RIP Internet Explorer: South Korean engineer's browser 'grave' goes viral
17 June 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.

"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.

"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.

"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.

"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.

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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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