

Welcome to the maze and enjoy the Habitrail

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Last year, Microsoft Press and Microsoft Learning moved to new buildings in downtown Bellevue, bidding good-bye to *The Maze*. This was a nickname for their former building I had been unfamiliar with, but not having been to their building, I can't say whether the name is deserved or not. What I do know, however, is that the small cluster of buildings they moved from are connected by enclosed walkways, which are nicknamed the *Habitrail* due to their startling similarity to the hamster transportation tubes. Back in the old days, these corridors were lined with stand-up arcade consoles, owned by the people who work in the buildings, and placed there for anybody to stop by and unwind with a game of *Star Wars* or *Asteroids* or some other classic arcade game.

Alas, the impromptu arcade game center had to be shut down when the building safety people determined that it posed a fire safety hazard. (I suspect that the reason was not only that the machines were powered by daisy-chained extension cords, but also that safety rules required that the corridor remain clear of obstacles at all times.)