Introduction

Randonauting - the utilization of random number generation techniques as a tool towards exploring and navigating the world around us.

The world can be a strange, confusing place.

Of course, we all know that all too well by this point. What was supposed to be the year of positivity, change, and unity has devolved into consisting of nothing but tragedy, mundanity, and isolation. It's been a shitty year to say the least.

In the midst of everything, a trend had emerged that gave people the outlet to get out, to go explore, and to experience all the natural wonders that they likely wouldn't have seen otherwise. Trail-blazed by an app named Randonautica, players all over the world have been sent on adventures to allegedly random GPS coordinates within a few miles' radius of them.

What could go wrong?

-boom to black-

Well, quite a bit actually. Quite a bit.

Eerie Discoveries from Randonautica

World Build

It was late. Like, 10-11 at night. I was up in my room chilling with Tyson and playing some Mario Party 3. I was at peace. Things were good.

[Ding]

My phone goes off. It's my buddy Jym.

[zoom in on text message, add riser and then click on it, fade to black]

[cut back in with the room dark, only light from the phone is hitting my face and I'm super weirded out. Drop phone and get up, walk out of frame towards computer, maybe a computer bootup sound?]

Alright, let's get to work.

Seattle Story

On the 20th of June, 2020, a TikTok user by the name of ughhenry would upload a video with the caption *Something traumatic happened that changed my life*.

It involves the exploration of a GPS location given to them by the Randonautica app, and at first, it doesn't seem like anything that we haven't seen before. If it weren't for the *Creepy, scary, horror, synth, tension Sound production Gin* stock effect that they added to the video, then the beginning of it would

honestly be pretty lighthearted. The initial vibe that I gathered from their discovery was interesting, but not malicious.

However, I was wrong. Let's watch it together.

-play rest of video-

You saw the end of that video so you know where this is heading.

As it turned out, the contents of the suitcase wasn't food or anything innocent like they were hoping. They were actual, real-world human remains...

...And the investigation was on.

While police and detectives were working to identify the bodies, the TikTok video blew up on social media. It seemed like everyone was talking about It, and there was a clear emphasis on the app in which the teens located the suitcase from- Randonautica. Was there more to it? Were they hiding something? How are they determining the GPS coordinates that they feed to their users? Let's come back to this.

-fade-

Ten days later.

On June 30th, Seattle detectives would identify the remains as those of not one, but two people. 35 year old Jessica Lewis and 27 year old Austin Wenner were killed by gunshot an undetermined amount of time prior to their discovery. The killer and motive have also not yet been determined, and according to police, this remains an active and ongoing investigation.

It's a tragic and disturbing situation that's typically the work of nightmares. Realizing that these people had lives, jobs, loved ones, and aspirations with their fate reduced to being stuffed inside of a suitcase and discovered on TikTok of all things is... one of the more depressing turn of events I've looked into.

May they rest in peace, no one deserves that.

-fade-

When further details materialize, we'll make a return to this case. For now, though, I'd like to hone our focus in on Randonautica.

Other Randonautica Adventures

[Open scene with fade onto phone app]

This bothered me.

Something about a random group of teenagers stumbling upon a dead body through a supposed "random" GPS adventure app rubbed me the wrong way. This had to have been an isolated incident, though. Let's be real- this entire situation happened through mere coincidence, right?

-pause-

Wrong.

I opened up TikTok and scoured the Randonautica hashtag. As it turned out, there were quite the hefty few that also encountered strange discoveries when they were out exploring. Since the phenomenon's become borderline mainstream, we unfortunately do have people exaggerating like some of the Boss Baby-calling 3am channels that we've seen in years past. You know who you are. But, we also have a ton that seem entirely legitimate.

Let's take a look at a few notable ones.

-play videos-

So as we can see, results can heavily vary. Some people stumbled upon what appear to be ritualistic sites, unexplainable moving objects, actual crime scenes, and clingy animals(?) It definitely is interesting seeing all of these discoveries coming to fruition. It's almost like the world's a bit stranger than we all thought, who woulda known?

