



Online farm game is the cream of the crop

開心農場爆紅 網友不睡忙偷菜

The popularity of social networking Web site Facebook is growing. It has spawned hundreds of games, among those the game *Happy Harvest*, which has become the favorite of Taiwanese users. In the six months of the game's existence, a farming wave has swept the Internet as users get up in the morning to steal crops and fruit from their friends' farms and become the kings of virtual farming.

Facebook users in Taiwan broke through one million in July, by far surpassing Plurk, another community Web site. Online farming, restaurants, pet shops, and fishing games have received an overwhelming welcome among Taiwanese users. Among the games, *Happy Harvest* has the most user-friendly interface which accounts for much of its popularity.

Happy Harvest is designed in a cartoon style. Users can plant crops, and raise chickens and dogs, and the harvest can be sold and exchanged for points to increase the attraction. Players can log on and sneak into their friends' farms and steal vegetables and eggs. The more practiced a user gets in planting crops, the more virtual money they can make.

The Chinese version of the game often hangs, and Hsiao Li, who has used Facebook for more than two years, suggests that **newbies** consider running the game in English. "The **interface** is the same and the game is played in the

same way," he says. The system also often offers virtual farm money, "That makes it much more fun than just fooling around on the Internet," says Hsiao Li.

Beginner A-tzu has only been immersed in the game for a month, but he is serious to the point that he sets the alarm for 6am every day, when he **boots up** the computer and goes farming. "If I sleep too late, my fields turn into a tourist farm where anyone takes whatever they want," he says. He says he can use a virtual network to plant, water crops, exterminate **vermin**, harvest and sell his crop, and he can raise chickens and cows, and buy dogs to guard the farm. The whole process is much more interesting than electronic chickens, and seeing the results of his own hard work accumulate in the storage offers some kind of satisfaction in an otherwise boring daily life.

(LIBERTY TIMES, TRANSLATED BY PERRY SVENSSON)

社交網站Facebook火紅，自行開發遊戲逾百種，其中「開心農場」成為國內網友最愛，啓用半年多來遊戲爆紅，網路掀起一股「務農」風潮，有網友靠著每天凌晨到眾家好友農場「偷菜採果」，成為虛擬農場大亨。

Facebook（臉書）社交網站，七月底在台灣使用會員正式突破一百萬人，大有凌駕另一微網誌「噗浪」的趨勢，網站仿效線上遊戲模式經營的虛擬農場、餐廳、寵物店、釣魚遊戲等，獲得網友熱

烈迴響，其中，「開心農場」介面最友善，也獲得最多國內網友捧場。

開心農場畫面採卡通動畫設計，不只能在虛擬網頁上種菜、養雞、養狗，收成了還可以賣錢換網路積分，增加魅力指數，玩家可以利用連線，潛入線上友人農場「偷菜、偷雞蛋」，收成的作物還可以賣錢，愈勤於練功耕種，獲得的虛擬貨幣就愈多。

開心農場中文版頻當機，玩臉書有兩年經驗的小李建議剛入門的網友，可以考慮經營英文版農場，「介面、玩法都一樣，還可以乘機練英文。」系統還會常送虛擬農民幣，「比網路打怪有趣多了。」

農場新手阿姿沉浸在「開心農場」遊戲才一個月，卻嚴重到每天清晨六點調鬧鐘開電腦務農，「太晚起床，我的田會變成任人採收的觀光農場。」阿姿說，透過虛擬網路可以播種、澆水除蟲、收成變賣，還可以養雞、牛，買狗看農地，過程比電子雞更有趣，看著自己辛苦耕作的成果堆滿穀倉，在無聊生活中也獲得某種滿足感。

由於農場登錄人數暴增，更曾出現「維護升級」的掛點畫面，不少癡狂網友哀嘆：「沒田種，真的生不如死！」（自由時報記者劉榮攝）

Above: An undated screenshot of *Happy Harvest*, the popular Facebook game.

PHOTO: LIU RONG, LIBERTY TIMES

上圖：Facebook熱門遊戲「開心農場」的截圖。

照片：自由時報記者劉榮攝

TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

1. **newby** /'nju:bi/ n.

新手 (xin1 shou3)

例：Newbies are advised to read the rules before posting in the forum.
(該討論區建議新手在貼文前先閱讀規範。)

2. **interface** /'Intə,fes/ n.

介面 (jie4 mian4)

例：The new interface hasn't been popular with the site's long-term users.
(這個網站的長期用戶還不習慣這個新介面。)

3. **vermin** /'vɜ:mɪn/ n.

害蟲 (hai4 chong2)

例：Ian has spent the last 10 years working as a vermin exterminator for the city government.
(易安過去十年都在市政府擔任除蟲員。)

IDIOM POINT 重要片語

boot up 開機

If you **boot up** a computer you turn it on. This expression likely originates with the idiom "to pull yourself up by your bootstraps," which means to accomplish something without assistance.

Example: "It's a waste of time calling the customer support line. The assistant will just tell you to switch off the computer and **boot it up** again."

如果你「**boot up a computer**」，意思就是你把電腦開機。這個片語可能是源於「**pull yourself up by your bootstraps**」，意指不靠外力協助完成某事。

例如：「致電客服根本就是浪費時間，他們只會叫你先關機，再重新開機。」