

DISTRO

122112 #71

engadget

nasa_mission_control 1 min
Does the ISS have LTE?

peeppeepdntsleep 2 mins
Do Instagram's new terms still apply?

antbaena 1 min
I thought Bruce Willis already took care of this!

nrad1984 1 min
Well, at least we had *Mafo 4*.

twintom 1 min
So much for BB10.

twinhenry 2 mins
... and my Wii U is still updating :(

mattymagpie 1 min
Siri, take me to the bunker.

armageddon_asteroid NOW
CHECK-IN HERE
Planet Earth

dealer_dan 1 min
Phew, dodged that fiscal cliff!

banker_bob 1 min
Do they take Bitcoins on Mars?

megamunden 1 min
What does this red button do?

flipper 1 min
Thanks for all the fish!

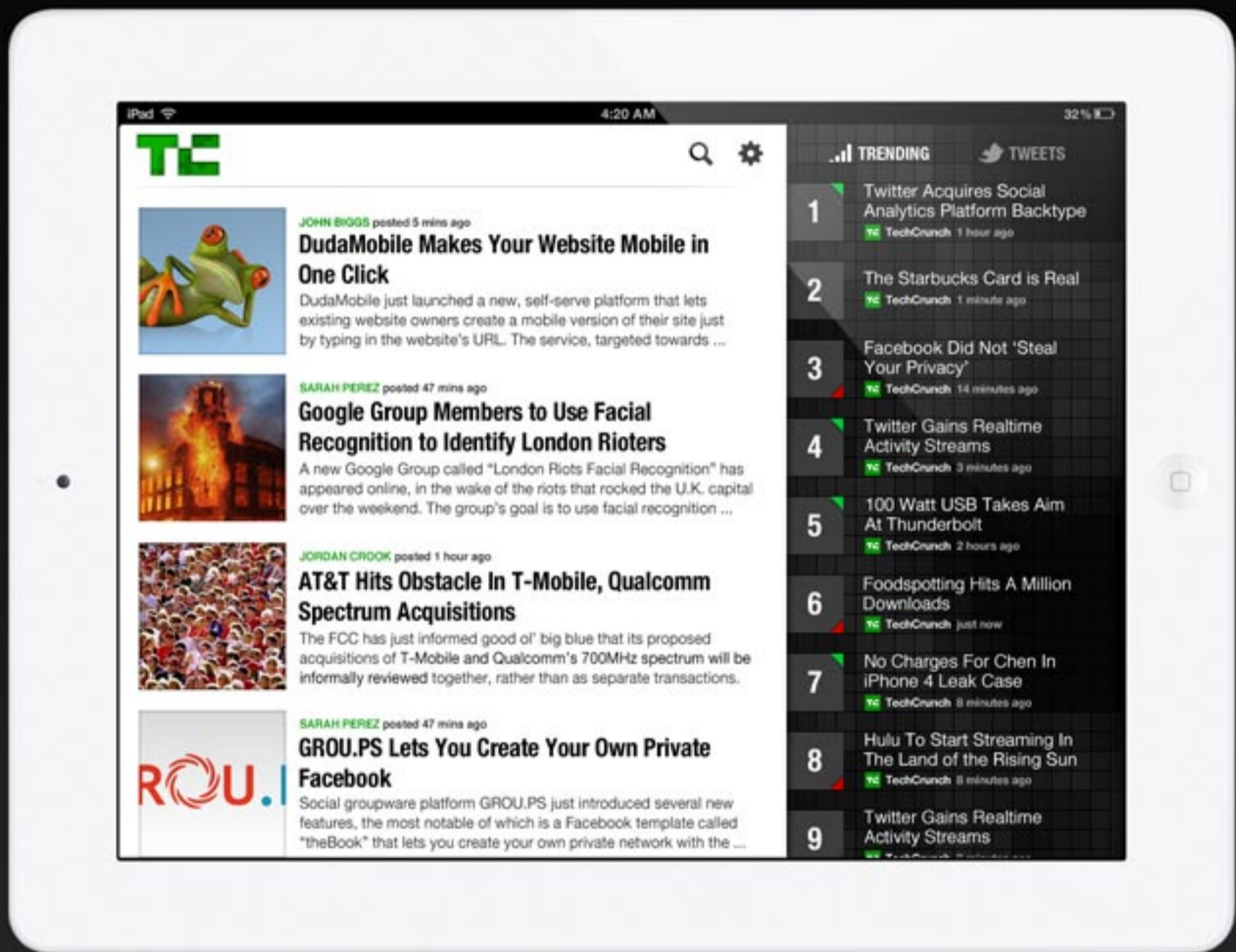
jimmy_mac 1 min
Already over the asteroid memes
#yawn

IT'S THE END OF THE YEAR AS WE KNOW IT



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ISSUE 71

DISTRO

12.21.12

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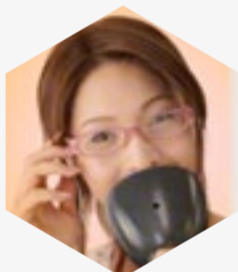
ENTER



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Looking Back
By Tim Stevens



EYES ON
MakerBot Replicator 2



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EV Tree



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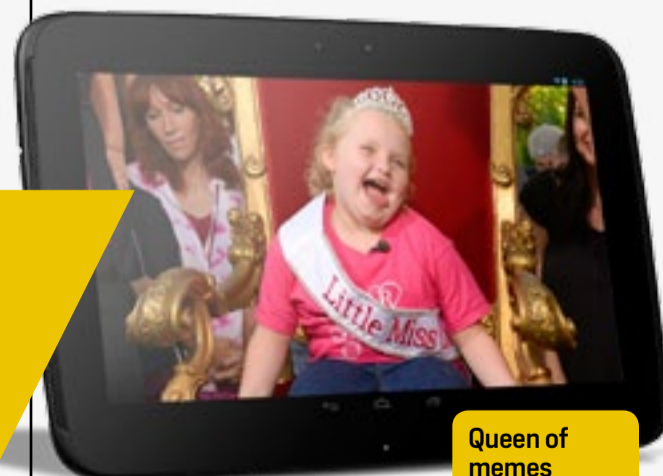
CE-OH NO HE DIDN'T
The Year in Corporate Mudslinging



TIME MACHINES
The Digital Grind

The Year in Tech 2012

January
February
March
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May
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November
December



Queen of memes Alana "Honey Boo Boo" Thompson.

On the Cover:
Illustration ILoveDust



LOOKING BACK

DISTRO
12.21.12

EDITOR'S
LETTER



The year of 2012 is drawing to a close and what a 12 months it has been. Google unleashed not one but two amazing Nexus tablets upon the world, plus another great Nexus smartphone. Apple released the thinner and lighter iPhone that its fans have been waiting for and surprised by shipping a thinner and lighter iPad that iOS fans didn't know they wanted — but have been loving anyway. Microsoft pulled off near-simultaneous launches of Windows 8 and Windows Phone 8 and RIM ... well, RIM gave us something to look forward to in 2013.

Thankfully we won't have to wait long. We knew a January 30th event was happening and this week we got the formal invite to the BlackBerry 10 unveiling. It happens early in the morning in New York City, meaning you West Coast BlackBerry addicts will need to dial your alarm clocks way back to the dark hours if you want to join along as we give it the full liveblog treatment.

That wasn't the most talked about tech story this week, though. Not by a long shot. That honor undoubtedly goes to Instagram tweaking its Terms of Service — the sort of minutia that typi-

cally goes unnoticed. Not this time. The first update relates to sharing user data with parent company Facebook, which should come as no surprise, but it's the second update that really caused the muck to fly.

That update states: “a business or other entity may pay [Instagram] to display your username, likeness, photos (along with any associated metadata) and/or actions you take, in connection with paid or sponsored content or promotions, without any compensation to you.” In other words, Instagram can sell access to your vintage-look photos, a detail that caused a flurry of defections to Flickr and other social photo sites.

But, the important bit was the “paid or sponsored content or promotions” caveat. Co-founder Kevin Systrom hastily provided an update to clarify the intent here was to allow Instagram to use the photos of its members internally so that companies who are looking to expand their presence on the site can engage in some “innovative advertising.” Like, say, including a photo of a friend of yours and saying, “So-and-so likes Garnier hair care products.”




This, Systrom says, would be an alternative to ugly banner ads — and, it must be said, is exactly the kind of advertising we're inundated with on Facebook every day. Granted, nobody *likes* those ads, but they've hardly caused the mass of Facebook's users to flee. Systrom also specified that Instagram photos would not be sold to third parties, meaning your exhaustive collection of artistic latte foam photos is safe from unwanted commercialization.


In other bits of legal drama, the Samsung v. Apple battle continues, but both parties got a bit of a smackdown. First was Apple, denied an injunction request to block all sales of Samsung devices. Judge Koh stated, "The present case involves lost sales — not a lost ability to be a viable market participant." Samsung, meanwhile, had its request for a retrial denied. The company's lawyers had argued jury misconduct but, as the court didn't even allow a hearing on the subject, that seems to have been a bit of a shot in the dark. The \$1,049,393,540 verdict remains. Cash or check?

While Facebook and Instagram received a wee bit of attention for plans to share data, Apple and Foursquare raised eyebrows after the *Wall Street Journal* suggested a deal would see the two building check-ins right into the next version of iOS. While we don't know exactly what sort of harmonious social partnership will arise, it would certainly explain Apple SVP Eddy Cue's curious check-in at his own office last week.

Finally, Google has brought its Google Play scan and match feature to the US. The service looks at your local collection of music and identifies those tracks automatically, making them instantly available for access through Google's systems. It'll certainly save you some time uploading and, if you ripped your tracks in low quality, you might get a boost there, too, with Google using up to 320Kbps encoding. It's free, too, which is always nice.

In this week's Distro we're looking back, back into time, at all of the year's top stories, going month by month across all the happenings that your egg-nog-clouded mind may or may not recall — and highlighting some CrapGadgets we all tried to forget. (May you find none in your stocking this holiday season.) In Modem World, Joshua Fruhlinger explains why there's no shame in using a phone that is (gasp) more than a year old and director / photographer Timothy Saccenti makes his way through our Q&A.

