



## *The Journal*



# The Wilshire Grand Tallest Structure West of the Mississippi

Los Angeles, April 1, 2017: dubbed the Tower of Power, The \$1.1 billion is the largest HQ for the Asian provider of air service to Los Angeles, Korean Air Lines Co., Ltd. that has had a significant impact on the region's economy for decades.

In 1989, the company purchased the original Wilshire Grand building because it recognized the need for world-class accommodations in Los Angeles, and it planned to eventually create a true luxury flagship hotel in the city. The Wilshire Grand Center will not only boast luxury hotel rooms, but also cutting edge restaurants, businesses and attractive nightlife offerings.

Oscartek is proud to be part of the new design; the hotel is being described as sophisticated, edgy and metropolitan. It will feature nearly 900 rooms, and in addition to the Sky Deck Bar, there will also be a steakhouse with a French twist on the 71st floor and an all-encompassing restaurant on the 69th floor that will serve everything from pizza to sushi.

The project will play a critical role in the city's commitment to add 5,000 new hotel rooms citywide — contributing to 20% of that goal. It will also continue the airline's investment in Los Angeles by infusing more than \$1 billion into the local economy.

The mixed-use project kicked off in February 2014 with the largest continuous concrete



Record-sized Ambitious: the 400,000 square feet of office space and its slew of retail space. The 900 hotel rooms in the tower

pour as determined by Guinness World Records. To coordinate the fleet of concrete pumps required for the record-breaking, 21,200-cu.-yd. mat pour, Turner Construction Company, the project's general contractor, worked with Conco Construction Companies, one of the largest pumping and belt companies in the U.S. The pour included 227 ready mix trucks making more than 2,100 trips and pouring 82 million lbs. of concrete during an 18 1/2-hour period.



durability and reliability,” said Doug Marquis, general manager at Conco. “With a high-profile job like this one, it’s essential to have the highest-quality equipment in place to minimize any potential for break downs and help keep the project on schedule.”

The crew has pumped approximately 160,000 cu. yds. of concrete vertically, including lightweight concrete and 8,000-psi mixes. A building of this height requires a pump that can maintain a balance between power and pressure to be able to deliver concrete floor after floor. The amount of friction that is generated during the pumping process, as the concrete moves through the lines, increases the higher the concrete is pumped. That friction has a significant impact on the plasticity of the concrete at the point of placement. Having the proper equipment helps minimize the amount of labor necessary on the deck to place and finish the concrete, allowing for a more aggressive schedule.

“The Putzmeister 14000 electric and diesel pumps performed flawlessly to push concrete over 1,165 horizontal and vertical feet,” said Michael Marchesano, Turner Construction’s general superintendent.

The Wilshire Grand is a podium-style high rise, meaning it has a “podium” or base section spread out at the foot of the building; this will house the first few floors that comprise the retail and restaurant space. From that base, the much taller tower is erected.

After pouring the base, the setup consisted of one placing boom on the main tower, as well as three on top of the podium. The two trailer pumps worked in conjunction with the placing systems to deliver 90% of the concrete for the job. The setup allowed for multiple concrete placements to occur concurrently in order to meet the aggressive construction schedule. In addition, a Putzmeister 36Z-Meter truck-mounted concrete boom pump was used to place concrete on the lower levels of the structure, allowing for more flexibility in range.

With the foundation in place, the crew began working on the attached parking structure that will make up the Wilshire Grand project. Two of the existing Putzmeister MX 34/38Z placing boom towers that were used for the mat pour remained in place while the crew builds up. Two additional MX 34/38Z placing booms were constructed to help place concrete for the underground parking structure, and two BSA 14000 trailer pumps used on the mat pour have also remained on site to pump the concrete to the placing towers.

“We utilized Putzmeister equipment because of its proven durability and reliability,” said Doug Marquis, general manager at Conco. “With a high-profile job like this one, it’s essential to have the highest-quality equipment in place to minimize any potential for break downs and help keep the project on schedule.”