With this in mind though, how were all of these people able to stumble upon such odd phenomena? Does this app know something that we don't? Is it made to inherently disturb you? How does it choose its locations? It's something that's actually starting to really fascinate me, and so I embarked on a virtual hunt to figure out exactly what a Randonaut is, and how the app works.

I eventually stumbled upon an article on Medium.com that dives into the subject matter.

Part 1 — What is a Randonaut?

A Randonaut is a person who explores both the application and impact of randomness in the experience of everyday reality. This exploration into randomness can be carried out in several different ways. The two primary experiments that Randonauts are currently exploring are Blind-Spots and Mind-Matter interactions.

Blind-Spots

A Blind-Spot is a place in the real world that you would never normally encounter through any chain of causal experiences. We as humans tend to live structured, patterned lives. Our everyday experience throughout the social and geographical world is guided by our internal mental makeup which may contain some share of determinism.

Mind-Matter Interactions

On the other hand, Mind-Matter interactions encompass the other side of Randonauting. This is the idea that the human mind actually has a statistically significant impact on the output of quantum random number generators (qRNG). The Fatum Bot can generate what are called Intention Driven Anomalies (IDA's) which are coordinate locations that are calculated based on the density of qRNG output and which are often explored through the use of intention. What this potentially means is that your mind can have some influence on the location and subsequent experience that's generated by the bot.

Interesting.

While Blind Spot interaction is mostly cut-and-dry, Mind-Matter interactions are where it can get a bit confusing. From what I gather, the article is essentially explaining that when you set what they call an "intention" for your use of the app, then the bot can adjust the location it gives you accordingly. I'm not

entirely sure how specific it can get or how strong the effect is, but I have a feeling that it relates a bit to confirmation bias. An example being if you set out to a location with an intention of finding a stray cat, then you'll be more hypervigilant on finding one. And if you do? Then, well.... this is why. The article continues-

Randonautica is known to track your location and log your IP address to assist the bot in algorithmically determining specific locations for you to visit. It's also known to perform retinal scans using the front camera of each user's mobile device at any given time, with or without explicit consent. The gathered data and footage is then logged by deep web hackers to dox you and steal your passwords. They then take your passwords to hack your bank account and slowly siphon money so they can fund the Randonautica app and get more users. After they've taken all your money and sent you spiraling into deep crippling debt, they utilize their previous dox information to hunt you down and eliminate you.

-cut to black-

I'm just kidding. It doesn't do that.

The confirmation bias thing though? I think there's some believability there. If you think about it, the effect is stronger than you think. If you don't believe me, then I want to test that with you right now. After you finish this video, I want you go to back to your daily lives and do whatever it is that you do. When you're doing that, though? Remember the number [RELEASE DATE NUMBER]. [NUMBER NUMBER NUMBER]. Got that? Alright, good.

Anyway, enough messing around. The science behind Randonautica clearly is strange. People have been stumbling upon weird phenomena for months, and that's not even including the incident in Seattle. With that, I know what I must do. We've gotta try this.

You and me.

-music-

Time for an Adventure

So I downloaded the app and was a bit surprised after opening it. The UI is *nothing* like I expected it to be. Something about the text-message setup here makes me uneasy and invokes the feeling of actually talking to someone.

I shared my location with them and, now I'm at a crossroads. It's our choice now. We're given the option between choosing if we'd like an anomaly, an attractor, or a void. According to the app, attractors are dense clusters of random points. Voids are the opposite. Anomalies are the strongest out of attractors and voids.

What the f*ck? What does that mean? Strongest relative to what?

Ugh, screw it, let's give it a shot. I'm curious.

Choose your entropy source? Uhh, it's been a while since I've taken physics so gimme a second.

Entropy - a thermodynamic quantity representing the unavailability of a system's thermal energy for conversion into mechanical work, often interpreted as the degree of disorder or randomness in the system.