Now, before you enjoy, I want to thank you for what has been an amazing year. Everyone on the Engadget team, myself most certainly included, is grateful for your readership. Without you we wouldn't be able to do what we do, and we love what we do. Happy holidays from all of us at Engadget. 



TIM STEVENS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF,
ENGADGET



BREAKING UP, THE SKINNY LOCKDOWN AND LOOK BUT DON'T TOUCH



Touch article names to read full threads

DISTRO
12.21.12

INBOX



JAWBONE UP (2012)
ISSUE 70,
DECEMBER 14TH, 2012

“Best avoided. I was an early adopter of the first one. Just checking out their own site you can see people already becoming frustrated with issues with the product. They say it’s a small number, but we’ve all heard this before. With the mixed messages surrounding the refund, people not getting theirs, people being told one thing to find out it was another. I’ll

never buy another Jawbone product as long as I live. Shoddy doesn’t cover it. V2 is now \$30 more in price, why? Syncing seems to be an issue (still), as does dying batteries then having to go through Jawbones painful returns procedure. Add into the mix that some existing users were given V2s for free when others who stayed massively loyal to this product were given nothing but ‘Tough, we gave you a refund’ as a reason why. Don’t buy it, sadness and madness

... down that road.”

— MIKEHUN97344343

“I am willing to give it another shot. I really liked the concept and the wakeup feature. I did hate the app and I like the improvements I have seen on screenshots. The main reasons I bought one was the wake up feature and the reminder to get up. I sit in front of a computer all day and never take enough breaks. When it was working that first week it was a nice reminder. Wake up feature is nice

“So why not just have a smart phone app that does all of this? Why do I want one more crap gadget?”

— ULTRA_ORANGE



because it isn't audible and attempts to work out the best time to wake you up. I have a newborn in the house so loud alarms are a cause for panic.

I was first in line when the product was first released and got my refund two weeks later because it basically fell apart on me. I am hoping one comes as a gift and if not then I do plan to give it one more shot.”

— JOHN.DESANTIAGO

APPLE iMAC (2012)
ISSUE 70,
DECEMBER 14TH, 2012

“The latest iMac looks great, but you really do pay for that designer pre-

mium. But then, when hasn't this been the case with designer gear?

My biggest problem with this iMac is access to the components within. Surely, at the expense of a few mm, the stand could be removed and the aluminum rear panel could be removed for access instead of having to work from the front?

Oh well!”

— ALEXBROOKELI

“It's very hard to get excited about a computer that offers very little in the way of upgradability or repairability. I love the design, love the screen resolution, love the thinness, but the fact that I

“I believe it is totally aesthetics in design that they made a thin profile. They strive to have the best looking designs that no one can copy. Look at the air. Five years ago when it came out it was an engineering and design feat to create such a small product. Other companies now are trying to mimic. The new iMac is the same.”

— JOSHUALEE90

can't service the machine myself makes it a hard sell as a primary system.

I wish Apple had gone another route, but, unfortunately, I understand the reasoning behind it and now folks like Intel are rumored to be joining the 'soldered-in' revolution. Pretty sad for those of us who want to repair and upgrade our machines ourselves.”

— DIO

ASUS ZENBOOK
PRIME UX51VZ
ISSUE 70,
DECEMBER 14TH, 2012

“Buy a Mac and save some money — wait. What!?”

— JAMESRUSSELL

“Samsung should just hurry up and put a touchscreen on the Series 9 already.”

— WASTARITA

“I love this design but why would I spend \$2,000 on the latest touch-optimized version of Windows without a touchscreen?”

— AARONCHRISTOPHERCOHEN



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EYES-ON

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12.21.12

MAKERBOT REPLICATOR 2



THE REDESIGNED VERSION 2.0

While the outfit may be one of the most recognizable in 3D printing, the folks at MakerBot didn't mail it in when it came time to trot out the second-gen model of its Replicator. The new unit features a redesigned exterior frame and build platform, and makes use of a new material for constructing dimensional models.

THE DAMAGE: \$2,199



The
Year
in
Tech
2012

The Top Crap Gadgets of 2012

Space limits alone would have kept many of this year's gadgets out of our end-of-time capsule, but the newest offerings from companies like Tomko, Uniq and Coverbee would have been left out anyway.

They may or may not have been useful in an apocalypse, or in life, but since we've all made it, *carpe diem!* **YOU, THE READER, VOTED** and we've tallied which ones, bless their hearts, **#fail the hardest.**

By Daniel Stegemiller



#9

#9.



NOISELESS USB KARAOKE MICROPHONE

This “noiseless microphone” has two functions, and only one is to prevent your karaoke from annoying your neighbors.

#8.

TOMKO TRANSCEIVER FOR IPHONE

All that darting around corners and covert memo-recording just makes you look creepy, but it could make you look as cool as this man with a mission. Japanese retailer Strapya World would have you know that its radio transceiver for the iPhone is “made for the everyday awesome person.”



#7.



THE CAN

Maybe you're one to buck all this flashy materialism, but still want to be recognized for the unique soul that you are. No one will accuse you of gadget snobbery if you stick to a soup can for all your telephony needs.



#6.



RETRO2GO HANDSET HOLDER

If you were into smartphones before they were cool and portable, you'll love the ability to carry around your over-sized retro handset on your jeans.

#5.



COVERBEE DIAMOND LAPTOP SLEEVE

Those Swarovski crystals decking out your smartphone? They might as well be lumps of coal. The discerning consumer knows that it's diamonds or nothing, and this \$11 million diamond laptop sleeve — complete with sable fur trim — is certainly something.

#4.

KIRF FERRARI PHONES

Nothing evokes the grace, beauty and power of Enzo Ferrari's engineering than these decade-old-spec phones that kinda resemble a Ferrari 599, if you squint from a distance.



#3.

THE FEINGER

Just as you wouldn't ride a bike without a helmet, you wouldn't be caught dead holding your phone without a ring to secure the device to your finger. Don't you care about safety at all?



#2.

PHINGLET FOR iPHONE

Our biggest regret in life is not being able to spin our \$600 cellphone around on a \$20 sticky coat hook.



#1.

LOVE UNIQ iPAD 2 CASE

We're expecting the iPad 3 to be able to recreate the title sequence of the *Rocky Horror Picture Show* without the aid of this case.

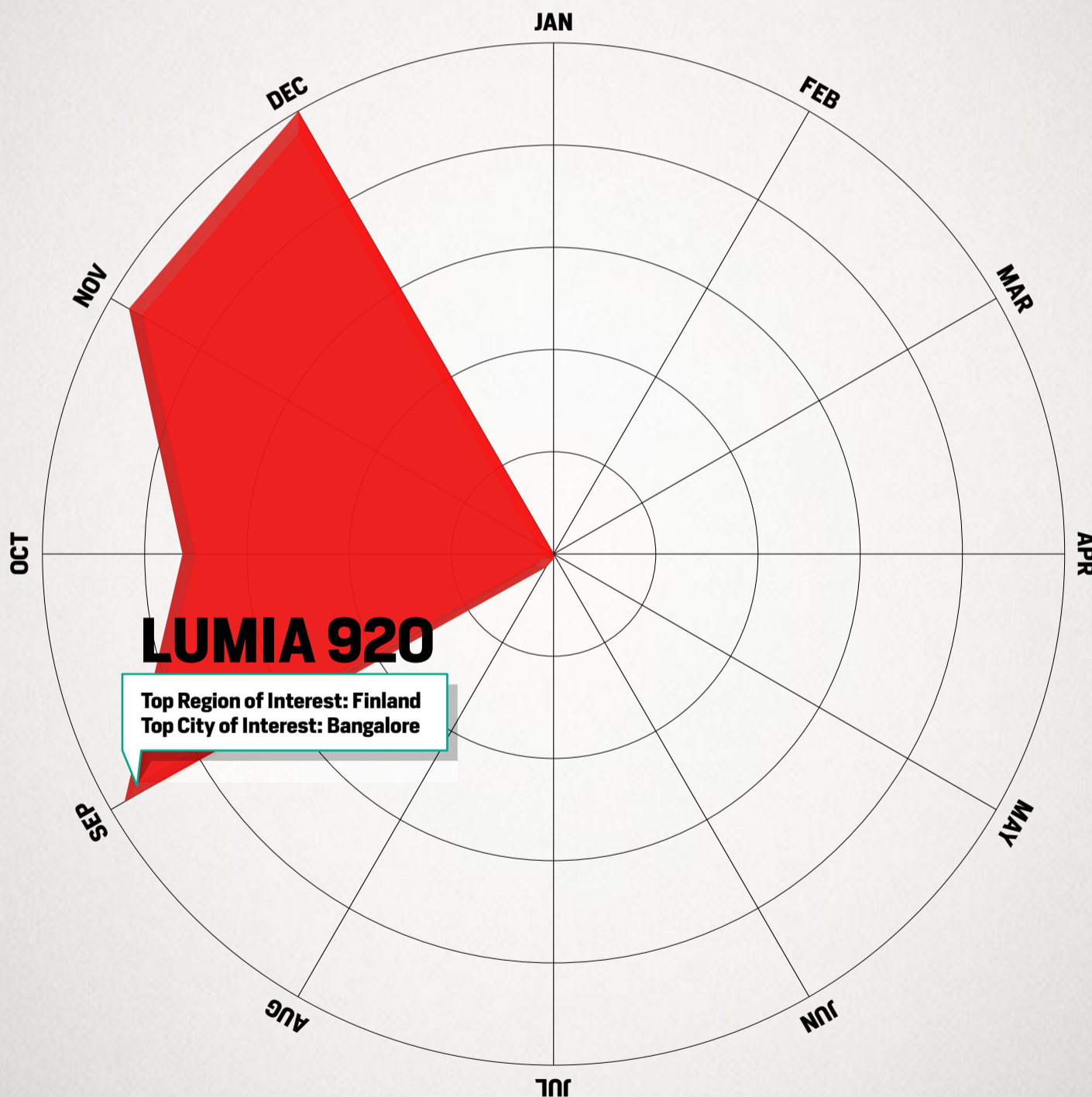


In Search of the Year's Top Gadgets

Google's Zeitgeist has been serving up snapshots of our mass searching consciousness every year since 2001 and with a seemingly endless supply of keynotes, product launches and hardware

refreshes over the course of this year, we wanted to see how that all played out. Some keywords saw sustained activity, while others were more of a one-and-done occurrence. — Jon Turi

TOP TRENDING CONSUMER ELECTRONICS SEARCHES 2012



TAP FOR INFO

- IPAD 3
- GALAXY S3
- IPAD MINI
- NEXUS 7
- GALAXY NOTE 2
- PLAY-STATION
- IPAD 4
- MICROSOFT SURFACE
- KINDLE FIRE
- LUMIA 920**

Google determines trending topics based on frequency of searches and popularity over time.