Once the crews started working on the vertical placement for the tower of the structure, they utilized a single placing boom on a tower climbing system. The typical vertical concrete floor was placed on a four-day cycle, which included jumping the climbing system.

“This strategic setup was the result of project upfront planning by Turner Construction and Conco. These measures maximized the rewards of using the Putzmeister pumping equipment,” said Marchesano. “Every detail was measured, including redundancy pump station location, system sizing, and layout to enhance safety and avoid building sequence delays.”

After more than two years of work, the Wilshire Grand has now "topped out" its concrete and steel core at more than 800 ft. Upon completion in 2017, the 73-story structure will be the tallest west of the Mississippi.

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## April Fools' Day 2017: the best (and worst) pranks

April 1st — a day colloquially known as “April Fools’ Day” or “the worst holiday ever” — isn’t even until tomorrow, but because the month of April starts on a Saturday this year, all the #brands are already out in force to pollute the internet celebrate the occasion with a bunch of tiresome fun pranks meant to thirstily self-promote their products bring some levity into our day-to-day lives.

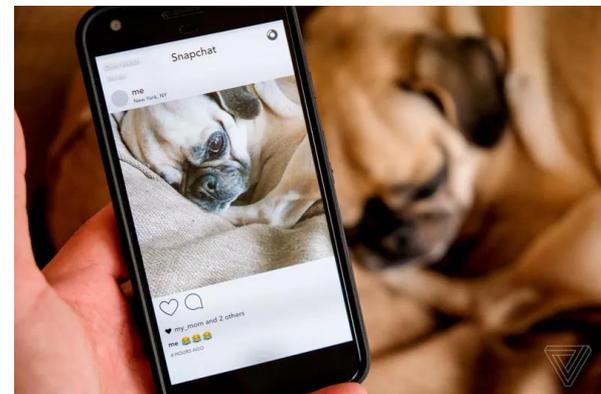
So, as is tradition, we’ve rounded up the best goofs, gags, and gimmicks from around the web as we enjoy the antics of the various internet companies. And remember — if you see something tomorrow (or today, even though it’s still not even April Fools’ yet!) that sounds a little bizarre, strange, or too good to be true, it might be worth a second glance.

We’ll continue to keep this list updated through the day(s) as more clever (or “clever”) jokes emerge.

### SNAPCHAT

Photo by Chris Welch / The Verge

Snapchat can copy things, too. But unlike Facebook’s desperate-years-long, feature-for-feature cloning of the popular app, this Instagram-style Snapchat filter will likely only stick around for just a day. I’d call it a friendly troll, but that like from “my\_mom” cuts pretty deep at Facebook’s older-skewing user base. To see the Insta filter, just take a picture in Snapchat and scroll through the regular rotation of promotional and geolocation filters. Eventually you’ll land on it.

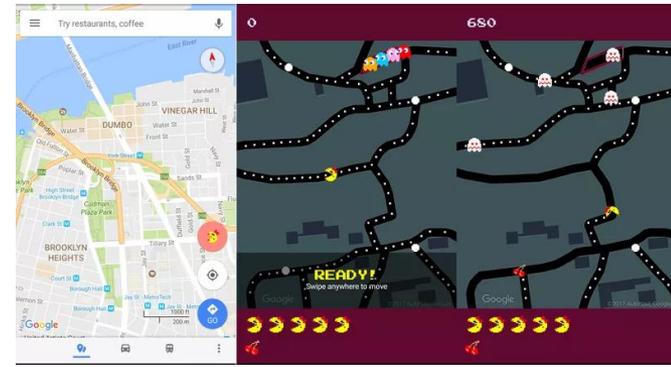


## GOOGLE

Image by Natt Garun / The Verge

Google tends to have a ton of (oddly functional) April Fools' jokes, so for the sake of this list, I'm only including one for now. The rest can be found on their own dedicated roundup, so that other companies can get a chance to be included.

