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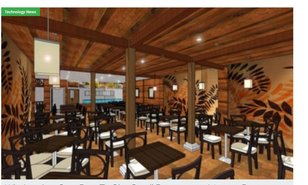
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# Israeli Team Wins At Int'l BattleHack Competition With App To Call Plan-Free

By David Shamah, *The Times of Israel* | November 19, 2014 | 0 Comments

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The next time you're stuck without cellphone service, you might still be able to make a phone call – if you have a Paypal account.

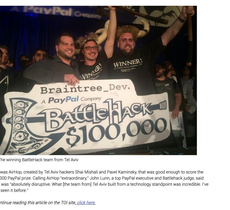
Taking advantage of a little-known feature in iOS, Airmap lets users "hop" onto another person's device (if it's also running the Airmap service) to make a phone call or send a text in exchange for a PayPal-enabled payment.



Paypal was impressed enough with the project to award the Israeli team behind it $100,000 in its just-completed "Nothing to Fix Good" contest, held at Paypal headquarters in Silicon Valley.

SEE ALSO: Young Israeli Innovators Win NASA Competition For Great Innovations

"Good" in this case is defined widely. According to the rules, teams had to come up with an app that made a positive social contribution while using APIs from PayPal, which processes online payments, or to credit card acquirer Braintree or Venmo. As PayPal is a payments business, any app using its technology would most likely be a commercial oriented one. But the hacker teams pulled through, creating 14 new apps, ranging from helping the visually impaired to creating an open marketplace for education.




The winning BattleHack team from Tel Aviv.

But it was Airmap, created by Tel Aviv hackers Shai Mishali and Pavel Kaminsky, that was good enough to score the $100,000 PayPal prize. Calling Airmap "extraordinary," John Lunn, a top PayPal executive and BattleHack judge, said that it was "absolutely disruptive. What [the team from] Tel Aviv built from a technology standpoint was incredible. I've never seen it before."

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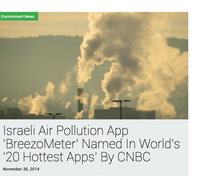
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