

## **Inside Cyberjaya, Malaysia's failed Silicon Valley**

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It's past three in the morning, and our cab driver is lost – not only had he never heard of the city of Cyberjaya, but he also couldn't find our hotel at its centre, the wonderfully named Cyberview Lodge Resort, built twenty years ago when ground was first struck at this would-be Malaysian Silicon Valley.

As we swung around yet another empty roundabout in the middle of the jungle, naked of any buildings or road signs, it was hard to fault the driver.

Ask government officials and developers, and [Cyberjaya](#) is a success, the heart of its knowledge-based economy: 85,000 people live there, they say, and dozens of multinationals have offices – and in a few years the train lines will reach out here, too. But ask a taxi driver in capital city Kuala Lumpur, only thirty minutes' drive away, and they haven't a clue what you're on about.

Even those embedded in the tech industry might not be aware of [Malaysia's](#) early attempt to jump on the digital bandwagon; I first heard of it via a now obscure story by Canadian journalist Chris Turner, who visited Cyberjaya in 2000, three years after its press launch.

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