

Technology

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# Hackers Kinect games to the bedroom

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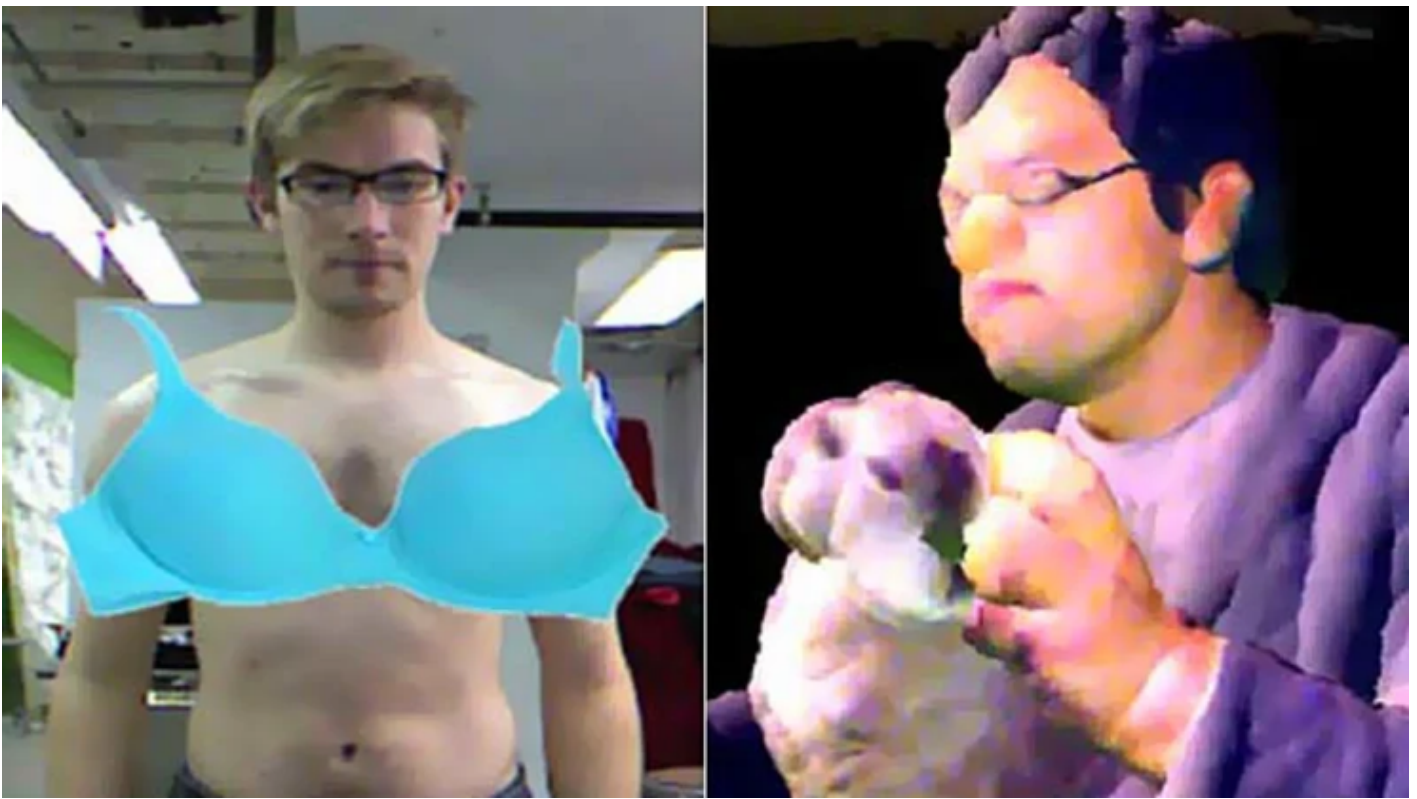
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A legion of hobbyists and developers have seized upon Microsoft's new Kinect motion-controlled game accessory by creating their own assortment of applications – even exploring its prowess in the bedroom.

