German police arrest suspected spud swindler
德國警方逮捕英籍洋芋騙子

German police said that they have arrested one of two British men suspected of selling bags that they said held laptops and mobile phones but which in reality contained potatoes.

Authorities believe the pair managed to **pull the wool over the eyes** of about 40 people in two German states driving around in a car with British number plates, convincing them to hand over cash for the electronic **hardware** but giving them spuds instead.
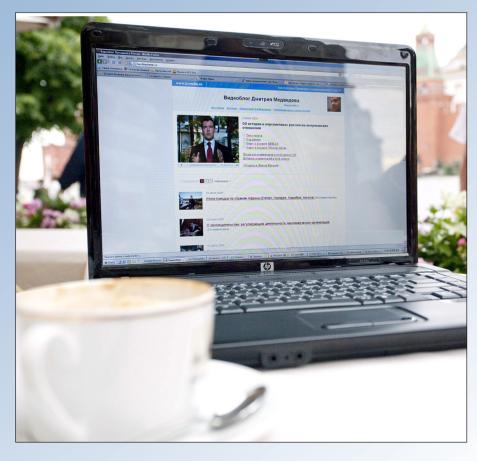
A shopowner in Hildesheim near Hanover telephoned the police after becoming suspicious — he had read in the paper about swindlers in a right-hand-drive car — but the two men left the scene.

Later the same day in the same town the two men were attempting to sell laptops to a group of people that included, unfortunately for them, someone who had come across them before and who then also rang the police.

"The police were quickly at the scene but the two suspected **con men** fled ... They sped down Kaiserstrasse in their metallic green Opel, going through several red lights and **endangering** other road users," police said.

The 32-year-old man was arrested after the chase ended but the second man, aged 20 and whom the police have since identified, was able to flee on foot despite being trailed by a police helicopter. They believe he may be armed.

(AFP)

德國警方表示，他們已逮捕兩名英籍詐騙嫌犯中的一人，這兩名男子佯稱販售筆記型電腦和手機，卻將袋中物品掉包成馬鈴薯。

有關當局相信，這兩名嫌犯駕駛一輛掛英國車牌的車在德國兩邦間來往，受騙的消費者約有四十人，他們說服受害者用現金向他們購買電子硬體，成交後卻以馬鈴薯掉包。

鄰近漢諾威市的希爾德斯海姆鎮有一位店主，看到兩名疑似報導中開右駕車的洋芋騙子後，打電話報警，只是警方趕到現場時兩名男子已經離開。

當天稍晚，這兩名男子又出現在鎮上，企圖向一群人推銷筆電，（對他們而言）不幸的是，其中有人曾遇過他們，此人於是報警。

警方說：「員警很快就趕到現場，但兩名詐欺嫌犯已經逃走了…他們開著綠色的歐寶汽車在凱薩街上疾駛，沿途闖了好幾個紅燈，危及其他用路人的安全。」

警方最後追捕到這名三十二歲的男子，但另一名警方已確認身份的二十歲男子，在警方出動直昇機追捕下仍徒步逃跑。警方認為他可能持有槍械。

（法新社／翻譯：袁星塵）

Top: Farmers collect potatoes near the village of Pestovo, Kosovo on July 20, 2009. PHOTO: AFP
Left: The blog page of Dmitry Medvedev, Russia's president sits open on a laptop computer screen at a cafe in Red Square, Moscow, on July 2, 2009. PHOTO: BLOOMBERG

上圖：七月二十日，科索沃佩斯托夫村附近的農民在採收馬鈴薯。 照片：法新社
左圖：七月二日，莫斯科紅場的一間咖啡廳中，一台筆記型電腦的螢幕上顯示俄國總統迪米崔‧麥維德夫的部落格頁面。 照片：彭博社

TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

1. hardware /ˈhɑrdˌwɛr/ n.
硬體設備 (ying4 ti3 she4 bei4)
例: After reinstalling all the software on his computer, Marvin realized that he had a hardware problem.
（馬爾文重灌了電腦內所有軟體後，才發現問題出在硬體。）

2. con man /ˈkɑn ˈmæn/ n.
詐財者 (zha4 cai2 zhe3)
例: I was stopped on the street by a con man claiming to have lost his wallet.
（我在街上被一個自稱丟了皮夾的騙子攔住。）

3. endanger /ɪnˈdendʒɚ/ v.
危及 (wei2 ji2)
例: Speeding endangers not just your own life, but the lives of all the passengers in your car.
（超速行駛不僅危害自身性命，也會危及車上所有乘客的安全。）

IDIOM POINT 重要片語

pull the wool over someone's eyes
欺騙、愚弄某人

If you **pull the wool over someone's eyes**, you deceive or mislead them. In the article, the con men attempted to deceive people by giving them potatoes instead of a computer.

Examples: "I've fallen for your tricks before, so don't think you can **pull the wool over my eyes** again," or "Don't let the salesman **pull the wool over your eyes**. Make sure get a list of all additional costs before you buy."

若你「pull the wool over someone's eyes」，意思就是你蒙蔽或欺騙某人。文章中提到，這兩名詐騙份子用馬鈴薯掉包電腦，欺騙民眾。

例如：「我曾經被你耍過，所以別想我會再上當」，或是「別被推銷員騙了，購買前一定要弄清楚所有要額外付費的清單」。