

News Digest

WEDNESDAY . JULY 15, 2026

The Brief Today's Headlines

01Iran exploited global telecom vulnerabilities to track US military personnel in the Middle East using SS7 protocols.

02Lionel Messi leads Argentina to the World Cup final against Spain after defeating England in a historic semifinal.

03Microsoft patches a record 570 security flaws, many discovered using artificial intelligence tools.

04OpenAI employees fund a rival super PAC advocating for stricter AI regulations against industry interests.

05Romania's external debt reaches €231 billion while key energy projects face potential funding losses.

Technology 6 dispatches

Iran Abused Mobile Networks To Locate US Military In Middle East

The Iranian government allegedly exploited vulnerabilities in the SS7 telecom protocol to track US military personnel stationed in Iraq and Bahrain. This exploitation enabled targeted attacks during the Iran War, highlighting critical weaknesses in global cellular infrastructure. Intelligence agencies confirm that nation-state actors are increasingly using everyday technology for espionage.

Sources Slashdot

Microsoft Patches a Record 570 Security Flaws

Microsoft released updates to fix at least 570 security vulnerabilities, nearly tripling the number from the previous month. The majority of these patches addressed bugs discovered through AI-powered analysis, including critical flaws allowing remote control of Windows devices. This surge underscores the growing role of artificial intelligence in both discovering and fixing cybersecurity threats.

Sources [Slashdot](#)

US Charges Russian 'Bulletproof' Web Hosts Over Cyberattacks

US prosecutors have charged three Russian nationals and two web hosting companies for allegedly facilitating cyberattacks that netted \$62 million from victims. The indicted hosts, Media Land and ML.Cloud, are accused of allowing ransomware gangs to operate with impunity. This case highlights ongoing efforts to dismantle networks supporting international cybercrime.

Sources [TechCrunch](#)

FCC Plans to Repeal Broadcast Ownership Cap

The Federal Communications Commission plans to vote on repealing the national ownership cap rule, which limits a single company from owning broadcast stations reaching more than 39% of US TV households. Chair Brendan Carr argues the rule is obsolete due to streaming, while opponents warn it could harm local journalism. The decision faces potential legal challenges over the FCC's authority.

Sources [The Verge](#)

House Votes For Permanent Daylight Saving Time Despite Health Warnings

The US House of Representatives passed the Sunshine Protection Act to make daylight saving time permanent, ending twice-yearly clock changes. While supported by President Trump and Florida Republicans, sleep experts warn the move could disrupt circadian rhythms and impact safety. The bill now faces an uncertain future in the Senate.

Sources [Slashdot](#) [Business Insider](#)

Google Pixel 11 Teaser Reveals Glowing Camera Orb

A new teaser for Google's upcoming Pixel 11 lineup has revealed a mysterious, glowing orb on the camera bar. The feature may be related to Gemini AI technology, with more details expected at the August 12th launch event. This

suggests a new innovative feature for the popular Pixel series.

Sources The Verge

General 4 dispatches

Messi Leads Argentina to World Cup Final After Defeating England

Lionel Messi has guided Argentina to their third World Cup final following a victory over England in the semifinals. The 43-year-old striker continues to defy expectations, setting up a championship clash against Spain. Broadcast coverage will be extensive, with the final scheduled for Sunday on BBC and ITV.

Sources BBC News BBC News HotNews.ro

Families Await Verdict in Genoa Bridge Disaster Case

The case involving the 2018 Genoa viaduct disaster, which killed 43 people, is nearing its conclusion with a verdict expected soon. Victims' families are calling for accountability after years of uncertainty, while the current CEO of Autostrade per l'Italia has issued an apology. The case highlights the need for transparency in corporate negligence.

Sources BBC News

14-Year-Old Charged With Terrorism Over Alleged Mosque Plot

A 14-year-old boy has been charged with a terrorism offence after police discovered an alleged plan to target two London mosques. The suspect was arrested in south London, and police have increased patrols in affected areas to reassure the Muslim community. The case underscores growing concerns about youth involvement in extremism.

