



SECTION 1 – TECH BUZZ

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



AI-powered Google Maps

Google Maps is set to receive a host of new immersive features, all thanks to the power of Artificial Intelligence (AI). The tech giant has revealed its plans to introduce these features soon, enhancing the user experience on its popular navigation app.

- One of the standout additions is the "Immersive View for Routes," a feature leveraging AI to offer users a more immersive and visually rich experience. By combining Street View with aerial images, Google Maps will provide users with detailed visualizations, including buildings and foliage, allowing them to explore their destination beforehand.
- Additionally, Google has integrated its advanced AI technology, known as "Lens," into Maps. This integration enables Maps to use the phone's camera to orient itself accurately, even in situations where the GPS signal is lost. Through the clever use of AI and augmented reality, users can receive real-time positioning information via their phone's camera. What's more, Google Lens also provides users with valuable information about nearby points of interest, such as ATMs, cafes, restaurants, and more.
- Google Maps will also feature detailed imagery showcasing realistic buildings, improving the overall visual experience for users. Furthermore, the app will offer enhanced highway lane details, particularly near exits, ensuring precise and accurate

navigation. AI-powered speed limit information will be another valuable addition, assisting users in adhering to road regulations while driving.

- For electric vehicle (EV) owners, Google Maps will provide specific information about charging stations. Users can check details such as car compatibility and the last usage of the charger, making it easier for EV drivers to plan their routes and charging stops effectively.
- With these AI-powered enhancements, Google Maps is set to become an even more indispensable tool for users, offering a seamless and immersive navigation experience with a wealth of valuable information at their fingertips. Stay tuned for these exciting updates, coming soon to your favourite mapping app.

Induced AI: Teens Secure Investment

A pair of ambitious teenagers from India successfully caught the attention of OpenAI's Sam Altman, securing millions in investment for their startup, Induced AI. Aryan Sharma, one of the young minds behind the company, shared his journey of connecting with influential figures like Altman and his early fascination with coding and artificial intelligence (AI) during a podcast on Overpowered.

- Sharma embarked on his tech networking journey at the age of 14, reaching out to notable personalities via cold emails in search of guidance. Although some recipients requested him to stop emailing them, Sharma persisted.
- Along with his co-founder, Ayush Pathak, they saved up money, travelled to San Francisco, stayed with friends, and attended events where they could meet industry figures like Altman. Through persistent networking and outreach, Sharma eventually had the opportunity to meet Altman, pitching his willingness to work as a secretary just to learn from him and OpenAI.
- Following their meeting, Sharma and Pathak stayed in touch with Altman. When the funding round for their AI platform, Induced AI, was underway, they reached out to Altman. Induced AI offers a unique browser that utilizes an AI agent to automate tasks.
- The company claims its cloud-based AI workers can perform browser tasks without disrupting other operations on the machine. Induced AI's technology enables human-like reasoning, allowing the browser to interact with web services seamlessly, only requiring authentication from human intervention.
- In a tweet, Aryan Sharma elaborated, "We allow anyone to create virtual AI workers capable of automating workflows on a browser in the cloud with human-like reasoning." Induced AI simplifies business processes by translating plain English instructions into pseudo-code, streamlining repetitive tasks typically handled by back offices.
- The venture not only received backing from Sam Altman but also garnered support from other prominent figures in the AI industry. The company has secured investments from Peak XV, Daniel Gross, Nat Friedman's AI grant, and more, propelling the young Indian entrepreneurs' innovative vision forward.

New Beatles Song Produced Through AI

A previously unreleased Beatles song, titled "Now And Then," featuring the vocals of John Lennon and enhanced with artificial intelligence, was released, more than 40 years after its initial

recording as a demo. The song, originally written and sung by Lennon in 1978, was completed by his fellow bandmates Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr, along with the help of AI technology.

