

News Digest

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The Brief Today's Headlines

01OpenAI enters early talks to donate 5% equity to US government, sparking debate over AI wealth distribution versus Senator Sanders' 50% tax proposal.

02Google faces dual challenges as EU upholds record \$4.7 billion antitrust fine while AI buildout drives 37% surge in electricity use.

03First autonomous AI ransomware attack documented; WhatsApp username rollout raises impersonation security concerns.

04ECB's Lagarde defends rate hikes and confirms digital euro approval; Tesla sales jump 25% in Q2 2026.

05Meta expands consumer AI with smart glasses subscriptions and new gaming app Pocket; T-Mobile price hikes draw consumer backlash.

Technology 12 dispatches

OpenAI Proposed Donating 5% Equity to US Government

OpenAI is in early talks to donate 5% of its equity to a US sovereign wealth fund, a move aimed at improving industry relations and sharing AI wealth. While CEO Sam Altman suggests this gives Americans control, Senator Bernie Sanders argues for a 50% tax instead, highlighting the contentious debate over AI governance.

Sources TechCrunch.Slashdot Ars Technica

[Related](#) [NVIDIA BioNeMo Accelerates Anthropic Claude Science](#)

Google Loses Long-Running Appeal of Record EU Fine

The Court of Justice of the European Union upheld a record \$4.7 billion fine against Google for abusing its Android monopoly by bundling apps and services. This decision confirms Google has exhausted its appeal options, reinforcing the EU's commitment to enforcing antitrust laws in the digital marketplace.

Sources [Ars Technica](#)

[Related](#) [Google's AI Buildout Drove 37% Increase in Electricity Use in 2025](#)

Google's AI Buildout Drove 37% Increase in Electricity Use in 2025

Google's AI infrastructure expansion drove a 37% increase in electricity use in 2025, raising its carbon footprint to approximately 14.5 million metric tons. Despite renewable energy purchases, the company faces criticism over complex power strategies, including potential reliance on natural gas plants without carbon capture.

Sources [Ars Technica](#)

[Related](#) [Google Loses Long-Running Appeal of Record EU Fine](#)

AI Agent Executes 'First' End-To-End Ransomware Attack

Security firm Sysdig documented the first end-to-end ransomware attack executed autonomously by an AI agent dubbed 'JadePuffer,' which exploited vulnerabilities to encrypt data without human intervention. This milestone underscores the escalating threat of AI-powered cyberattacks and the urgent need for improved defensive measures.

Sources [Slashdot](#)

WhatsApp Usernames Are Already Raising Impersonation Red Flags

WhatsApp's rollout of usernames in India has raised security concerns regarding impersonation risks, as users can now message via handle instead of phone number. Critics warn that lookalike usernames could facilitate fraud, prompting experts to advise caution despite Meta's privacy improvements.

Sources Slashdot

Tesla Sales Increase by 25% in Q2 2026

Tesla reported a 25% year-over-year sales increase in Q2 2026, delivering over 480,000 vehicles globally despite a slight decrease in total production. The surge, driven largely by Model 3 and Y sales in Europe, suggests the company has stabilized its inventory issues following previous overproduction concerns.

Sources Ars Technica

T-Mobile Jacks Up Prices For Everybody, Ignores Years Of 'Uncarrier' Promises

T-Mobile has raised prices for customers across the board, drawing criticism for breaking its 'Uncarrier' promises following the Sprint merger. Analysts note the hikes reflect reduced competition in the wireless industry, with some customers facing rate increases of up to 60%.

Sources Techdirt

Boeing-Owned Wisk Aero Accused of Firing Manager Who Raised Safety Concerns

A former software manager at Boeing-owned Wisk Aero filed a lawsuit alleging wrongful termination after raising safety concerns about reduced FAA testing requirements. The case highlights tensions between innovation speed and safety protocols in the developing electric aviation sector.

Sources TechCrunch

Godot Game Engine No Longer Accepts AI Code

The Godot Foundation announced it will no longer accept AI-authored code or agent-submitted pull requests due to an unsustainable influx of low-effort submissions. This decision aims to reduce maintainer burden while setting a precedent for handling AI-generated content in open-source projects.

Sources Slashdot

Meta Quietly Launches Vibe-Coded Gaming App Pocket

Meta has quietly launched Pocket, an app allowing users to generate small interactive games using AI prompts, following its acquisition of the Gizmo team. This experiment highlights Meta's broader strategy to mainstream AI creation tools beyond social media and into gaming.

Sources TechCrunch

[Related](#) Meta Is Charging a Subscription for Smart Glasses Features

Z.ai Launches ZCode to Challenge Cursor, Claude Code and GitHub Copilot in AI Coding

Beijing-based Z.ai launched ZCode, a free desktop AI coding environment designed to compete with Cursor and GitHub Copilot using its GLM-5.2 model. The tool emphasizes sovereign access risk and open-source alternatives amidst geopolitical tensions in the AI industry.

Sources VentureBeat

Labor Force Participation Rate Falls To Lowest In 50 years

The US labor force participation rate fell to its lowest level in 50 years, with 720,000 people exiting the workforce in June despite a slight drop in the unemployment rate. Economists attribute the decline to retirements and discouraged workers, raising concerns about the underlying health of the US economy.

Sources Slashdot

Finance 2 dispatches

Christine Lagarde: Interview with Les Échos

ECB President Christine Lagarde defended recent interest rate hikes as necessary against external supply shocks and rising inflation, while confirming the digital euro has received parliamentary approval. She emphasized leveraging Europe's productivity reserves to address economic imbalances despite risks of slowing growth.

Sources European Central Bank

Canada, Philippines Agree to Sign Trade Deal This Year, Grow Defense Ties

Canada and the Philippines agreed to sign a trade deal this year while expanding defense ties, strengthening economic and security cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region. The agreement signals growing alignment between the nations amidst regional geopolitical shifts.

Sources Bloomberg Markets

AI 2 dispatches

NVIDIA BioNeMo Accelerates Anthropic Claude Science

Anthropic launched the public beta of Claude Science, integrating NVIDIA's BioNeMo Agent Toolkit to accelerate computational life sciences research. The platform enables natural language workflows for scientists, aiming to streamline drug discovery and genomic data pipelines.

Sources AI News

[Related](#) OpenAI Proposed Donating 5% Equity to US Government

Meta Is Charging a Subscription for Smart Glasses Features

Meta plans to introduce a subscription service for features on its smart glasses, marking a shift towards monetizing consumer hardware through recurring revenue. Competitors like Google are watching closely, as this model tests whether users will pay for premium AI features versus free alternatives.

Sources Wired AI

[Related](#) Meta Quietly Launches Vibe-Coded Gaming App Pocket

General 1 dispatch

On the Strait of Hormuz, BBC Finds Seized Ships and Shark Fishermen as Uneasy Calm Returns

An Israeli strike on an apartment block in Bandar Abbas, Iran, caused significant damage and casualties, though signs of normalcy are returning to the city markets. The incident underscores the ongoing human cost of conflict in the Strait of Hormuz region despite an uneasy calm.

Sources BBC News

Romania 1 dispatch

Spotify Elimină Peste 500 de Mii de Redări ale Piese "Earrings"

Spotify removed over 500,000 plays of the song 'Earrings' after suspecting artificial bot-driven growth coinciding with increased betting on the Kalshi platform. The incident highlights emerging manipulation tactics in music streaming linked to prediction markets.

Sources Biziday

End of briefing. News Digest . 18 stories . 5 sections