Of all Google's pranks this year, the conversion of Google Maps into a functional game of Ms. Pac-Man is probably the best of them, if only because Ms. Pac-Man is a fantastic game. That said, Google did do this exact same thing with regular Pac-Man two years ago, so it's possible the company might be running out of ideas.



## T-MOBILE

T-Mobile's April Fools' joke was the T-Mobile ONESie — because its latest plan is called T-Mobile One and onesies allow for a semi-clever portmanteau and okay you get it. The company claims that the Onesie is a full-body wearable packed with a variety of dubious tech, including thermal charging, nanofibers, and fitness tracking, which is obviously nonsense. I'm also deducting points for the entire concept, since Microsoft beat them to the One / onesie joke by a couple of months. Still, T-Mobile is actually selling the things for \$40 each (sans-fictional tech, of course), should a bright magenta T-Mobile onesie be something you desire in your life.



## MCLAREN

“10,000 carbon fiber-veined artificial feathers, hand applied by our expert technicians to create the most aerodynamic edition of the 750GT yet.”

## HULU

Hulu's April Fools' gimmick is an alleged new service called “Hu,” which promises “TV abbreviated” by cutting down shows to just eight seconds to better match people's shortened attention spans. To that end, the company has actually put together several playlists on both its own site and YouTube (for non-subscribers) of dramatically shortened episodes of Seinfeld, Black Sails, The Mindy Project, Empire, and others to show off the idea.

## MASTER & DYNAMIC

Master & Dynamic is best known for its premium metal and leather headphones, and for its bit of April humor the company teased a

pair of its MH40 Wireless On-Ear model made entirely out of concrete. Weighing in at a purported 10.6 pounds, the concrete cans are probably infeasible for, you know, wearing. Also, like everything else on this list, they're not real.

## LYFT

Lyft made a very weird decision this April Fools' Day by announcing a wacky, Power Glove style gadget to summon rides by raising your hand in the air, but also made them actual, real devices that are fully functional? So, not sure this is actually a "prank," per-say. For more info, see my colleague Andrew Hawkins, who tried it out for himself.

## NETFLIX

Netflix's marking of the day took the form of "Netflix Live," a remarkably peaceful video of Will Arnett narrating ordinary objects. Is it a joke? Deeper satire on live video trends? Who can say. Fellow Verge reporter Megan Farokhmanesh has the full details if you'd like to know more.

## REDDIT

Reddit's April Fools' joke is less of a joke and more of a giant social experiment, similar to last year's The Button. This year's project, titled Place, is a large white pixel grid that each user can place a colored pixel on every five minutes. Reddit being Reddit, the grid has quickly been overtaken by a number of semi-religious cults and several crudely drawn images of genitalia, as the site's community once again illustrates why we can't have nice things.

## DUOLINGO

The language learning site has made a special course for April Fools', teaching not German or Spanish but Emoji, which might be helpful for adults trying to understand teens. And there actually is a flash card set to help you learn, so that's something.

## AMAZON

Amazon has an Alexa-themed joke for the day, with a new "Petlexa" integration, that purports to make your Echo capable of understanding queries from your pets. It mostly just consists of this video, since Amazon (understandably) didn't build a functional version of this.

## (DIS-)HONORABLE MENTIONS

Not every joke is a winner. But we've collected a few that didn't quite make the cut here anyway as a service to you, our dear readers, in case you'd like to verify that for yourselves.

The Triwa YNGVE DIY watch, which is modeled off Ikea and irritatingly not real.

Yo, the world's most useless social media app, rose from the grave with a spark of wit to "announce" a mock "Yo Stories" feature.

Roku SnackSuggest, a mock Roku channel that suggests food to go with your content.

iFixit, with a fake Micro Tech Toolkit featuring even smaller tools for opening up your even smaller gadgets.



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