Netflixed: The Epic Battle for America's Eyeballs

By Gina Keating
Portfolio



Beyond cataloging the last decade through the eyes of Netflix — from startup to juggernaut — *Netflixed: The Epic Battle for America's Eyeballs* tells the story of digital media coming of age. Netflix is merely the shepherd in this story: leading American consumers away from physical media by using that same physical media it sought to bring down, forging lucrative relationships with content owners before digital exploded, and employing America's oldest physical delivery service to do so. Gina Keating followed Netflix along the whole coming of age process, and she employs her hands-on reporting chops to tell the tale expertly. Of course, the tale couldn't be told without including the enormous brand Netflix brought down in its rise to prominence: Blockbuster. Perhaps even more interesting than Netflix's market-disrupting abilities are Blockbuster's struggles with investors and playing catch up in a market dominated by a smaller, more nimble, more savvy competitor. Few — if any — books have so clearly captured the still-in-process consumer move from physical to digital media consumption, and *Netflixed* sets a very high bar. — *Ben Gilbert*



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headlines
to read full
stories

Why Xbox Failed in Japan

By Wesley Yin-Poole

Eurogamer

The Xbox is often discussed as one of Microsoft's biggest successes in the past decade, but that success isn't equally qualified all around the world. Here, Wesley Yin-Poole examines what went wrong for the company in Japan, including missed opportunities to land big game series like *Resident Evil* and *Final Fantasy* on the original Xbox, and its ongoing problems trying to increase market share for the Xbox 360.

The Last Shuttle Flight

By Tony Reichhardt

Air & Space

The end of the space shuttle program has sparked plenty of writing on the subject, but it's one story that's difficult to over-cover. In this piece for *Air & Space*, Tony Reichhardt takes a detailed look back at that last flight, from the crew's training, to the actual mission where they balanced science with ceremony, to Atlantis' landing — all recounted with insight from the shuttle astronauts themselves.

How the UN's 'Game-Changing' Internet Treaty Failed

By Megan Garber

The Atlantic

It prompted some vocal protests from Google and others, but the controversy surrounding a new internet treaty proposed by the UN's International Telecommunication Union faded into the background last week as a number of countries backed away from signing it. In this piece for *The Atlantic*, Megan Garber breaks down what was at stake and why the treaty ultimately failed.



YOU USE THAT?



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12.21.12

FORUM

THIS IS THE
MODEM WORLD

BY JOSHUA FRUHLINGER

That's what she said to me. ¶ “You use **THAT?!**” she repeated, pointing at my humble iPhone 4. ¶ “Is that even a 4S?” she stepped back as she glanced for backup. ¶ “Aren't you some techie?” her friend joined in. I felt like I had been caught with my pants down. I had to prove my tech worthiness to these girls. I had a reputation to protect. ¶ I explained that while I was, indeed, a “techie,” my iPhone 4 was working just fine. I continued that I felt it was fast enough, that it did what I needed it to do and that I was waiting for the 5S.

I didn't believe any of this. I wanted an iPhone 5. I just hadn't ordered one yet. I was busy and stuff. I fully plan to get one and revel in its big screen and faster processor. My 4 was showing its age and I was out of room for new apps. But here we are months into the iPhone 5's existence and my 4 is still trudging along crankily as software updates conspire to remind me that it's

an aging calculator bestowed upon me by the ancients.

I asked them what phones they were carrying, hoping to get out of this bind via hypocrisy. One had an iPhone 5 and the other had a shiny, new Galaxy S III. Drat. I, the “techie,” was outclassed by these two lovely ladies, and I didn't like it. I ordered an iPhone 5 right there — right in the Apple store



“Keeping up with smartphones, of course, is an economic and mental nightmare.”

on my iPhone 4 — as they watched, mocking me, laughing at me, telling me I was a silly little man. It was horrible.

I wanted to call my mom.

Smartphones are symbols of our tech know-how, our fashion sense and our economic well-being whether we like to admit it or not. Just like the scene outside a club as people parade out of cars that show how much of a man — or woman — they are, our smartphones show how savvy and well-off we are. And for whatever reason, we care.

Keeping up with smartphones, of course, is an economic and mental nightmare. Most of us are locked into contracts that only make it money-smart to buy a new one every two years. Some smartly time this with the launch cycle of their favorite brands, but of course this isn't always realistic. In fact, had I kept up with iPhones, I would be stuck with a 4S under contract. My 4 is completely upgradeable


with subsidies aplenty at this point, but now I am stuck asking the same question that I am asked on a virtually daily basis.

Do I buy the 5 now or wait for the 5S as I suggested I was doing to the judgmental girls?

And, most importantly, why do I care?

We all know we check out each other's phones, judging, feeling jealous or vindicated, keeping tabs and planning our next upgrade like LA residents time car leases with vehicle refresh rates.

Then there are those, the enlightened few, who have held onto their older devices until they become retro-cool. One of my colleagues still carries her white iPhone 3 around like a '60s mod tricorder, and I love it. I want it. Heck, I think I might even eBay a StarTAC. That'd be cool.

Here's hoping that whatever goodies you get this holiday last you well past their technological expiration dates. Cheers! 



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*The
Year in
Tech
2012*

Back in Time

A Glimpse at Technology's
Recent Past

By Sarah Silbert,
Billy Steele and
Christopher Trout

While planet Earth has yet to meet its demise, **THE END OF 2012 IS NIGH**. It was a year of lengthy legal battles and shifting power dynamics in the tech industry. It brought with it great advancements and even greater failures — and, for some, the promise of the end of days. We've combed our archives to bring you just a few of the stories that made the biggest impact on our reporting this year. Herewith, an abridged look back at the year that was.

Touch dates to view original stories



JANUARY

The
Year in
Tech
2012

JANUARY 1ST

Following a year of production delays for its high-end **KARMA HYBRID**, American automaker Fisker officially recalled 239 vehicles. A malfunction with its Li-ion batteries was found to increase

the risk of an electrical short circuit and fire. This was far from the end of the company's woes. In August, a Karma owner returned from the grocery store to find the EV engulfed in flames.

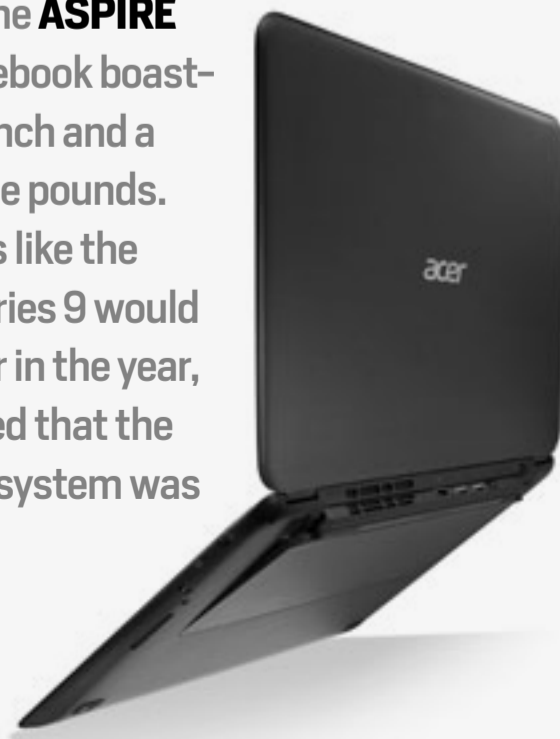


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JANUARY 8TH

At CES, Acer announced the “world’s thinnest Ultrabook,” the **ASPIRE S5**. The 13.3-inch notebook boasted a thickness of 0.6 inch and a weight just under three pounds. Though other systems like the 0.5-inch Samsung Series 9 would out-svelte the S5 later in the year, Acer’s machine showed that the race for the slimmest system was kicking into high gear.



JANUARY 9TH

Also at CES, Nokia unveiled the long-rumored **LUMIA 900** smartphone as an AT&T exclusive. We liked its 8-megapixel rear camera, strong performance and blazing LTE speeds, but its successor, the Lumia 920, would wow us even more when it debuted in the fall.



The Year in Tech 2012



JANUARY 14TH

LightSquared's years-long effort to integrate a wholesale 4G LTE network with satellite coverage was quashed by the National Executive Committee for Space-Based Positioning, Navigation and Timing, which found that the technology could interfere with GPS equipment. This came on the heels of Sprint renegeing its 15-year resource-sharing agreement with LightSquared, and set the tone for many defeats on the company's eventual road to bankruptcy.

JANUARY 19TH

Federal prosecutors shut down popular file-sharing site Megaupload in the US, indicting founder Kim Dotcom and others for copyright violation, conspiracy to commit racketeering and other alleged illegal activities in the process. The takedown coincided with the high-profile online piracy debates brought about by the PIPA and SOPA bills. Megaupload has yet to rise from the dead.

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(L-R) Bram van der Kolk, Finn Batato, Mathias Ortmann and Kim Dotcom.



JANUARY 19TH:

Kodak filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in New York, with the goal of emerging with a completely reorganized business by 2013. The company received \$950 million in debtor-in-possession financing, which it said would bolster liquidity and working capital. As a sign not only of the company's troubles, but also of the decline of non-digital photography, Kodak even sold the iconic film arm of its business later in the year.

PHOTOGRAPHS: AP PHOTO/MEL EVANS, FILE (CELL TOWER); MICHAEL BRADLEY/FAIRFAX MEDIA VIA GETTY IMAGES (MEGAUPLOAD); AP PHOTO/MEL EVANS (KODAK)

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The Year in Tech 2012



EDITOR'S CHOICE

JOE POLLICINO

PARROT ZIK

Not only is the Zik loaded with high-tech features like NFC, touch controls and wireless Bluetooth audio, it's also one of the most dapper sets of cans currently on the scene.



