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King 'Pong' Strikes

German Geeks Turn Building Into Huge Video Game

By Tech Live staff



Dec. 27 — A group of ethical German hackers has found a way to play a game of "Pong" on a screen that's 8 stories high.

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The Chaos Computer Club has transformed the former East German Education Ministry in Berlin into a huge display dubbed "Blinkenlights."

The project celebrates the club's 20th anniversary.

The top eight floors on one side of the building have been turned into a 144-pixel "screen," with computer-controlled lamps behind the windows.

Three computers, software, and 144 electrical relays controls when each light should turn on or off, creating a giant moving display much like the news "tickers" or electronic billboards at many cities' public squares.

A Publicly Accessible Public Display

But the computer club has made Blinkenlights truly public by offering a free program called Blinkenpaint on the club's Web site. Users can use the program to create their own animated message and send it back to the club to be used as part of the Blinkenlights display.

The club has also invited local Berliners to dial in to a special phone number to play Pong, the classic arcade game of electronic tennis.

The Chaos Computer Club has set up a Webcam that allows non-Berlin residents to view the Blinkenlights display at <http://berlin.ccc.de/~hans/cam2.jpg>.

To find out more information — including how to play Pong — log on

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to the [Blinkenlights site](#).

The Blinkenlights display is expected to be available until next February.

ABCNEWS' Paul Eng contributed to this report.

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