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# Nabaztag : Navigating The Rabbit Holes Of The Web

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As the Internet has grown by leaps and bounds, it has quickly become a resource people can't live without. Most of us rarely go more than a couple of days without checking emails, getting online news or reading a favorite blog. Since the Internet has become such an integral part of our daily lives, several new devices have emerged to help people access Web content without sitting in front of a monitor 24-7. Along with Chumby and Wi-Fi Radio, Invention & Technology News now takes a look at another innovative gadget called Nabaztag.

If Nabaztag sounds like a foreign word, well, it is. It's Armenian for rabbit, which is exactly what this little Wi-Fi-enabled gadget resembles. The Nabaztag has the body of a ghost with a drawn-on face, and two missile-shaped ears that twist and turn. Its body also is equipped with lights that flash in different colors. The rabbit gets plugged into an outlet and connects wirelessly to a home's Internet via a router. Through the Nabaztag Web site, the user programs what types of updates he or she wants to receive from the rabbit. Category choices include news, finance, entertainment, sports and health, lifestyle, kids and more. The rabbit then sits in a room - like a kitchen - and provides individuals with verbal Internet updates throughout the day. Nabaztag speaks five different languages and can read messages in 16. Occasionally, the rabbit even adds some emotion into its readings (for example, when it reads the air quality as "so-so" its tone sounds somewhat downbeat). The Nabaztag also can be muted and instead flash its lights when an update comes in.

In addition to sharing Web news, the rabbit is jam-packed with extra features. For starters, it can be programmed to signal a user when he or she receives a new email - a useful feature that eliminates the need to keep checking a computer for an important correspondence. Nabaztag also receives messages from friends via email or text message (sent to a person's nabaztag.com address), which it reads aloud. Individuals can even send songs to friends' rabbits that will play upon reception (the rabbit will twist and turn his ears and light up to the beat). Nabaztag also responds to certain verbal requests. By pressing a button on the top of its head and speaking commands like "give me the weather", the rabbit will quickly hop along to find the information requested. And, since it was "raised on the Internet", the rabbit "never stops learning" - which presumptively means it receives software updates through Wi-Fi.

For children (who may actually be the best audience for this device), the Nabaztag will be sold with three Ladybird Tales starting in September - "Goldilocks and the Three Bears", "Cinderella" and "The Elves and the Shoemaker". Nabaztag will be able to identify the books, retrieve the stories from the Web and then read them out loud. Users can navigate through the chapters of a story by moving the rabbit's ears, and the rabbit will even remember the chapter where it stopped during the last reading. This book-reading feature is just the latest addition to an already-loaded device that may spare some Webheads the strained eyesight and carpal tunnel associated with endless hours in front of the computer.

Three different model rabbits are available for online purchase at the Nabaztag Store (also known as the Ztore) from \$99 to \$299.

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