JANUARY 20TH

Following statements of opposition from Google, Facebook, Twitter and just about every other major tech company, the US Senate and House decided to delay votes on PIPA and SOPA, respectively. The controversial anti-piracy bills called for greater government authority for banning websites that infringe copyrighted material. They've remained in limbo ever since.

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BlackBerry 10

JANUARY 22ND

After months of investor backlash — and the underwhelming launch of the PlayBook — RIM announced a switch-up at the top. Co-chief executives Jim Balsillie and Mike Lazaridis stepped down from their positions, and **COO THORSTEN HEINS** was appointed to take over as CEO. The news was coupled with rumors that Heins would license the BlackBerry 10 operating system to other handset manufacturers.



1/22



FEBRUARY

*The
Year in
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2012*



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FEBRUARY 2ND

The internet got a first look at the **WINDOWS PHONE 8** operating system, codenamed Apollo, when an internal Microsoft video leaked. In it, Windows Phone manager Joe Belfiore described support for dual-core CPUs, four screen resolutions, NFC and also hinted at Skype integration. When the OS was released at the end of October, all those features were indeed there.

EDITOR'S CHOICE

RICHARD LAWLER

GOOGLE NOW

While most of the tech I was looking forward to in 2012 (OLED, tablets / second-screen apps, UltraViolet and so many more) failed to deliver, Google's search enhancement came out of nowhere and stole the crown. It intelligently assembles much of the information I've put into Google's myriad services and presents it to me when and where I need it. There's a hint of Skynet creepiness, but the benefits make it worthwhile.



FEBRUARY 13TH

Apple announced that Foxconn, one of its major manufacturing outlets — and the subject of media scrutiny due to worker suicides and a factory explosion — would receive a voluntary audit from the Fair Labor Association at factories in Shenzhen and Chengdu, China. The report was said to cover working and living conditions and would include polling thousands of employees.

FEBRUARY 13TH

The US Justice Department followed the lead of European regulators and gave the green light to Google's acquisition of Motorola Mobility. The \$12.5 billion purchase was subject to close inspection due to concern that it would cause competition issues, though Mountain View made it clear it was just interested in Moto's patent portfolio to bolster the Android ecosystem.

Touch dates to view original stories



FEBRUARY 20TH

Following reports that Google bypassed Safari's privacy features by tracking users through web ads, Microsoft found the search giant was also bypassing security settings in Internet Explorer to track users via cookies. Mountain View responded by calling Microsoft out for using a "widely non-operational" P3P protocol for privacy protection.

FEBRUARY 22ND

While it was released in Japan in December of 2011, Sony's PS Vita (known previously as the Next Generation Portable) finally made its stateside debut, nearly a year after Nintendo's 3DS hit shelves.

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FEBRUARY 26TH

At Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, HTC launched its new flagship handset, the **ONE X**. Along with the One S and One V also announced at the show, the phone represented a step away from brand dilution and toward a more unified line of products for HTC. Our reviewers gave top marks to the phone, applauding its attractive polycarbonate unibody design, Gorilla Glass-coated display and fantastic camera. The addition of AT&T LTE only sweetened the package.



The Year in Tech 2012



FEBRUARY 27TH

Nokia had a big MWC announcement of its own: the **808 PUREVIEW**, a handset running the Symbian Belle OS on a 1.3GHz single-core chip and offering a ho-hum 640 x 360, 4-inch screen. But the 808 really stood out for being the first smartphone with ultra-high-end camera technology: the shooter boasted a full 41 megapixels and a Carl Zeiss lens capable of continuous-focus 1080p.

FEBRUARY 29TH

The world's cheapest mini-Linux computer, the **RASPBERRY PI**, went on sale with an asking price of \$25 for the Model A version with 256MB of RAM and \$35 for the Model B

iteration with an extra USB port and an Ethernet hookup. Web retailers were overwhelmed with orders, and the Pi even sold out at distributor Premier Farnell.

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MARCH

*The
Year in
Tech
2012*

MARCH 5TH

As part of Deutsche Telekom's OSIRIS project, the company's T-Labs team successfully transferred data over a single optical fiber wavelength channel from Berlin to Hanover and back at a blazing 512 Gbps. It was a mighty impressive demonstration, but rest assured the widespread implementation of this tech was (and is) quite a ways off.

MARCH 6TH

The Android Market that supplied apps, books and movies to handsets running Google's OS was replaced by a one-stop shop for content called Google Play. The Play store incorporated the former Market, Google Music and the Google eBookstore.

DISTRO
12.21.12

MARCH 7TH

Shedding the numbering convention for its tablet line, Apple announced the aptly named **iPAD WITH RETINA DISPLAY**. The 9.7-inch panel sported 3.1 million pixels in a 2,048 x 1,536 configuration, and the Retina branding would next show up on the 15-inch MacBook Pro with an even more stunning 2,880 x 1,800 resolution. Just as exciting as all those pixels? The new tablet was Apple's first device to offer LTE connectivity, via AT&T and Verizon.



3/7

Touch dates to view original stories



MARCH 15TH

Famed Austrian skydiver Felix Baumgartner leapt from an altitude of more than 13 miles above the Earth, reaching a maximum speed of 364.4 MPH. This jump was just one of several lead-ups to Baumgartner's attempt to break the record of 120,000 feet; in October, he raised the bar with a 128,100-foot dive — reaching a max speed of 833.9 MPH and breaking the sound barrier in the process.

MARCH 19TH

Responding to travelers' complaints about gadget restrictions on flights, the FAA told *The New York Times* it would once again look into the rules regarding the use of laptops, tablets and other non-cellular gadgets on airplanes. Perhaps one tiny baby step in the right direction: in September, the FAA cleared American Airlines crews to use iPads in the cockpit at every point during a flight.

DISTRO
12.21.12

MARCH 29TH

The Fair Labor Association released the findings from its audit of the Foxconn plants in China where Apple products are made. The group found violations of both FLA code and Chinese legal limits on hours worked, and as a result Apple and Foxconn agreed to drastically reform factory conditions by July 2013. The plant also agreed to raise employee wages and improve safety and health conditions.



MARCH 29TH

In the wake of RIM's Q4 2012 earnings announcement, the company dropped the news that **JIM BALSILLIE**, who had already stepped down as co-CEO, was resigning from his position on the board of directors.

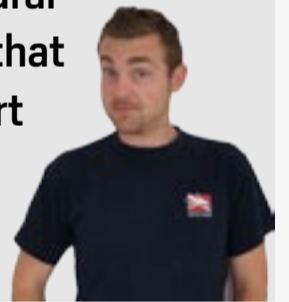
In light of a dip in revenue, CEO Thorsten Heins admitted that RIM faced significant business challenges and said he would refocus on the company's enterprise business and BB10 — which has still yet to launch.

EDITOR'S CHOICE

DARREN MURPH

VERIZON'S HOMEFUSION LTE

At long last, wireless broadband that's not only fast enough to replace a wired option, but in many cases, faster. Verizon's hustling to make its LTE footprint huge, which could lead to broadband adoption in so many rural places that my heart draws me to.



APRIL

The
Year in
Tech
2012

APRIL 3RD

Nearly two years after launching on iOS, the extremely popular photo-sharing app Instagram finally made its debut on Android. The app included the same filters offered on the iOS version, and supported Android 2.2 and above.



DISTR
12.21.1

APRIL 4TH

Google released a video demoing **PROJECT GLASS**, a wearable heads-up display with Android on board. This would be the first of many high-profile public appearances for the device; two months later at Google I/O, **SERGEY BRIN** demoed the project with skydivers over San Francisco, and Mountain View put the glasses up for pre-order at \$1,500 a pop.

APRIL 9TH

Less than a week after the release of Instagram's Android app, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced that his company was planning to purchase the popular photo-sharing platform. Rumors pinpointed the price tag at a cool \$1 billion in cash and shares. Instagram's CEO stepped in to reassure users that "the Instagram app will still be the same one you know and love."

Touch dates to view original stories

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF AP PHOTO/FOUNDATION FIGHTING BLINDNESS, CORBETT LEE OF KNIGHT LIGHTS PHOTOGRAPHY (BRIN)



APRIL 11TH After allegations of anti-competitive pricing practices lead to an investigation of publishers in Europe, the Department of Justice launched its own charge against Apple, Hachette, HarperCollins, Macmillan, Penguin and Simon & Schuster. The DOJ's filing focused on charges that Apple and the publishers conspired to raise the cost of e-books and imposed that model on Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

EDITOR'S CHOICE



MYRIAM JOIRE

HTC ONE X

We played with a number of top-notch handsets this year but few are as well rounded as the HTC One X. It's not the only super-phone to offer high-end specs, a gorgeous display and a fantastic camera, but it's HTC's brilliant combination of branding, industrial design and user experience that sets the One X apart.



DISTRO
12.21.12

APRIL 11TH

Allerta, maker of the **IMPULSE SMARTWATCH**, launched a Kickstarter campaign for its new Pebble watch, offering full iOS compatibility and a 1.26-inch, 168 x 144 black and white e-paper display for \$99. Within two hours, the smartwatch raised \$100,000 in pledges, and it eventually broke Kickstarter's record with a total of \$3.3 million raised. Successful though its funding efforts may have been, the project was plagued by delays — as of mid-December, the watch was slated to debut in early 2013.



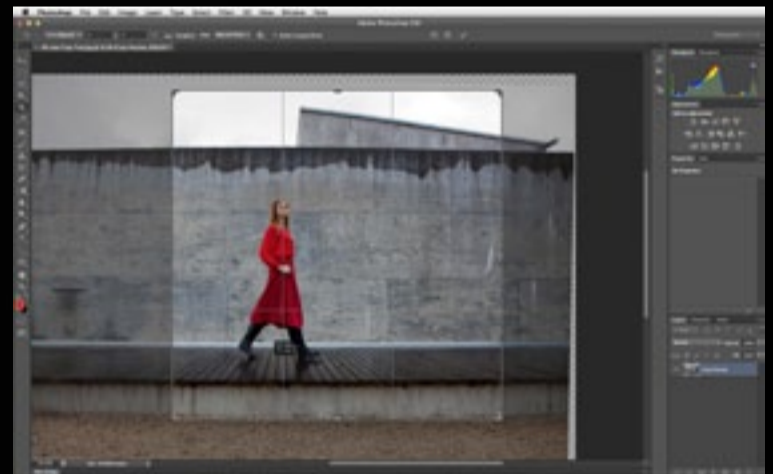
4/12

APRIL 12TH

Barnes & Noble unveiled its **NOOK SIMPLE TOUCH WITH GLOWLIGHT**, an e-reader with an illuminated screen meant to let users enjoy e-books without disrupting their sleeping partners. It went on pre-sale for \$139. Amazon would release its own version of the illuminated e-reader, the Kindle Paperwhite, later in the year.