Huh, alright. Let's just go with ANU since I'm still unsure.

Well, looks like we got it. Did you focus on an intention? If not it's alright. Mine was cults, since I know you all love em. So let's go.

Patreon

Before we get to our first destination, I need to make a pitstop though. A pitstop to buy some new headphones because this video is sponsored by RAYCONNNNNNNN, the absolute best headphones that make airpods look like a cheap little baby toy. Awww you've got airpods? Smells like broke. It's all about RAYCON, so head over to- wait what the f*ck, why is this in my script?

Seriously though, thank you for being here and thank you for supporting me. This video isn't sponsored by anyone, but you. You all are the reason I do this. You keep me going, with an endless aspiration to bring you nights of spooky video binge-watching. I know how fun it is, because it's one of my favorite pasttimes. There's truly nothing like sitting back with some Cheetos and a Dr. Pepper and becoming fully enveloped in a mystery. The fact that you're giving me the time of day means the world to me, so thank you.

If you're interested in supporting the channel, with perks such as early access to videos, your name in the credits, and the ability to join weekly voice calls in my Discord server, I'd be eternally grateful if you could throw me a couple bucks over at patreon.com/Nexpo. Thank you all again. I love ya.

Anyway, let's get back to it. Time for an adventure.

-drive to location, do some live action stuff-

Discussion

Discuss trip, if you do or don't find anything.

Compare your discovery to those that did find stuff.

Closing Remarks

As we've seen, the Randonautica app is an incredibly interesting one that's sent people on local adventures all over the world. The Seattle situation, by far, stands out as one of the most disturbing discoveries ever made due to this app, however, to me, everything else about it just stands out as nothing but massive confirmation bias. Remember, trepidation is relative. If you set out through Randonautica looking for something to freak you out, then chances are, you just might find something.

For the most part though, the app seems to be relatively safe. Get out, go have some fun- embark on an adventure. Just remember to always bring someone with you, and never, *ever*, give the app the intention of [REDACTED].

-GLITCH IT UP, mini skit maybe?-

Thanks so much for watching, I'll see you soon, I love you all, and good night.

Exploration

So I met up with the crew, MamaMax and NightDocs, and we hit the road in hopes of finding something.

When finding you a location, the app asks you to set an intention for each trip, and it's basically what you hope to find wherever you go. We set our first one to Death, and this is what we found.

-show location-

Absolutely nothing. Eh, maybe this wasn't a good spot? Let's try another.

Max set the intention this time, and it was satanism. Let's see what we got.

-show location-

I'll admit it is a bit creepy being out here at 2am, but, satanic symbolism seems to be escaping me. I hate to say it but there doesn't seem to be much here either. Maybe I'm just not looking hard enough ormaybe this spot's another dud.

Let's try one more. Intention? Cults.

-b roll of store-

Oh I really, really wanted to find something here. That cult symbolism's gotta be somewhere. Cmon, where are you. Of course, as you'd might expect, we also left this one empty-handed.

-pause-

It bothers me, because in our experience tonight, the app didn't give us anything. We didn't find death, or cults, or satan, or what have you. It was just... ordinary.

With that, personally, I don't think the app's connected to serial killers like some were claiming. I think it's either all massive confirmation bias and coincidence, or most of the popular Randonautica TikToks are fake, and I'm heavily leaning towards the latter. I'm sure there are some legitimate ones out there, but like we hinted at at the beginning, some honestly do seem exaggerated.

I don't have concrete irrefutable proof, but, in my opinion, that's what it appears to be. Randonautica isn't creepy. It doesn't have a conspiracy behind it. It isn't some serial killer logbook. It's just an app that's had an unfortunate coincidence, and sparked a wildfire of conspiracy theories around the world.

Tonight, we didn't find anything creepy, but we didn't leave empty handed. Maybe the true Randonautica were the memories we made along the way.