- The track was unveiled by Apple Corps, Capitol, and Universal Music Enterprises. Additionally, a music video for the song will premiere on Friday. Paul McCartney, now 81 years old, announced the song's release in June, referring to it as "the last Beatles song" in a promotional trailer. In a YouTube video leading up to the release, McCartney expressed his emotions about the song, describing it as a genuine Beatles recording in which all the band members participated.
- "Now And Then" was part of a cassette containing several tracks that Lennon had recorded for McCartney at his home in New York's Dakota Building in 1979, just a year before his tragic death. The cassette was given to McCartney by Lennon's widow, Yoko Ono, in 1994. While two other songs from the cassette, "Free As A Bird" and "Real Love," were cleaned up and released in 1995 and 1996, efforts to enhance "Now And Then" were abandoned due to background noise on the demo.
- However, recent advancements in AI technology made it possible to restore the song. The recording was processed using this new technology, allowing Lennon's voice to be heard clearly. The remaining Beatles, McCartney and Starr, finished the song last year. The recording session, which took place at Capitol Studios in Los Angeles, included additional elements such as George Harrison's electric and acoustic guitar recordings from 1995. Starr added that the experience felt incredibly emotional, as it was akin to having Lennon back in the room.
- Sean Ono Lennon, John Lennon and Yoko Ono's son, expressed his deep emotion upon hearing the former Beatles working together again. He described the song as a time capsule and believed it felt incredibly meaningful.
- The Beatles, consisting of Lennon, McCartney, Starr, and Harrison, disbanded in 1970, each pursuing solo careers thereafter. Despite the band's breakup, the release of "Now And Then" offers a poignant moment for fans, capturing a unique collaboration of the legendary musicians. The song was released as a double A-side with the band's 1962 debut single "Love Me Do" and features cover art by renowned US artist Ed Ruscha.

AI Safety Summit Insights

At the AI Safety Summit, discussions have steered clear of doomsday scenarios involving killer robots, much to the relief of attendees. Poppy Gustafsson, CEO of AI cybersecurity firm Darktrace, expressed her initial concerns about the summit overly fixating on "hypothetical risks of the future," a sentiment shared by several experts prior to the event. To her surprise, the closed-door conversations at the summit have centered more on the practical, everyday applications of AI technology.

- Gustafsson revealed her apprehensions, stating, "I was a little worried that we were all going to be chatting about hypothetical risks of the future and robots are going to kill us all, and not talking enough about AI like we are using it now."
- However, she was pleased to find that the discussions were grounded in the current reality of AI implementation. She emphasized that artificial intelligence is not an uncontrollable force but a creation shaped by human hands. In the breakout sessions,

participants delved into topics such as the risk of losing control over AI systems and the responsibility of humans in managing these technologies.

- The pivotal point for Gustafsson was the realization that humans hold the reins in AI development. "This is our choice, we are the drivers of this, it is not being done to us," she emphasized. The discussions, according to her, were pragmatic, focusing on real-time issues and the choices individuals and organizations make in adopting AI technologies.
- Gustafsson underscored the importance of ensuring the safety of AI developments, asserting that people are more inclined to embrace innovations when they are assured of their safety. She debunked the notion that safety and innovation are contradictory, emphasizing that striking a balance between the two is essential.
- Addressing the topic of regulation, Gustafsson indicated that the summit was not expected to yield specific regulations. Instead, she hoped for a focus on seizing opportunities related to AI while concurrently implementing necessary safeguards against potential risks. As the summit continued, Gustafsson encouraged participants to explore avenues for maximizing the potential of AI while ensuring the responsible use of this powerful technology.

TECHNOLOGY

IMO Enhances User Security

IMO, an instant messaging app, has recently unveiled its dedication to user security through the introduction of cutting-edge security enhancements. One of its latest features, SIM Card Binding, establishes a robust connection between user accounts and their SIM cards, drastically reducing the risk of unauthorized access by third parties.

- This innovative feature ensures that only a single device, paired with the corresponding SIM card, can access the user's account. Currently available for Android devices, users have the flexibility to enable or disable this feature at their convenience. Furthermore, IMO is gearing up to launch Passkeys, reinforcing its status as a pioneer in embracing state-of-the-art security technologies.
- To bolster data protection for users, IMO strongly recommends the implementation of Two-Step Verification. This additional layer of security makes it significantly harder for attackers to access sensitive data, especially when users log in from a different mobile device.
- The platform also discourages users from sharing One-Time Passwords (OTPs) with unknown third parties, emphasizing that this information should never be divulged. Additionally, IMO offers Device Management and Multi-Device Management features, empowering users to maintain control over their account access, restricting it to trusted devices only.
- As Cybersecurity Awareness Month unfolds, IMO seizes the opportunity to educate peers and loved ones about the inherent risks of the digital realm and effective strategies for staying safe online. This commitment to cybersecurity remains steadfast, with IMO continuously delivering groundbreaking security features and fostering awareness. By

doing so, IMO ensures that millions of users worldwide can navigate the digital landscape with confidence and peace of mind.