APRIL 23RD

Along with introducing **CREATIVE SUITE 6** — with 14 applications including Photoshop and InDesign — Adobe announced its move to the cloud, with a new monthly Creative Cloud plan that would let users access CS6's features over a broadband connection for a monthly fee of \$75.



APRIL 28TH

Two years after Google incurred the wrath of the Justice Department for collecting private data over WiFi while amassing Street View and location information, the DOJ cleared the company of all wiretapping violations. This move came as the DOJ and FCC said they couldn't find evidence that the search giant accessed any of the data it amassed.

DISTRO
12.21.12



MAY

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MAY 3RD

At the company's Mobile Unpacked event in London, Samsung announced its latest flagship, the **GALAXY S III**. The handset touted a new (at the time) 1.4GHz Exynos 4 Quad chip for the heavy lifting alongside 1GB of RAM. Internals were tucked in behind a 4.8-inch, HD Super AMOLED display with TouchWiz-wrapped Android 4.0.

DISTRO
12.21.12

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF AP PHOTO/PAUL SAKUMA
(VERIZON)

MAY 14TH

What became official for Light-Squared on May 14th didn't come as much of a surprise. The company formally turned in its paperwork to begin a Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing in the US Bankruptcy Court of Manhattan. With this, the lofty goal of offering high-speed wireless for more than 260 million mobile users disappeared.

MAY 16TH

Verizon's CFO Fran Shammo confirmed what many unlimited data users on the network had long feared. The company announced that with the arrival of VZW's shared data plans, "everyone will be on data share." This meant that eventually, those grandfathered in would be forced into a monthly allowance.



Touch dates to view original stories



MAY 17TH

Facebook gathered up its massive user base and decided to go public. The social network placed 421,233,615 shares of common stock on the



table with an initial per-share price of \$38. Excitement would be short-lived, though, as investors remained skeptical of ongoing growth and stock prices fell in the following months.

MAY 22ND

After a lengthy courtship, the acquisition of Motorola Mobility by Google was finalized after getting a thumbs up from China, Europe and the US of A. The folks in Mountain View also announced that Dennis Woodside would steer the ship as CEO of Moto's mobile unit for the foreseeable future.

MAY 25TH

Giving promise to the future of commercial space exploration and solidifying 2012 as a really good year for Elon Musk, SpaceX's Dragon became the first commercial spacecraft to successfully dock with the International Space Station.

DISTRO
12.21.12

MAY 31ST

Unfortunately, the long, drawn-out legal quarrel between Google and Oracle didn't wrap up when the infringement verdict arrived in May. Copyright proceedings determined that Google had infringed on parts of Java APIs. However, the judge ruled that Oracle's claim was in fact invalid, as it extended the rights of the copyright holder a bit too far.

EDITOR'S CHOICE

BEN GILBERT SPACEX

SpaceX and its founder, the Tony Stark-esque Elon Musk, made a breakthrough this year — they created and piloted a private rocket into



space, which docked with the International Space Station. For those keep-

ing track at home, that's a first. In human history. If that's not progress toward the future Robert Zemeckis promised, I don't know what is.



JUNE

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JUNE 5TH

More than three years after its official announcement, Tesla delivered the first of its more-affordable Model S EVs to a venture capitalist in the Bay Area. The vehicle was let loose two weeks before the expected June 22nd arrival. Later in the year, the Model S would be voted *Motor Trend's* Car of the Year.

JUNE 11TH

Apple trotted out its own Maps application after nixing its long-standing use of Google's tech. However, the software arrived to a barrage of criticism for its glaring flaws, despite the inclusion of features like turn-by-turn navigation. The tech also touted full 3D capabilities, much like the upgrades Google announced mere days before.



DISTRO
12.21.12

JUNE 11TH

In 2012, we watched as Apple pulled the cover off of its Retina display on a number of devices — one of which was the **NEXT-GEN MACBOOK PRO**. The laptop was outfitted with a 220-ppi display panel that boasted a resolution of 2,880 x 1,800 on the 15-inch offering. At the time, the base model was priced at \$2,199.

6/11

Touch dates to view original stories



The Year in Tech 2012

Stephen Elop speaks at a press conference in Espoo, Finland regarding layoffs and plant closings.

JUNE 14TH

The hits kept coming for Nokia. In June, the company revealed plans to reduce its workforce by 10,000 before 2013 came to a close. Three executives also made their exit and the outfit sold off all but 10 percent of its stake in the luxury brand Vertu.

6/14

DISTRO
12.21.12



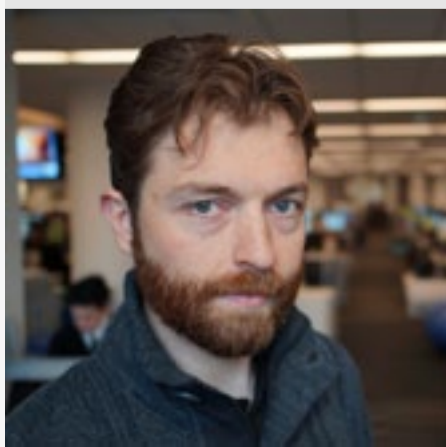
EDITOR'S CHOICE

TIM STEVENS

TESLA MODEL S

This is what the future of transportation looks like, and it's available now.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF AP PHOTO/
LEHTIKUVA, KIMMO MANTYLA (ELOP)



JUNE 18TH

At a presser in LA that was announced just hours beforehand, Microsoft confirmed that a **SURFACE**-branded Windows RT slate was in the works. The rather unexpected move into tablet manufacturing touted a VaporMg, all-magnesium frame that wielded NVIDIA's ARM chip to power the business end of matters.



JUNE 20TH

With its second event in less than a week, Microsoft made Windows Phone 8 official. The exhilaration was short-lived for those who had already jumped on the WP bandwagon, as the company announced that current handsets wouldn't see the new OS. This also proved that the early rumblings about upgrades were in fact false.

JUNE 27TH

Looking to reveal the next version of its OS in grand fashion, Google detailed the software on its brand-new slate, the Nexus 7. The 7-inch tablet was the first and only device at the time to sport **JELLY BEAN (ANDROID 4.1)**. The follow-up to the six-month-old Ice Cream Sandwich tacked on Project Butter and Google Now — the company's answer to Apple's Siri.



DISTRO
12.21.12

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF AP PHOTO/PAUL SAKUMA

JUNE 28TH

After numerous outages and a shuffle at the helm, matters continued to get worse for RIM. For Q1 of its 2013 fiscal year, the company reported a \$518 million net loss and 5,000 additional job cuts. The company also revealed that BlackBerry 10 smartphones wouldn't break cover until sometime in Q1 of the 2013 calendar year.

6/28



JULY

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JULY 2ND While it was granted a temporary injunction earlier in the year to halt iPad sales, China's Shenzhen Proview Technology sought compensation for its claim to the iPad trademark. The slates would return and a meager (by Apple's standards, anyway) \$60 million was sent to Proview to resolve the matter, thus proving that Cupertino wasn't immune to having to pay up.

7/2

DISTRO
12.21.12

JULY 4TH

Though the cat was let out of the bag the day before, CERN's huge announcement still packed quite the punch. A new boson was observed with a standard deviation of 5 at 99.9 percent confidence. This preliminary result provided evidence of the heaviest discovery to date and the best proof thus far of the **HIGGS**.

JULY 10TH

Riding the biggest first day in Kickstarter history, the Android-based **OUYA** gaming console took less than 12 hours to rocket past its funding mark of \$950,000. Designed by Yves Behar, the unit touted a \$99 price tag while being extremely accommodating to devs and lobbying for a wealth of free content.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF CERN (HIGGS)

Touch dates to view original stories





7/15

JULY 15TH

RICHARD BRANSON had claimed for some time that he'd be on board Virgin Galactic's first commercial tourism flight to space, but he confirmed that said trip would happen at some point during the course of 2013. A mere \$200,000 per person nabbed a seat for the voyage aboard the company's SpaceShipTwo craft.

DISTRO
12.21.12

PHOTOGRAPHS: ADRIAN DENNIS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES (BRANSON);
DAVID PAUL MORRIS/BLOOMBERG VIA GETTY IMAGES (MAYER)

JULY 16TH

Mountain View's first female engineer, a top executive and one of its first 20 employees departed this summer. **MARISSA MAYER** decided to leave Google to become Yahoo's new CEO, joining the ranks after Scott Thompson's departure amid a résumé scandal.



JULY 18TH

A judge in the UK forced Apple to make nice with Samsung in the public forum. Judge Colin Birss made the Cupertino outfit post on its website and in several publications that Samsung didn't copy the design of the iPad. This action was said to counter the "damaging impression the South Korea-based company was copying Apple's product," but it wouldn't be its last forced apology.



The Year in Tech 2012

JULY 23RD

Before Nikon's foray into the space, rumblings of Canon's own mirrorless offering swirled around the internet. However, **CANON'S EOS M** wasn't the change of pace from its DSLR offerings that the aforementioned competitor ushered in. The \$800 shooter touted a spec sheet reminiscent of the Rebel T4i with an initial launch coming in October.



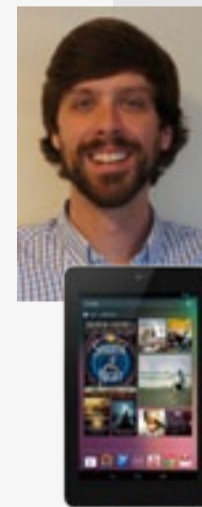
EDITOR'S CHOICE

MICHAEL GORMAN

NEXUS 7

The Nexus 7 has everything I want in a tablet: slick hardware sized for single-hand-

ed reading at a (relatively) bargain basement price and it gets timely Android updates — what's not to love?



