone quickly spread online, with users of social media site Reddit upvoting it tens of thousands of times.

Once dominant globally, Internet Explorer was widely reviled in recent years due to its slowness and glitches.

But in South Korea, it was mandatory for [online banking](#) and shopping until about 2014, as all such online activities required sites to use ActiveX—a plugin created by Microsoft.

It remained the default browser for many Seoul government sites until very recently, local reports said.

The websites of the Korea Water Resources Corporation and the Korea Expressway Corporation only functioned properly in IE until at least June 10, according to a report by the Maeil Economic Daily.

## 'Suffering' for IE

As a [software engineer](#) and web developer, Jung told AFP he constantly

"suffered" at work because of compatibility issues involving the now-defunct browser.

"In South Korea, when you are doing web development work, the expectation was always that it should look good in Internet Explorer, rather than Chrome," he said.

Websites that look good in other browsers, such as Safari or Chrome, can look very wrong in IE, which often forced him to spend many extra hours working to ensure compatibility.

Jung said that he was "overjoyed" by IE's retirement.

But he also said he felt genuinely nostalgic and emotional about the browser's demise, as he remembers its heyday—one of the reasons he was inspired to erect the grave stone.

He quoted Japanese animator Hayao Miyazaki: "People are often relieved that machines don't have souls, but we as human beings actually give our hearts to them," Jung told AFP, explaining his feelings for IE.

He said he was pleased by the response to his joke grave and that he and his brother—who owns the cafe—plan to leave the monument on the rooftop in Gyeongju indefinitely.

"It's been very exciting to make others laugh," he said.

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Citation: RIP Internet Explorer: South Korean engineer's browser 'grave' goes viral (2022, June 17) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://techxplore.com/news/2022-06-rip-internet-explorer-south-korean.html>

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