

August 2016

## Pokémon Go Catching On!

[www.usatoday.com](http://www.usatoday.com)

### Choosing that first Pokémon

Pokémon Go continues to chug along as a national phenomenon, but there are still plenty of people who have yet to capture their first Pidgey.

If you have somehow managed to avoid the news for the last month, the mobile game Pokémon Go has taken over the lives of many smartphone owners. It leverages the classic video game and TV series Pokémon by introducing augmented reality and GPS, bringing the quest to find these colorful creatures to life.

The game has grown so popular, it's daily usage is above popular services such as Twitter, Netflix and Spotify, according to research firm SimilarWeb. People really like Pikachu, it seems.

Pokémon is a free app available on Apple's App Store and Google Play.

Once you boot up, you can choose to sign up through a Google account or the Pokémon Trainer Club. Earlier in July, the game's maker — Niantic — created a privacy stir when users learned the app was asking for full access to your Google account. They have since fixed that to limit what the app can access. If you are really concerned about it, you can either sign up through Pokémon Trainer Club or create a separate Google account just for the game.

Once you create your account, you'll be greeted by the Professor, walking you through the basics. This is where you customize your trainer and give him or her a name. Then the hunt begins.



Pokémon Pidgey

You get one of three to choose from: Charmander, Squirtle or Bulbasaur. However, there is a trick to snagging the most popular of the Pokémon: Pikachu. Basically, it involves physically walking away from them until they reappear in map view. Do this enough times and Pikachu eventually pops up.



Pokémon Pikachu

### Catching Pokémon

Once you pick your starter, then you learn how to capture it. This is where the augmented reality portion of Pokémon Go enters play. The app launches your smartphone camera, with the creature overlaid on top of the camera's view so it looks like it appears in the real world. At the bottom is your Poké Ball, which is what you use to capture. Before you attempt a throw, you can take a picture of the character or use an item. Swipe up on the touchscreen to fling the ball and initiate the capture. You'll notice a circle that shrinks in size. Wait for the circle to get as small as you can before you throw. You can earn extra experience points depending on how well you toss the ball. The circle will also appear in different colors, indicating how easy it will be to catch the Pokémon.

### How do I find them?

The screen players will view most often is the map, which leans on GPS to determine your location. It's not as precise as a navigation app, but works well enough. A radar pulsates from the trainer, with tiny Pokémon popping up when one is spotted.

## Call 1-800-PCHelp

We are Park Place Computers continue to hear from our customers after they respond to a pop-up informing the user that their PC has a virus. Be aware that this is most likely a scam! The user is usually asked by the person on the line if the technician on the phone may take control of the user's PC. If they do, hang up immediately. Some users give the technician access to their PC and eventually they want to be paid for their services. Hang up!

**SCHEMING  
CRAFTY  
AGGRESSIVE  
MALICIOUS**  
DON'T LET THEM CON YOU

If you ever encounter this, please contact Park Place Computers and we will scan your PC for any viruses and / or malware.

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## Windows 10 is Free Until July 29

Microsoft says its newest version, [Windows 10](#), has been downloaded 300 million times in less than a year. There are good reasons for that. Windows 10 is fast, safe and it'll soon have browser extensions that diehard Windows users have been asking for for years.



Another great thing about Windows 10 is that the Windows 10 upgrade from Windows 7 and Windows 8.1 is absolutely, 100% free. You pay nothing, nada, zippo.

That is, you pay nothing if you act really fast. If you don't upgrade your Windows to Windows 10 by **July 29**, you'll have to pay \$119 to get it. And, if you're a PC user, you should get it.

**Note: Park Place Computers will install Windows 10 for you if you bring in your PC by July 29!!!**

## Shortcuts for PC's

Our users tell us that one of the favorite parts of our newsletter (after the comic) is shortcut tips. Here are a few of our favorites: (Press Ctrl key and another key)

P	Print
S	Save
Z	Undo (oops key)
A	Select All
F	Find text
F4 (on top row of keys)	Close

## Computer Humor

### Cornered

by Mike Baldwin



"You're supposed to bring the stick back to me – not sell it on eBay."

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**Need a computer or computer instruction?--contact [Park Place Computers](#)**