JULY 23RD

After a battle with pancreatic cancer, **SALLY RIDE**, the first American woman to travel to space, died at the age of 61. Ride is remembered most for breaking NASA's gender barrier when she took part in an expedition on the Space Shuttle Challenger in June 1983. She also founded the administration's Office of Exploration.

DISTRO 12.21.12

JULY 26TH

Google ramped up its **GOOGLE FIBER** efforts in Kansas City, more than a year after the initial announcement. The extra oomph came in the form of Google Fiber TV — a service that touts a tailored, searchable UI, 1TB of space on Google Drive and a Nexus 7 slate to help out with the channel surfing.



PHOTOGRAPHS: AP PHOTO/BRIAN RUSSELL (RIDE); JULIE DENESHA/BLOOMBERG VIA GETTY IMAGES (GOOGLE FIBER)



AUGUST

*The
Year in
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AUGUST 6TH

With the help of guided entry, a parachute, a powered descent and a sky crane, **NASA'S CURIOSITY ROVER** touched down on the surface of Mars. Getting right to work, telemetry and the first images of Gale crater were sent back from the 2,000-pound (900kg) planet-exploring vehicle.

DISTRO
12.21.12



EDITOR'S CHOICE

DONALD MELANSON MARS ROVER CURIOSITY

NASA's Curiosity rover made my list of the top three gadgets or technology stories last year on the basis of its successful launch, but



its landing and getting down to business on the Red Planet more than merit the sole spot this year. It's already delivered plenty of excitement, but what's most promising is that we're still really just seeing the beginning of its mission — one that now seems likely to last well beyond the initial two-year plan.

AUGUST 12TH

Another Fisker Karma caught fire this summer in a Woodside, Calif., parking lot. The hybrid EV was powered off and unplugged at the time of the incident, similar to the fire back in the spring. Fisker was quick to point out that its prized electronics weren't the source. An investigation pointed to a cooling fan, causing a recall days later.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF NASA

Touch dates to view original stories



AUGUST 24TH

After a three-week trial, a federal court jury presented a verdict in the lengthy patent infringement lawsuit between Samsung and Apple. Samsung was found to have knowingly infringed on Apple patents, with damages totaling more than \$1 billion. On the other hand, the jury found Apple not guilty in all five instances cited by Samsung.

AUGUST 25TH

Following complications from heart surgery just a few weeks prior, **NEIL ARMSTRONG**, the first man to take a step on the moon, died at age 82. His pioneering expedition with Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins aboard the Apollo 11 spacecraft changed the face of space exploration forever.

DISTRO
12.21.12





The Year in Tech 2012

AUGUST 29TH

Among the barrage of new gadgets that Sony announced with rapid succession at its IFA presser was the awe-inspiring **84-INCH 4K BRAVIA TV**. The 3,840 x 2,160 LCD display is outfitted with an X-Reality Pro Engine and supports greater-than-HD passive 3D upscaling. Thus continued the trend of super-high-res, crazy-expensive TVs.



AUGUST 29TH

Mitt Romney, the GOP's presidential candidate, had already taken to Yahoo Answers to respond to voters' questions when the commander in chief decided to tackle internet inquiries himself. The virtual Q&A with **BARACK OBAMA** took place via an Ask Me Anything session on Reddit, continuing his use of social media throughout a successful re-election campaign.

DISTRO
12.21.12

AUGUST 29TH

A name like Galaxy Camera surely meant placing the Android OS alongside a dose of touch functionality and added connectivity, right? Sure enough, the anticipated shooter was "Unpacked" at IFA with a 4.8-inch (308 ppi) display, onboard Jelly Bean and



a standard 1/2.33-inch BSI CMOS sensor capable of 16-mega-pixel snaps.

AUGUST 29TH

It wasn't a huge surprise when the latest super-sized offering from Samsung was announced with a new stylus in tow. Screen real estate on the Galaxy Note II expanded to 5.5 inches and S Pen improvements nabbed most of the software tweaks this time around. A second-gen model signaled that the phablet was here to stay.



SEPTEMBER

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SEPTEMBER 5TH

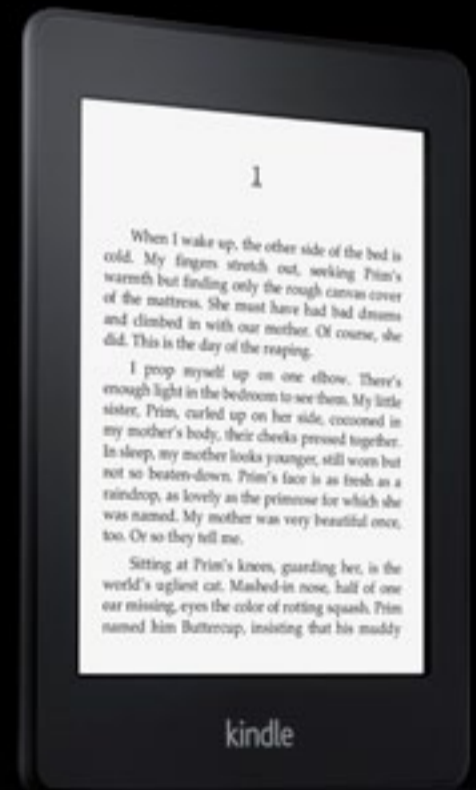
Just nine months after the announcement of its Lumia 900 flagship, Nokia outed its successor, the **920**. It may have been just as colorful, but this Windows Phone 8 handset was clearly a cut above, featuring a dual-core Snapdragon S4 CPU, a 4.5-inch (1,280 x 768) screen and an 8-megapixel camera packing the outfit's PureView technology.

SEPTEMBER 6TH

Adding even more light to the fight, Amazon introduced its own illuminated entry into the e-reader field with the **KINDLE PAPERWHITE**.

Nearly five months after Barnes & Noble released its glowing reader, Amazon released its own \$120 contender with a front-lit display. The screen also featured 25 percent more contrast and a 62 percent increase in resolution over other Kindles.

DISTRO
12.21.12



9/6

Touch dates to view original stories



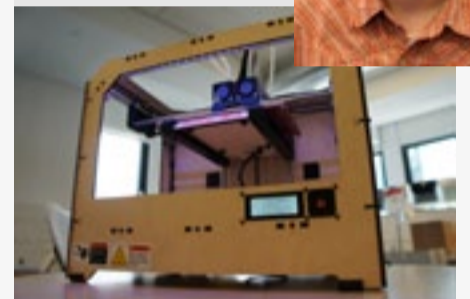
9/12

The Year in Tech 2012

EDITOR'S CHOICE

BRIAN HEATER
MAKERBOT
REPLICATOR

3D printing for the (hobbyist) masses!



SEPTEMBER 12TH

In evidence that doubling down on secrecy is easier said than done, Apple introduced a very familiar **IPHONE 5**. Proving the rumor mill right, the phone was both taller and slimmer, and sported a two-tone exterior. That new screen measured four inches and packed a 1,136 x 640 resolution. It was the first iPhone to offer 4G LTE.

DISTRO
12.21.12

SEPTEMBER 19TH

Continuing the unibody construction and naming scheme introduced with the One X, HTC announced its **WINDOWS PHONE 8X**. The colorful WP8 flagship would come in four distinct shades, with a 4.3-inch, 1,280 x 720 Super LCD 2 display; a dual-core Snapdragon S4 processor; an 8-megapixel camera; and Beats audio on board.



PHOTOGRAPH BY PATRICK T. FALLON/BLOOMBERG VIA GETTY IMAGES (SUPERCHARGER)

SEPTEMBER 23RD

Tesla founder Elon Musk teased the unveiling of the company's Superchargers saying it would "feel like alien spaceships landed at highway rest stops." And he was right. At the event, the company revealed its plans to deploy the otherworldly power pumps across the US, Europe and Asia. The stations were said to charge a Model S with 100 kilowatts in about 30 minutes.





SEPTEMBER 25TH Google's pet project, Glass, made yet another high-profile cameo on the face of **SERGEY BRIN** at the signing of a bill that established rules and regulations for allowing driverless cars on California's roads. Gov. Jerry Brown visited Google HQ in Mountain View to set the stage for the signing.

DISTRO
12.21.12

SEPTEMBER 25TH

Its long-awaited touch-friendly OS refresh was no doubt the star of RIM's BlackBerry Jam developer conference, with the company outing details like a new face for BBM and even a new developer handset. However, it was a rather awkward video featuring a rendition of "Keep on Loving You" that stole the show.

SEPTEMBER 28TH

It wasn't all multi-billion dollar earnings and Foo Fighters performances for Apple this year. Following what may be the company's most public failing of late, CEO Tim Cook issued an apology to its customers for delivering a subpar Maps app. The outfit went as far as to post a list of competitors' solutions to its App Store.



OCTOBER

The
Year in
Tech
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10/3

OCTOBER 3RD

Nearly 10 months after AT&T effectively left T-Mobile at the altar, the carrier was officially courted by another suitor.

Deutsche Telekom announced that the magenta one would merge with MetroPCS.

OCTOBER 14TH

After what seemed like endless delays, **FELIX BAUMGARTNER'S** 128,100-foot jump was on. The daredevil broke records (and the sound barrier) for the highest-ever manned balloon flight as well as speed and altitude records for a free fall.

PHOTOGRAPHS: RED BULL STRATOS/RED BULL CONTENT POOL (BAUMGARTNER); AP PHOTO/ MARK J. TERRILL (SHUTTLE)

DISTRO
12.21.12



OCTOBER 23RD

With NASA's shuttle program officially shuttered, 2012 saw a number of the spacecrafts journey to their final resting places. It was **ENDEAVOUR'S** stroll down the streets of LA, however, that had the world mesmerized.

Touch dates to view original stories



OCTOBER 23RD Steve Jobs was famously opposed to a smaller slate, but that didn't stop Apple's new regime from releasing the **iPAD mini**. In an attempt to gain back a portion of its tablet market share from the proliferation of 7-inch tablets, the company introduced its own 7.9-inch offering.



OCTOBER 26TH

And the hype beast came to rest. After more than a year of previews, teases and leaks, **MICROSOFT** finally made its touch-friendly OS available to the public, ushering in an army of laptop-tablet hybrids and touchscreen PCs.

