

The GPS Buzz

Do you have what it takes for Cicada 3301?

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GPS Coordinates are just a small part of a two-year old Top Secret operation. Cicada 3301 is the name given to a set of complex Internet puzzles. January 5, 2012 was the date that the first internet puzzle began, and it ran for about a month. For exactly one year it remained dormant, and is presumed still active today.

The idea behind this project was to recruit intelligent individuals, for what purpose is still largely unknown. Some believe it is the brain-child of a secret government agency, while others have theorized it to be an Alternate Reality Game. No company or individual has stepped forward to claim responsibility at this time.

To advance to the next puzzle participants must solve the previous one first. These obscure games focus primarily on data security, cryptography and steganography. Code breakers follow a complex trail of clues involving Mayan numerology, poetry about King Arthur and GPS co-ordinates to cities from Warsaw to Sydney.

The GPS coordinates guide hopeful and eager players to specific locations, such as posters with QR codes adhered to light poles in a city's center. Many of these cities are located in the US, but a few are scattered around the globe. From Australia to South Korea, Japan and France, these clues are tagged with the same GnuPG private key to confirm authenticity.


We continue to wait in anticipation of January 5, 2014 to see if another installment of this strange, yet fascinating, story evolves. We won't be able to look at a poster stuck to a telephone pole without wondering if it's part of a greater plan.

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