Replacing existing game controllers, Kinect uses a 3D camera and motion recognition software to enhance game play on its Xbox 360 consoles with gesture-sensing controls that respond to natural body movements and voice commands.

Microsoft claims it has already sold more than 2.5m Kinect devices for Xbox 360 around the world since it hit the market last month, but it is the unique motion-tracking cameras and depth sensors that have enthralled developers.

Dozens of videos of home-brewed applications have appeared on Vimeo and YouTube, ranging from the bizarre to the scientific, and its credentials as an adult gaming platform have become a topic of intense speculation.



Kinect 'hacks': developers have seized upon Microsoft's new gaming accessory.

An application created specifically to track [nipples](#) (demonstrated on a man) has added fuel to the discussion, leading sex technology [blogger](#), Kyle Machulis, to speculate on the sexual future of the new game accessory.

“I bet we'll see Kinect porn and possibly Kinect Skype services within the month,” he writes.

### **Future of sex apps**

But in spite of the demand for such applications, he does not anticipate a rosy future for the device in the bedroom because it was never designed to track movements of specific appendages.

“Microsoft put a ton of work into making the Kinect track the human body as a whole . . . Genitalia, for the most part, are not a major geometric feature of the human body when taken in perspective of physical size.

“Yes, there will be depth, but it will be very inaccurate and noisy and I think most people will just want their 2D image back,” he writes on his blog.

The scientific community has also embraced Kinect's unique technology – and one of the more notable projects to date is a holographic-type [3D image](#) generated by two Kinect devices working together.

Its creator, Oliver Kreylos, is a professor in data visualisation at the University of California, and has long been interested in the technology that drives Kinect, but assumed Microsoft would shun independent developers.

“When it turned out that they had not in fact locked it down, I bought one right away, and

got a second donated from a friend a few days later,” he said.

Kreylos is using Kinect to develop quality 3D video as part of a virtual reality system to let people over long distances interact as if they were in the same room.

“Professional-level 3D cameras have been available for many years, but the Kinect is the first device with reasonably good quality at a price that's affordable by almost anyone . . . which is a major breakthrough.”

Although Microsoft claims it is excited by experimental applications like his, it has balked at the term 'hack' applied to many of the fledgling Kinect development projects.

“There recently have been several articles implying that Kinect for Xbox 360 has somehow been hacked. That is untrue - Kinect for Xbox 360 has not been hacked – in any way. What has happened is someone has created drivers that allow other devices to display the raw data that is output from Kinect for Xbox 360.

“We are perfectly comfortable with hobbyists taking advantage of that raw data to explore the exciting possibilities of Kinect for Xbox 360 for themselves. We do note, however, that any of these uses of the Kinect for Xbox 360 are not licensed or authorised by Microsoft, and any modification of the Kinect would void the warranty,” said a company spokesperson.

The standalone Kinect costs \$199 in Australia.

## **Noteworthy Kinect 'hacks'**

### **[Kinect Titty Tracker](#)**

Far more modest than it sounds, this little demo app places an assortment of lingerie on a man's chest area.

### **[3D box](#)**

This merges video streams from two Kinect cameras into a realistic 3D reconstruction of a box, as part of a larger development to augment visual applications used in long-distance communications.

### **[Lightsabre](#)**

Tracks and renders a lightsabre in real time from a broomstick using Kinect hooked up to a PC.

### **[Body controlled Mario](#)**

Demonstrates full body control application of Nintendo's Mario.

### **[Rubber sheet](#)**

Visual app that creates effect of a rubber sheet being waved around in space by distorting Kinect depth information.

### **[Fat Cat](#)**

Realtime body distortion of a man and his cat using Cinder and a Kinect sensor.

### **[Bird puppet](#)**

Kinect Skeleton tracking technology helps to creates the movement and posture of a giant

bird projected onto a wall.