DISTRO
12.21.12



EDITOR'S CHOICE

DANA WOLLMAN

MICROSOFT TOUCH COVER

You wouldn't think a flat, 3mm-thick piece of plastic would make for a comfortable keyboard, but you'd be wrong: the Touch Cover is surprisingly, almost mesmerizingly intuitive to use. It's easily the best part about the Surface and, I dare say, the most delightful thing I've tested all year. Pity Microsoft doesn't just include one in the box.



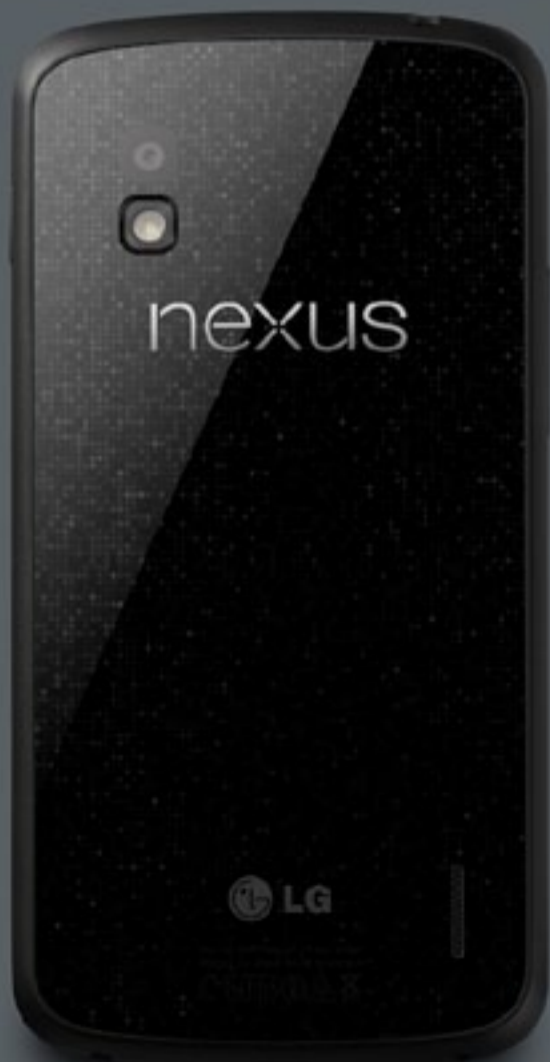
OCTOBER 29TH

Following the very public embarrassment that was Apple's Maps app, the company announced a shake-up at the top: SVP of iOS software Scott Forstall was on his way out. The head of Apple retail, John Browett, would also be parting ways. Meanwhile, Jony Ive, Bob Mansfield, Eddy Cue and Craig Federighi would all take on added responsibility to fill the void.

OCTOBER 27TH

Having canceled its own hardware announcement due to Hurricane Sandy just two days prior, Google announced its latest Nexus devices via press release. The Nexus 10 was a 10.5-inch Samsung tablet that appeared to share much of its DNA with the Galaxy Tab 10.1, while the **NEXUS 4** was a 4.7-inch smartphone with a 1,280 x 768 HD IPS Plus display and Snapdragon S4 Pro CPU. Both were powered by the latest Android build: 4.2 Jelly Bean.

DISTRO
12.21.12



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF AP PHOTO/DISNEY,
TODD ANDERSON (DISNEY/LUCASFILM)



OCTOBER 30TH

Setting off a storm of ridiculously cute (or annoying depending on your perspective) Mickey Mouse Star Wars memes, **DISNEY** announced plans to buy **LUCASFILM LTD.** for \$4.05 billion. The company also voiced its intentions to release a new *Star Wars* film every two to three years, much to the chagrin of some purists.



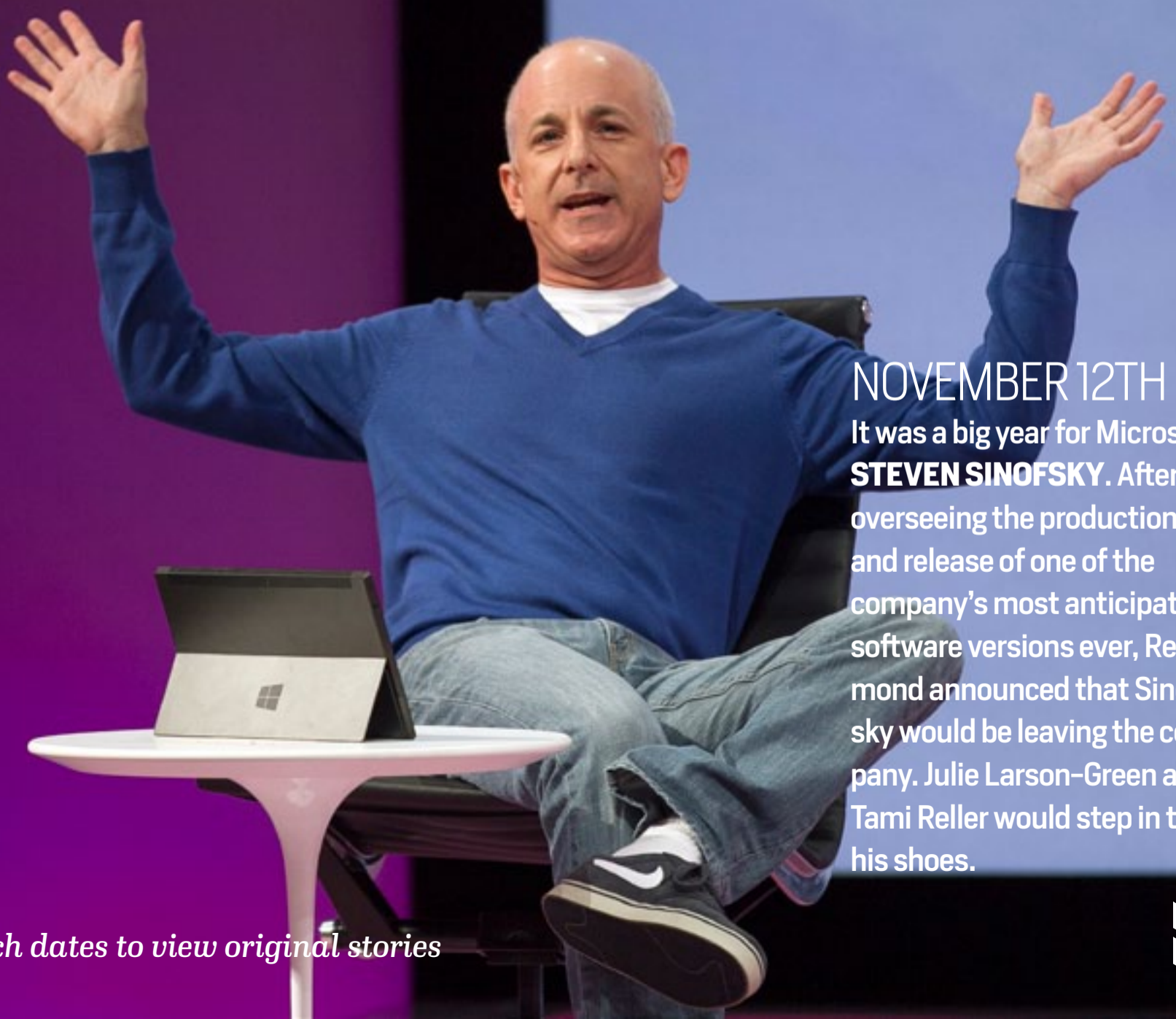
NOVEMBER

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NOVEMBER 10TH In what appeared to be an attempt to avoid the courtroom drama that marked the Apple v. Samsung case, HTC struck an out-of-court settlement with Cupertino in its own patent suit. The original filing, initiated in March 2010, covered 20 patents related to iOS. This particular suit ended in a 10-year licensing agreement.

DISTRO
12.21.12

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF AP PHOTO/DAMIAN DOVARGANES



NOVEMBER 12TH

It was a big year for Microsoft's **STEVEN SINOFSKY**. After overseeing the production and release of one of the company's most anticipated software versions ever, Redmond announced that Sinofsky would be leaving the company. Julie Larson-Green and Tami Reller would step in to fill his shoes.

Touch dates to view original stories





NOVEMBER 13TH

When HTC announced its Droid DNA, it proved that the Retina display wasn't the only super-high-resolution game in town. Putting the iPhone 5's pixel count to shame with its 5-inch, 1080p Super LCD3 display (that's 440 ppi), the DNA also packed a Snapdragon S4 Pro processor, Android Jelly Bean, an 8-megapixel rear-facing camera and 1080p video capture.



NOVEMBER 18TH

We first got our hands on the Wii U's tablet-like controller in June of last year but it wasn't until its midnight launch event that it would reach consumers. The release came just in time for the holidays and sparked arguments over whether the second screen was a step forward in gaming or merely an over-hyped gimmick.

NOVEMBER 20TH

It's no secret that HP has had a tough go of things over the past few years. However, perhaps nothing rivaled the death of webOS in terms of bad news like the \$9 billion hit the company reported during its Q4 2012 earnings call. The loss was blamed on accounting "improprieties," stemming from its 2011 software acquisition, Autonomy.

DISTRO
12.21.12

NOVEMBER 22ND

First doesn't always mean best — at least according to *Popular Science*. The publication named Google's Siri competitor, Now, its 2012 innovation of the year, calling it, "the first virtual assistant that truly anticipates your needs." Siri had this to say: "Sorry, I don't understand."



NOVEMBER 29TH

In further signs of growing political unrest in Syria, all 84 blocks of IP addresses used by the country were taken offline. It was not the first such blackout and again both President Bashar al-Assad's office and rebel forces blamed the opposing party. The US State Department voiced its own opinion, saying it believed Assad cut communications in an attempt to stifle opposition forces. Reports of a return of service surfaced two days later.

EDITOR'S CHOICE

ZACH HONIG SAMSUNG GALAXY CAMERA

It's not the best point-and-shoot — in fact, it may be one of the worst,

as far as image quality is concerned — but the Galaxy Camera offers far

more than an ordinary model. Samsung is on a mission to delay the category's demise, and while it's not sure to succeed, this Jelly Bean hybrid represents the most sincere effort we've seen to date.