- IMO stands as a global instant communication platform dedicated to providing users with the most convenient, interactive, and enjoyable way to connect with others online.

MOBILE APP INSPECTION

Intelligent UI Inspector Launch

LambdaTest, a prominent cloud-based unified testing platform, has introduced its latest tool, the Intelligent UI Inspector, specifically designed for Mobile Application developers and testers. This innovative feature revolutionizes the quality assurance landscape by focusing on seamless interaction, reliability, and enhanced user experience.

- The Intelligent UI Inspector offers a sophisticated interface for direct interaction and seamless inspection of various pages and elements within applications, eliminating the need to repeatedly close and reopen the UI Inspector. This unified approach not only simplifies usage but also accelerates inspection tasks, leading to a more streamlined workflow.
- One of the standout features of this tool is its ability to enable users to create dependable, attribute-based, custom Xpaths for their automation scripts.
- This enhancement significantly improves workflow and ensures the accuracy of results. By reducing errors and optimizing automation procedures, this streamlined process enhances the precision of automation tasks, ultimately refining the operational workflow.
- For hybrid applications, the Intelligent UI Inspector facilitates the smooth inspection of web-view elements, offering a comprehensive view.
- Additionally, it simplifies the relaunching process for developer applications with multiple environments by providing a convenient one-click relaunch feature. This tool not only streamlines processes but also enhances user experience through an intuitive and user-centric interface, aligning with the demand for a more user-friendly and straightforward experience across all functionalities.
- Mayank Bhola, Co-Founder and Head of Product at LambdaTest, expressed his enthusiasm about the Intelligent UI Inspector, stating that it represents a significant step towards enhancing the testing experience for Real Device users.
- He emphasized the tool's ability to optimize workflows and prioritize precision, empowering businesses to enhance their product quality and streamline their testing processes with confidence.
- The UI Inspector plays a crucial role in swiftly identifying and resolving UI issues, ensuring a consistent, responsive, and visually appealing interface, ultimately enabling businesses to deliver flawless user experiences to their customers.
- LambdaTest stands out as an intelligent and omnichannel enterprise execution environment that assists businesses in reducing time to market through Just in Time Test Orchestration (JITTO), guaranteeing quality releases and accelerated digital transformation.

- With over 10,000+ enterprise customers and 2+ million users across 130+ countries relying on LambdaTest for their testing needs, the platform offers a Browser & App Testing Cloud that enables users to run both manual and automated tests for web and mobile apps across 3,000+ different browsers, real devices, and operating system environments.
 - Additionally, their HyperExecute feature helps customers run and orchestrate test grids in the cloud for any framework and programming language at incredibly high speeds, significantly reducing quality test time and enabling developers to build software more efficiently.
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SECTION 2 – GLOBAL INFO

NORTH AMERICA

UNITED STATES

The US Federal Reserve made the unanimous decision on Wednesday to maintain the current interest rates, which stand at their highest level in 22 years, for the second consecutive meeting. This move comes as the Fed aims to curb persistent inflation while ensuring the robust state of the economy remains intact.

- In a statement, the central bank stated that the decision to keep the benchmark lending rate within the range of 5.25 percent to 5.5 percent allows policymakers the opportunity to "evaluate additional information and its implications for monetary policy."
- During a press conference, Fed Chair Jerome Powell emphasized the substantial effort required to bring inflation down to the desired two percent target, stating that there is still a long way to go in this process. He made it clear that the Fed is currently not considering any rate cuts at all, underscoring the cautious approach being taken to navigate the economic landscape.
- This decision to maintain interest rates at their current levels was widely anticipated and represents a notable development in the Fed's tightening monetary policy, marking the first time they have held rates steady at two consecutive meetings since the initiation of their policy adjustments last year.

ASIA

JAPAN

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida unveiled a substantial stimulus package exceeding \$100 billion on Thursday in a bid to alleviate the impact of inflation and bolster his dwindling approval ratings. The move comes amidst a challenging period for the world's third-largest economy, with voters grappling with soaring prices exacerbated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine last year, which led to increased energy costs and governmental strain.

