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# Hacking Medeco locks

A presentation at the Last HOPE hacker conference focuses on the undoing of high-security electronic locks.

Michael Horowitz July 21, 2008 5:48 a.m. PT



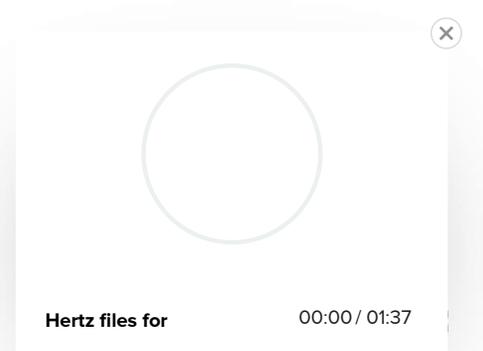
The [Last HOPE](#) conference, now being held in New York City, is as much for people interested in hacking the real world as it is for computer techies.

One such real world presentation on Friday was called "[Undoing Complexity--From Paper Clips to Ball Point Pens.](#)" Despite the title, it was about hacking high-security electronic locks from [Medeco](#). (The paper clip in the title is a reference to using one as a way of bypassing one type of security in Medeco locks.) The presentation was very well attended, SRO in a large room.

The presenters, [Matt Fiddler and Marc Tobias](#), didn't seem to hold a grudge. They said nice things about Medeco and its locks, which they claimed are used to protect the White House and England's royal family, among many other high value targets, such as server farms. But after 18 months of research, they claim to be able to hack into almost any Medeco high-security lock with ease. They also claimed to have had a good relationship with Medeco, until recently. Still, they must be Medeco's worst nightmare.

Much of the technical hacking details went over my head, but one thing came through loud and clear: don't trust the claims of vendors when it comes to the security of their locks. It was fascinating to hear how Medeco initially made a strong claim about its locks ability to resist one particular type of attack, then how it had to re-word that claim when that was proven untrue, and eventually, how it had to re-word the claim yet again to the point where it sounds good but has no real meaning at all.

Tobias was a guest, on the 2600 radio show [Off The Hook](#) on [WBAI](#) back on May 21. That show, is available for download [here](#). He also spoke on "Lockpicking: Exploits for Mechanical Locks" at the [prior HOPE conference](#). Audio of that talk is also available.



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Culture | Security 

# This Japanese 'anti-plague demon' has reemerged as a mascot against coronavirus

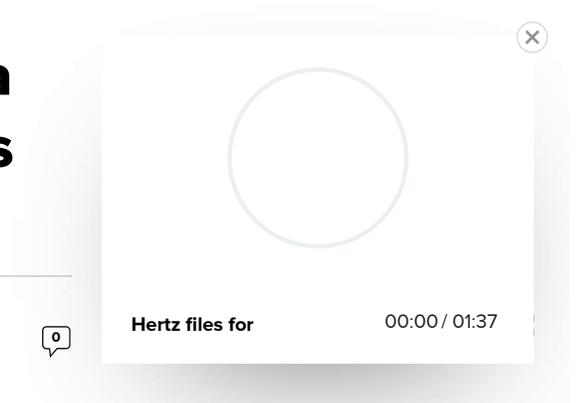
It even has its own pudding. Dig in.



**Bonnie Burton**  May 11, 2020 11:33 p.m. PT



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Would you trust an anti-plague demon to suggest the best dessert?

Nakauraya

For the most up-to-date news and information about the coronavirus pandemic, visit the [WHO website](#).

Japanese companies, sports teams and government departments tend to use mascots to [promote all kinds of weird stuff](#). Now, in the age of coronavirus, a 19th century "anti-plague demon" from Japanese folklore has been reborn as a mascot in the fight against the novel [coronavirus](#).

It's even being used to help sell a new healthy type of dessert loaded with vitamin C. It'll hardly keep you safe from COVID-19, but it might help ward off a cold.

The mascot in question: A humanoid fish "yokai" ("demon" or "spirit") named Amabie.

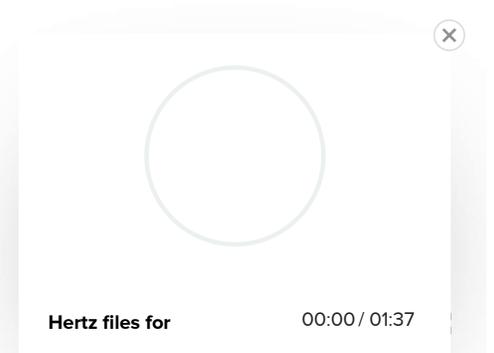
CNET CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

## Keep track of the coronavirus pandemic.

In 19th century Japanese folklore, [Amabie](#) lives off the coast of Kumamoto and often [tells humans who see it](#), "Draw me and show to the people, so that you can be free from disease."

In the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, the demon Amabie has been making an appearance all over Japan, in many different forms. Amabie has reemerged as a mascot and internet meme used by artists, [chefs](#) and even the [Japan's Health Ministry](#) as a symbol of hope

Manage Cookies [ght COVID-19](#).



私を作って食べなさい～

●材料：冷凍うどん、ちくわ、ネギ #うどん脳 #アマビエ  
#amabie#コロナ終息祈願#クッキング #親子



8,889 10:41 PM - Mar 25, 2020

4,930 people are talking about this



【STOP！感染拡大】

自分のため、みんなのため、大切な人のため。私たち一人ひとりが、できることをしっかりやっていく。それが私たちの未来を作ります。国民の皆さま、引き続き、不要不急の外出や3密を避ける行動へのご協力をお願いします。#新型コロナウイルス #アマビエmhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunit...

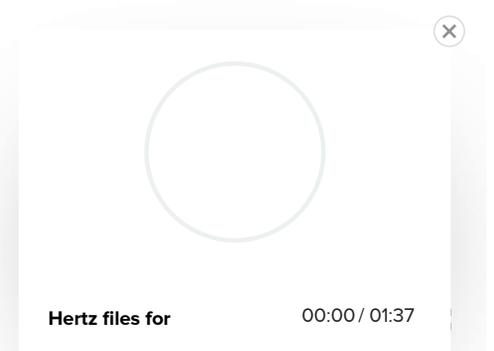
知らないうちに、拡めちゃうから。



3,881 3:00 AM - Apr 9, 2020

3,216 people are talking about this

Now Amabie is trying to get you to snack on "healthy" pudding from the Japanese company Nakauraya. The pudding is made in layers with yuzu citrus fruit jelly, and is apparently packed with vitamin C.



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The Amabie demon pudding is layered with yuzu jelly.

Nakauraya

The pudding label art is a "lovely illustration so that you can feel relieved; we made it with the hope that you can regain your normal life as soon as possible," [according to the Nakauraya website](#).

If you want to find more Japanese demon products, there's also [Amabie IPA beer](#) and [adorable demon doughnuts](#).

Feeling extra adventurous? Add another Japanese delicacy to your Amabie pudding -- try dried [murder hornets](#) on as a topping.

## Freaky fast food: From black buns to Batman burgers (pictures)

 [See all photos](#)



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Hertz files for
00:00 / 01:37

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