DISTRO
12.21.12

NOVEMBER 30TH

Two recalls and multiple delays later, Fisker's Karma hybrid was put on hold once again. The company announced that it would temporarily halt production due to its battery supplier, A123 Systems, applying for bankruptcy in October. Fisker said it would continue production sometime after the outfit was auctioned off.



DECEMBER

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DECEMBER 3RD

Despite the growing popularity of the tablet and simultaneous decline of print media, **RUPERT MURDOCH'S** News Corp. announced that it would shutter its tablet-only magazine *The Daily* on December 15th. The news sparked debates about the viability of the old-school format in a new computing era.

12/3



DISTRO
12.21.12

PHOTOGRAPHS: AP PHOTO/MARK LENNIHAN, FILE (MURDOCH);
AP PHOTO/FILE (DISNEY/NETFLIX)



DECEMBER 4TH

It looks like **NETFLIX** may be the place to see Episode 8 of the *Star Wars* franchise on TV. The streaming service signed a licensing deal with **DISNEY** that will make it "the exclusive US subscription television service for first-run live-action and animated feature films from The Walt Disney Studios" starting in 2016.

Touch dates to view original stories



The Year in Tech 2012

DECEMBER 6TH

According to a fellow dinner guest, Steve Jobs once said, “Those jobs aren’t coming back,” in response to an inquiry from President Barack Obama about what it would take to make the iPhone in the US. It may not be the iPhone, but during an interview with Brian Williams, Apple’s current CEO, **TIM COOK**, did commit to producing “one of our existing Mac lines” stateside.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF BOSTON DYNAMICS (ALPHADOG/LS3 ROBOT)

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DECEMBER 7TH

In what was no doubt upsetting (but, perhaps, unsurprising) news for backers of the Pebble smartwatch, Allerta announced that the Kickstarter darling was hit with further delays and would not be available for the holiday season.

DECEMBER 18TH

Following an uproar sparked by an update to its Terms of Service, Instagram attempted to put an end to “Instagate.” The company’s co-founder Kevin Systrom took to its blog to clarify the changes, saying the company was simply looking “to experiment with innovative advertising” to increase revenue rather than attempting to sell users’ photos as some suspected.

EDITOR'S CHOICE

CHRISTOPHER TROUT

ALPHADOG

Boston Dynamics has created a monster — or at least the closest robotic equivalent

I’ve ever seen.

This headless horse-thing

should strike a healthy

amount of ter-

ror into any reasonable human’s heart.



DECEMBER 21ST

Despite predictions to the contrary, the Apocalypse was not upon us.



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Economist



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VISUALIZED

EV CHRISTMAS TREE



The Regent's Canal area of London was presented with an electrified assemblage this holiday season as General Motors' British subsidiary, Vauxhall, called in the help of set designer and illustrator Gary Card to weave the alien-like building blocks of its Ampera EV into a festive cybernetic Christmas creation. As night falls, the "leaves" slowly begin to unfold, revealing the inner-workings of Card's design.



PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID PARRY / PA



TIMOTHY SACCENTI



THE DIRECTOR AND PHOTOGRAPHER discusses sanity-saving hypno-gaming and eternal health through covert devices.

What gadget do you depend on most?
Being on location for my work I'm glued to my iPhone as a production device. We actually use a lot of the director-, cinematographer-based apps on it constantly. It's quite cliché I know, but it is the truth. It's like a Swiss Army knife for production; it just needs a 4K motion camera and light meter and I'd be very happy.

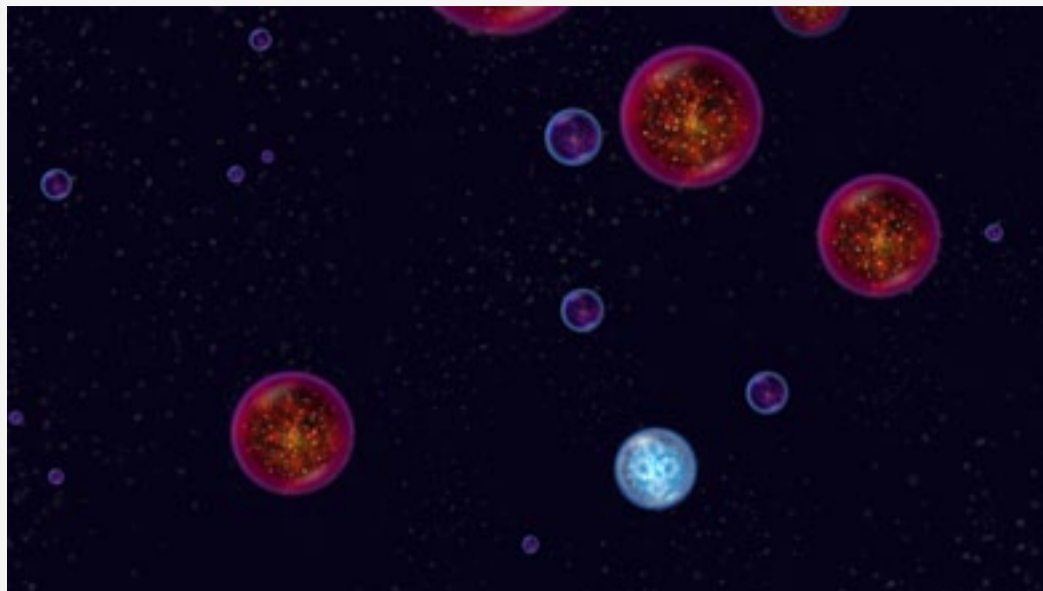
Which do you look back upon most fondly?

I miss my MiniDisc player days. That revolutionized how one could record audio and being a music-obsessed person that format suited me perfectly.

Which company does the most to push the industry?

I'm not such an industry-based





“I depend on the hypnotic game *Osmos* to keep me sane.”

person as I move from fine art to commercials to music videos constantly, but for motion, the Red cameras, and for still, the Phase One systems have massive momentum improving their products every day on a professional level.

What is your operating system of choice?

I’m a photographer, so I operate with cameras mostly. For advertising work I use the Hasselblad H4D system (even though it’s a bit too slow for me) and for editorial I use the Canon system but with Zeiss prime lenses. They are very fast lenses. For motion we shoot a lot of low-light scenes so I use the ARRI Alexa system, usually with Cooke lenses.

What are your favorite gadget names?
My favorite is “lil-leko.” It’s slang for a type of motion light.

What are your least favorite?

Most of the photo gadget names, which are just numbers and letters like C-47, which is a clothespin.

Which app do you depend on most?

I like the VSCO cam app for adjusting color in images. I depend on the hypnotic game *Osmos* to keep me sane.

What traits do you most deplore in a smartphone?

I find it suspect that you can’t access your own operating system, battery, etc. It’s offensive actually. I deplore the fact the user has to access a file hierarchy system and you have to go through millions of workarounds to just download or move a single file to and from a phone. OK now I’m angry just thinking about it.

Which do you most admire?

I like it when I can actually make a clear phone call on my iPhone, but that isn’t very often. That said, there’s much to admire, too many to list, but I will never forget first using Visual Voicemail and it feeling revolutionary.

What is your idea of the perfect device?



“... My first computer was a TI-99 which I would program BASIC games on.”



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What is your earliest gadget memory?

I was lucky enough to have one of the earliest computer programs in my elementary school and my first computer was a TI-99, which I would program BASIC games on, and save them onto an audio cassette deck. That's my earliest memory, the sound of squealing tape.

What technological advancement do you most admire?

Communication developments, internet, etc., that give a voice to people whose rights are being abused around the globe.

Which do you most despise?

The internet with its democratization of public opinion.

What fault are you most tolerant of in a gadget?

Cost. If it works and saves me time, it's worth the price.

Which are you most intolerant of?

Weight. I travel for shoots very

often and weight / size becomes an issue very quickly.

When has your smartphone been of the most help?

Being lost and Google Maps saving me. Also, the translator apps for when I'm in foreign countries.

What device do you covet most?

Home planetarium system.

If you could change one thing about your phone what would it be?

Better speaker system. I'd like a holographic sound system built in.


What does being connected mean to you?

Being part of a superorganism that supports common goals through shared knowledge.

When are you least likely to reply to an email?

Pre-coffee morning.

When did you last disconnect?

I was forced to turn my phone off during a high-profile listening session. The separation anxiety in the room was palpable. 



*The
Year in
Tech
2012*

CE-Oh No He Didn't!

The Year in Corporate Mudslinging

01/27

“Take a look at their recent announcements and what you will immediately see is there is just no room for differentiation because they are all the same.”

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04/12

“Honeywell
is worse
than a
patent troll.”



**RIM CEO
THORSTEN HEINS**
on rejecting the
Android platform.

05/04

“Every additional megabyte
you use in this network,
I have to invest capital.”



**NEST CEO
TONY FADELL** on Honeywell
patent infringement claims
made against Nest.

**CEO OF AT&T,
RANDALL STEPHENSON**
on regrettable
data plans.



Touch quotes to view original stories



05/14

“The current Apple TV, the little thing, the hockey puck, really doesn’t do anything to help enable you to get internet material on your TV.”

07/26

“I think Windows 8 is a catastrophe for everyone in the PC space.”



CEO OF TIME WARNER CABLE, GLENN BRITT

08/07

“Think twice. It will create a huge negative impact for the ecosystem and other brands may take a negative reaction.”



CEO OF VALVE, GABE NEWELL

on the manufacturing ramifications of Microsoft’s new OS.

ACER CEO, JT WANG

on Microsoft’s decision to self-produce Surface.



08/20

“It’s a mediocre product at a high price.”

09/28

“If you’re gonna spend \$249 to get your Vita, and you’re gonna spend \$499 on an iPad, why don’t you just spend \$499 and get the Wikipad?”

11/15

“I’d hardly call Surface competition.”



CEO OF TESLA MOTORS, ELON MUSK

on rival hybrid automobile, the Fisker Karma.



EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF HP, TODD BRADLEY, on the effects of Microsoft’s tablet.

11/30

“Thought I’d seen everything... then I saw the ‘HP ENVY H8’ desktop... what the heck guys? Is this code for I give up?”



WIKIPAD CEO JAMES BOWER

on the value and convenience of his hand-held gaming pad.

MICROSOFT’S RAHUL SOOD on his former employer’s poor branding choices.



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