- Speaking at a meeting, Kishida acknowledged the shift away from the detrimental cycle of deflation characterized by low prices, wages, and growth. He disclosed that the stimulus package, totalling approximately 17 trillion yen (\$113.2 billion), signifies a pivotal moment, presenting a unique opportunity to transition to a new economic phase after three decades.
- However, Kishida also acknowledged the disparity between the surging prices and stagnant wage growth, emphasizing the need to temporarily bolster people's disposable income to prevent a regression into deflation.
- While further details of the stimulus package were anticipated from the government, early reports suggested a comprehensive program valued at 37.4 trillion yen, factoring in contributions from the private sector.

EUROPE

BRITAIN

To commemorate the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's first collected works, a weather balloon carrying a portrait of the renowned English playwright and a speech from his play "A Midsummer Night's Dream" was launched into space. This unique initiative is part of a series of six short films created by filmmaker Jack Jewers, celebrating Shakespeare's enduring legacy.

- In these films, Jewers creatively reimagines some of Shakespeare's most famous poems and speeches for the modern era. The project delves into various contemporary issues, including the global impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the conflict in Ukraine, advancements in space exploration, and social justice protests.
- Shakespeare's First Folio, the inaugural printed edition containing his collected plays, was published in 1623, seven years after the playwright's passing.
- To honour this literary milestone, Jewers directed a diverse range of subjects, including Ukrainian civilians in Kyiv, to craft a fresh interpretation of Shakespeare's "Band of Brothers" speech from his historical play "Henry V."
- Through these films, audiences are invited to witness Shakespeare's timeless words taking on new meaning and relevance in the 21st century.

SOUTH AMERICA

URUGUAY

Uruguay's foreign minister, Francisco Bustillo, abruptly resigned on Wednesday amid a scandal involving alleged efforts to conceal information related to Sebastian Marset, a wanted cocaine trafficker who is the subject of an international manhunt. Following the release of recordings implicating him, Bustillo claimed, "Things are not as they have been presented," in a statement.

- Despite asserting that the situation was "sufficiently sensitive," Bustillo swiftly offered his resignation to President Luis Lacalle Pou, who was in the United States at the time. Bustillo's decision came after former deputy foreign minister Carolina Ache testified

earlier that day as part of an investigation into the circumstances surrounding Marset's acquisition of a Uruguayan passport.

- Marset is facing drug charges in Uruguay, Paraguay, Brazil, and the United States. Authorities have accused him of being a prominent drug trafficker in the Southern Cone region, responsible for transporting large shipments of cocaine through Uruguay.

SECTION 3 – MIXED BAG

HEALTH

MS Biomarkers Predict Progression

In a recent study published in Nature Communications, researchers aimed to discover reliable protein biomarkers for diagnosing and predicting the short- and long-term trajectory of multiple sclerosis (MS) by utilizing proximity-extension assay (PEA) along with next-generation sequencing (NGS) technology.

- **Background:** Multiple sclerosis is a chronic degenerative condition affecting the central nervous system, leading to potential alterations in body fluids like blood plasma and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF). Fluctuations in protein levels within these fluids could serve as credible biomarkers for MS diagnosis and monitoring disease activity.
- The researchers hypothesized that testing MS biomarkers in paired CSF and plasma samples from early-stage MS patients and healthy controls could facilitate early and efficient therapies. This approach could delay MS onset, curb its progression, minimize unnecessary treatments, and enable personalized treatment strategies.
- **Study Design and Methodology:** The study focused on 143 MS patients and 43 healthy controls from Swedish cohorts, providing paired CSF and plasma samples. Using the Olink Explore platform, the team analyzed 1463 proteins in these samples and measured neurofilament light chain (NfL) levels in CSF samples. The analysis revealed 52 differentially expressed proteins (DEPs) in MS patients compared to controls.
- The study also employed the concept of no evident disease activity (NEDA-3) and calculated a normalized age-related MS score (nARMSS) to gauge overall disability progression. Logistic regression models assessed binary outcomes, and a linear regression model predicted the nARMSS score using baseline protein expressions, accounting for age and gender.
- **Results:** Among the 52 DEPs, NfL and interleukin-18 (IL-18) exhibited robust correlations. Lower NfL levels in CSF accurately predicted the absence of disease activity even after two years. EDSS scores effectively predicted long-term disability, and the nARMSS score allowed comparative analysis of disability progression across cohorts.
- Disability in MS often occurs independently of relapse-related inflammation, emphasizing the importance of understanding disability development and identifying reliable biomarkers.

