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The Daily ^{-ish} Bull

-like The Onion, but shittier!

IT'S BEEN
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DAYS SINCE YELLING
AT CLOUD

An Honest Review of Parkmobile

Parked Zoomer



In the late morning of a particularly hot Tuesday, I saw the future of technology unfold before my eyes - and it was one of corporate misery. Within the code of this parking app is the smoking gun that will follow the death of humanity.

Okay. I sound like a boomer right now, put it in the headline: Twenty-One Year Old Man Yells At Cloud. But I just paid for a parking meter with a credit card. A goddamn CREDIT CARD. I have quarters! I have a lot of quarters, even! But the particular meter that fate brought me to happened to be broken. I was in probably the only open metered spot close to campus, now 50 cents short - eaten by the machine - with no time on my meter, and quite frankly getting a little desperate, so I bit the bullet, chewed and swallowed it along with my pride, and

downloaded Parkmobile. And credit where credit is due, the app could be more dogshit than it is. Credit where credit is even more due, the app is still dogshit. Hell, the concept itself is only slightly above dogshit, because as previously mentioned - who the HELL pays a PARKING METER with a CREDIT CARD.

I had hope upon opening the app. I braced myself for the inevitable "PIEaSe CrEaTe An AcCoUnT!!!!11!!!" message, but was instead greeted with a location request and an honestly pretty easy to follow map of parking meters around my area. It almost lulled me into a sense of security! But I am a CS major, and as such, have a latent distrust of all technology. All of it. So while I was disappointed that a 40 minute park cost me 95 cents instead of 50 like it should have, I was not surprised. Probably some credit card transaction fee, because I am paying for a FUCKING parking meter with a GODDAMN credit card.

But it's not like I have much of a choice, so I click pay. And you'll never guess what I'm prompted for next. That's right folks. Parkmobile wanted me to make an account! Because, shit, why not! Why don't I have an account for my parking meter! Why wouldn't someone need a username and password to PARK SOMEWHERE. Come ON, Parkmobile, I think google already knows my location at all times, you're not really gaining anything from selling them this information too!

And then there's the icing on the cake —

(Continued from Front)

Parked Zoomer

the cherry on the sundae, the gargoyle on the castle - it asks me for my car's plate. Why? Why do you need to know that? If I pay at a meter normally, it doesn't matter what my car's plate number is! I'm just parked there, for god sake! Now, I should say that my question of "Why" was purely rhetorical - an expression of exasperation rather than genuine confusion, because I know exactly why. They don't want you paying for anyone else. I mean, not like I'd want to pay for someone else out of the kindness of my heart. Parking is a contact sport and I've never been known for my sportsmanship. But what if you overestimate how long you'll stay at a meter? You leave early with 20 minutes left on the meter, someone else immediately pulls in because, again, parking here is an extreme sport, and then that person puts MORE money into the meter/parkmobile app. And now that extra money goes right into the pockets of transportation services even after they charged me THE SAME AMOUNT OF MONEY to have a WORSE PARKING LOT than I did last year (SERIOUSLY. I'm a senior and I STILL don't get guaranteed parking??? What the hell is that credit cutoff?? Guaranteed commuters have the ENTIRETY of lot 10 now and I'm stuck fighting for my life in a church parking lot. But I digress. I'll leave my vitriol towards transportation services for another article. Anyways where was I uhh). Back in my day, if you overestimated your parking time, whoever parked after you would get a fun little couple extra minutes for free! Back when we used to be a REAL country.

Of course this is all wrapped in that neat, corporate design with a green/white palette with vaguely minimalist people drawn acting like parking is soooooo fun with some stupid message that's like "Parking. Made Simple. That's what we do here at park mobile" like they're doing ME a favor by making me PAY FOR PARKING. WITH A CREDIT CARD. I still can't get over that one. Yeesh. Moral of the story is that meter maids need to get a real job. Parked Zoomer OUT

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Hi, my name is Big Al, and I approve this message