Sources BBC News

New Monkey Species With Orange Lips Found in DRC Forest

A previously unknown monkey species with distinctive pinkish-orange lips has been confirmed in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The discovery is significant as it is only the fifth African monkey species found in the last 75 years. Conservationists highlight the importance of protecting the region's biodiversity.

Sources BBC News

Romania 6 dispatches

Zaporojie Nuclear Plant Chief Engineer Killed by Drone

The chief engineer of the Russian-controlled Zaporojie nuclear power plant was killed by a Ukrainian drone attack. Rosatom described the incident as a selective terrorist attack, raising concerns about safety at the facility near the front line. The International Atomic Energy Agency continues to monitor the site amidst ongoing conflict.

Sources HotNews.ro

American Seismologist Arrested in China Over Nuclear Test Claims

American seismologist Chen Youlin has been detained in China for two years on spying charges after allegedly discovering Beijing's nuclear tests. His family claims he was not given a fair trial, while the US government calls for his release. The case highlights tensions over nuclear testing and international scientific collaboration.

Sources Antena 3

Romania's External Debt Reaches €231 Billion

Romania's total external debt has reached €231 billion, with 55% attributed to the state according to the National Bank of Romania. The increase is largely due to refinancing needs and covering the budget deficit. Economists warn that public debt is expected to reach 6.2% of GDP this year.

Sources Ziarul Financiar

Romania's SMR Project Risks Losing US Funding

Romania's Ministry of Energy has blocked several decisions related to the Small Modular Reactor project at Doicești, risking American funding. Former Energy Minister Bogdan Ivan warns this could undermine investor confidence in the country's energy security. The future of the project remains uncertain pending further evaluation.

Sources Antena 3

German Chancellor Merz Open to Chinese Takeover of Auto Factories

German politician Friedrich Merz stated that German manufacturers should not oppose Chinese companies taking over struggling factories. However, he warned this is not a long-term solution due to trade imbalances and currency issues. The comment reflects the significant challenges facing the German automotive sector.

Sources Antena 3

Pentagon Introduces Testosterone Tests for US Troops

US Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth announced a screening program for testosterone deficiency among military personnel. The initiative aims to identify hormonal imbalances impacting performance, with therapy available on a voluntary basis. The move has sparked debate regarding gender roles and medical standards in the military.

Sources HotNews.ro

Finance 3 dispatches

Lucid Denies Bankruptcy Rumors Amidst EV Struggles

Luxury electric vehicle maker Lucid Motors has forcefully denied reports that it was considering bankruptcy or going private. CEO Silvio Napoli stated the company is working with an advisory firm to improve operations as it prepares to launch its mass-market Cosmos car. The company continues to struggle with profitability despite significant investment.

Sources Business Insider

Indian Companies Turn to Chinese LLMs Due to US Costs

Indian companies are increasingly adopting Chinese large language models to reduce artificial intelligence spending by an order of magnitude. Firms like Tata Consultancy Services are using models from DeepSeek and Alibaba instead of US counterparts. Analysts warn this dependence raises concerns about AI sovereignty and geopolitical risks.

Sources ZeroHedge

AI Coding Startup Emergent Raises \$130M as CEO Highlights Developer Value

AI-app building platform Emergent has secured \$130 million in Series C funding, valuing the company at \$1.5 billion. CEO Mukund Jha argues that developers will become more valuable in the AI era, emphasizing problem-solving skills over traditional degrees. The funding reflects growing confidence in AI-driven software development tools.

Sources Business Insider Business Insider

AI 1 dispatch

OpenAI Staffers Fund Rival Super PAC for AI Regulation

A group of OpenAI employees have donated over \$215,000 to the Guardrails Alliance super PAC, which advocates for stricter regulations on frontier AI labs. This move counters the pro-industry Leading the Future PAC backed by OpenAI leadership. The donations highlight growing internal tensions over AI policy and safety.

Sources Wired AI

End of briefing. News Digest . 20 stories . 5 sections