

News Digest

TUESDAY . JUNE 30, 2026

The Brief Today's Headlines

01 Apple escalates legal battle with Epic Games to the US Supreme Court over App Store fees.

02 Venezuela earthquake death toll rises past 1,900 as miraculous rescue offers hope amid UK aid appeal.

03 Microsoft announces thousands of job cuts following earlier voluntary buyout program.

04 Taiwan raids Super Micro Computer in widening AI chip probe amid US-China tensions.

05 Israeli Defense Minister warns war with Iran could restart immediately as Putin faces internal pressure.

Technology 9 dispatches

Apple takes Epic fight over app store fees to the Supreme Court

The US Supreme Court is expected to hear a case regarding Apple's App Store commission fees, with Epic Games seeking more control over transaction processing. The decision could mandate minimal rates or greater transparency, impacting global app store regulations.

Sources Ars Technica

Related [Amazon Blames Piracy Apps With Malware For Killing New Fire Stick Sideloads](#)

Amazon Blames Piracy Apps With Malware For Killing New Fire Stick Sideloading

Amazon announced it will end sideloading on new Fire Stick models running Vega OS, citing malware and piracy concerns. The move blocks custom launchers and third-party apps, raising tensions between user freedom and corporate security measures.

Sources Slashdot

[Related](#) Apple takes Epic fight over app store fees to the Supreme Court

Google Pulls the Plug On Tenor API, Killing GIF Pickers Around the Web

Google has shut down the Tenor API, forcing platforms like Twitter/X and Discord to migrate to alternative services for GIF functionality. While Tenor.com remains active, existing integrations with Google products will cease working.

Sources Slashdot

Acti puts AI agents directly into your smartphone keyboard

Singapore startup Acti launched an AI-powered keyboard using Google's Gemini models to provide context-aware suggestions and actions within apps. The local-first model prioritizes privacy and allows users to program custom shortcuts for multistep tasks.

Sources TechCrunch

Google's new Nano Banana 2 Lite image model is its fastest and cheapest yet

Google DeepMind announced Nano Banana 2 Lite, part of the Gemini 3.1 family, offering rapid image generation at a fraction of the cost of advanced models. Ideal for prototyping, the model generates images in seconds but may struggle with small text accuracy.

Sources Ars Technica VentureBeat

[Related](#) Anthropic launches Claude Sonnet 5 as a cheaper way to run agents

Anthropic launches Claude Sonnet 5 as a cheaper way to run agents

Anthropic has released Claude Sonnet 5, designed to provide a more cost-effective solution for running AI agents. This launch continues the trend of optimizing AI models for enterprise efficiency and lower operational costs.

Sources TechCrunch

Related Google's new Nano Banana 2 Lite image model is its fastest and cheapest yet

Blue Origin decides not to re-create ruined pad but will move on to a different launch concept

Following the explosion of the New Glenn rocket that destroyed launch pad LC-36A, Blue Origin plans to adopt a different launch concept rather than rebuilding the site. The setback casts doubt on the vehicle's return to flight and NASA's Artemis Program timeline.

Sources GeekWire.Ars Technica

Amazon fined \$2.25 million for failing to help identity theft victims

The FTC fined Amazon for violating the Fair Credit Reporting Act by failing to assist customers victimized by identity theft. The company often required victims to guess fraudulent account details to access records, delaying required responses.

Sources The Verge

Choosing their own moment: Why these longtime Microsofties are taking the buyout

Longtime Microsoft employees are opting for voluntary buyouts as the company reshapes its workforce. This program precedes further cost-cutting measures as Microsoft adjusts its strategy amid AI investment pressures.

Sources GeekWire

Related Microsoft plans thousands of job cuts, impacting less than 2.5% of workforce

Here We Go Again: Taiwan Raids Super Micro In AI Chip Probe

Taiwan intensified efforts to prevent advanced AI hardware from reaching China by raiding Super Micro Computer offices. The probe involves NVIDIA chip-equipped servers and adds to uncertainty surrounding Super Micro's governance and financial filings.

Sources ZeroHedge

Related Anthropic launches Claude Sonnet 5 as a cheaper way to run agents

Katz Says Israel Could Be Back At War With Iran 'Tomorrow'

Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz stated Israel is prepared to restart war with Iran immediately if Hezbollah rockets are fired into northern Israel. The statement highlights heightened regional tensions and the potential for rapid escalation.

Sources ZeroHedge

Under Trump pressure, World Bank abandons goal to allocate 45% of lending to climate projects

The World Bank announced it will drop its target to direct 45% of credit resources to climate projects, opting for a balanced approach amid Trump administration pressure. President Ajay Banga affirmed continued support for smart development and renewable energy funding.

Sources Antena 3

Microsoft plans thousands of job cuts, impacting less than 2.5% of workforce

Microsoft plans to announce job cuts affecting thousands of roles in sales and consulting, impacting around 2.5% of its workforce. The move follows voluntary buyouts and reflects cost-control efforts as the company ramps up AI spending.

Sources Business Insider

Related Choosing their own moment: Why these longtime Microsofties are taking the buyout

General 2 dispatches

UK charities launch Venezuela earthquakes appeal

A devastating twin earthquake in Venezuela has killed over 1,900 people, prompting a UK aid appeal led by the Disasters Emergency Committee. Amid the disaster, a three-year-old child was miraculously rescued from ruins after six days and sent for medical treatment.

Sources BBC News HotNews.ro

RFK Jr. stacks FDA panel with peptide peddlers as FDA scientists oppose access

The FDA advisory committee on peptides now includes nine new members with varying industry backgrounds, raising concerns about influence on safety determinations. The meeting will shape regulations on peptides promoted for weight loss and other health benefits.

Sources Ars Technica

Romania 4 dispatches

Merchant of Death threatens Romania from Moscow in interview for Tucker Carlson

Notorious arms trafficker Viktor Bout threatened that Russia could attack logistics centers in Romania, Poland, and Germany supplying Ukraine. His comments raise concerns about escalation and potential targeting of European infrastructure.

Sources Antena 3

Related NYT: Putin faces growing internal pressure after new drone assault on Moscow

NYT: Putin faces growing internal pressure after new drone assault on Moscow

Ukraine launched a wave of drone attacks on Moscow, shooting down over 419 drones and disrupting fuel supplies. President Vladimir Putin faces increasing internal pressure as the attacks erode efforts to isolate Russian society from the war.

Sources Antena 3

Related Merchant of Death threatens Romania from Moscow in interview for Tucker Carlson

Lack of strategy. How Bulgaria became leader in energy storage while Romania barely enters the game

Romania's energy storage capacity lags significantly behind Bulgaria's, leading to higher consumer prices and reliance on imports. Experts call for a coordinated European strategy to reduce price disparities and improve grid resilience.

Sources Ziarul Financiar

Minimum wage increases today to 2,699 lei net, 4.86% more than last year

Romania's minimum basic salary rose to 4,325 lei per month, benefiting low-income earners with a net increase of 125 lei. The hike aims to alleviate poverty and boost consumer spending amid high living costs.

Sources Ziarul Financiar