- **Conclusion:** This research identified 52 significant biomarker candidates in the CSF of early-stage MS patients compared to healthy controls. These protein biomarkers can reliably forecast MS progression, especially disability outcomes, based on nARMSS scores. In the future, these biomarkers could guide personalized treatment strategies for individuals with MS, potentially revolutionizing the approach to managing this challenging condition.

SPACE

Jupiter's Bright Opposition

The most dazzling celestial body in the night sky, second only to the moon, isn't a star but the magnificent planet Jupiter. Currently visible from 5:49 PM onwards, Jupiter is presently showcasing its utmost brilliance, providing an unparalleled chance for astronomical enthusiasts to observe its splendour.

- Jupiter, the largest planet in our solar system, is currently in opposition, a phenomenon where it is positioned directly opposite the Sun in our sky. This alignment allows Jupiter to remain visible for most of the night, making it an ideal time for stargazing.
- Its colossal size, with a mass approximately 318 times that of Earth and a volume about 1320 times larger, contributes to its luminosity in the night sky. This gas giant, primarily composed of hydrogen and helium, rotates at an astonishing speed, making it the fastest spinner in our solar system. It completes a full rotation on its axis roughly every ten hours, giving it the shortest solar day among all the planets.
- Jupiter reaches opposition approximately every 399 days, or around 13 months. This year, this fascinating event will occur on November 3, 2023. During this period, Jupiter will be at its closest point to Earth, intensifying its visibility and brightness.
- Surprisingly, Jupiter can be seen with the naked eye, even without the aid of a telescope. For those equipped with a good pair of binoculars, a more detailed view awaits. The planet's four largest moons, famously discovered by Galileo in 1610, become discernible through these lenses, adding to the visual spectacle.
- Despite its proximity to Earth during opposition, Jupiter remains an astounding distance away. Its tropical year, the time it takes to complete an orbit around the Sun, spans about 4331 Earth days, which is just under 12 Earth years. This vast distance and slow orbit highlight the unique opportunity presented by Jupiter's current opposition.
- As we approach November 3, the peak brightness of Jupiter, both novice and experienced stargazers alike will be looking up not only to marvel at the planet's grandeur but also to extract valuable scientific insights from the night sky.

SOCIAL MEDIA

EU Bans Meta's Use Of Personal Data

the European Data Protection Board (EDPB) announced a significant decision to prohibit Meta, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram, from using users' personal data for targeted advertisements. The ruling establishes a ban on processing personal data for behavioural

advertising across the entire European Economic Area, grounded in contract and legitimate interest legal bases, as stated by the EDPB.

- This decision comes in response to Meta's recent announcement that users in Europe would have the option to purchase subscriptions for ad-free access to Facebook and Instagram starting this month. A representative from Meta affirmed their commitment to obtaining user consent and compliance with regulatory requirements through the subscription model. Meta claims that the EDPB members were informed about their consent plan in advance and that they had engaged in meaningful discussions to reach a resolution. Despite Meta's assertions, the EDPB proceeded with the ban.
- The EDPB's ruling was prompted by a request from Norway's data regulator, which had previously imposed a ban on targeted advertisements on Facebook and Instagram based on users' personal data collected without explicit consent. According to the decision, Ireland's data regulator, responsible for overseeing Meta's operations in Europe, has been given a two-week deadline to implement final measures on the issue. The ban is set to take effect one week after these measures are established.
- Meta has indicated its intention to seek user consent to use personal data for targeted ads, and the EDPB is evaluating this proposal. Notably, Facebook had around 300 million daily users in Europe by the end of 2022, constituting a significant portion of Meta's global user base. The potential financial impact on Meta looms large, as losing the ability to target ads might lead to reduced advertiser spending. This risk is particularly significant if Europeans do not opt for the ad-free subscription, priced at 9.99 euros (\$10.50) per month on the web and 12.99 euros on mobile phones.
- Anu Talus, the chairwoman of the EDPB, emphasized that the decision to impose the ban was made after Meta was found to be non-compliant with orders issued at the end of the previous year. Talus stressed the urgency for Meta to align its data processing practices with legal requirements and cease unlawful processing activities.

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