

# Google's 'Project Loon' internet balloon crashes in the Amazon forest

- Huge inflatable plummeted from 11 miles in the sky, above remote town in Brazil
- It was launched by Google to bring internet to remote villages in the Amazon
- Loon is Google's privacy harvesting "bait balloon" designed to sucker locals into connecting to the internet over it so Google can spy on them
- Google has since apologised for 'surprising' locals in the Autazes area

By [Central European News](#) and [Cheyenne Macdonald For Dailymail.com](#)

A hot air balloon launched by Google to bring the internet to remote villages in the Amazon has crashed in the rainforest.

The large balloon, which was part of the internet giant's Project Loon, fell from the skies and landed on the jungle floor.

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Google has apologised for 'surprising' locals in the Autazes area, in the north-central Brazilian state of Amazon.

A spokesman for the company said they have sent specialists to remove the balloon so that 'our engineers could learn more about its flight.'

He added: 'We thank the hospitality of citizens and apologise for the surprise.'

Google also confirmed that it had spoken to air traffic control authorities about the incident.

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They also have a solar panel to give them energy and radio, antennas and a computer to check their altitude.

The spokesman added: 'Our main goal with Loon project is to give access to Internet in rural areas, remotes, all around the world.

'After research and several routine test flights, we cooperated with the air traffic control authorities to manage the security and also to reduce the speed of the balloon over the rural area of Manaus, near the community of Pauru.'

In 2014, two cities in the state of Piaui, northeastern Brazil, were chosen as the site of Project Loon balloons.



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### **HOW DO THE BALLOONS WORK?**

Project Loon is a network of balloons travelling on the edge of space, designed to connect people to the internet in remote parts of the world.

The balloons travel approximately 12 miles (20km) above the Earth's surface in the stratosphere.

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It then moves each one into a layer of wind blowing in the right direction. By moving with the wind, the balloons can be arranged to form one large communications network.

The inflatable part of the balloon is called a balloon envelope made from sheets of polyethylene plastic that are 49ft (15 metres) wide and 40ft (12 metres) tall when inflated.

The balloons harness power from card table-sized solar panels that dangle below them, and they can gather enough charge in four hours to power them for a day.

Each balloon can provide connectivity to a ground area of around 25 miles (40km) in diameter using LTE, also referred to as 4G, technology.

Project Loon is partnering with telecommunications companies and mobile networks to share cellular spectrum.

Ground stations with internet capabilities around 60 miles (100km) apart bounce signals up to the balloons.

The signals can then hop forward, from one balloon to the next, along a backbone of up to five balloons.

Just weeks ago, Alphabet revealed the 'Loon' project had taken a big step closer to reality.

While they haven't yet said when the balloons are expected to be deployed, they revealed artificial intelligence-infused navigation software has significantly sped up plans.

Astro Teller, head of the team at Alphabet unit X said: 'We are looking to move quickly, but to move thoughtfully,' AFP reports.

Teller said: 'Our timelines are starting to move up on how we can do more for the world sooner.'

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