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Technology news, information and interesting stories.  
 Published monthly for Geeks and non-Geeks.

## Facebook admits Facebook is Ruining Your Life..

Facebook recently gave itself a slap, admitting that it's very existence is often detrimental to the wellbeing of it's users. They've noted that studies show that simply reading Facebook leaves students feeling worse at the end of the day than if they had posted or engaged with friends on Facebook. Also by seeing peoples positive status updates we think our own lives are worse in comparison.

More damningly, a study cited by Facebook noted that heavy users—those that click more links and like more posts reported worse mental health. Facebook is looking into improved features to help battle these findings, but for now I guess the best course of action would be to use mildly or don't use at all...



## The Force is real, well, sort of...

Physicists and scientists and nerds of all sorts have come out and said the theory behind the force could be real

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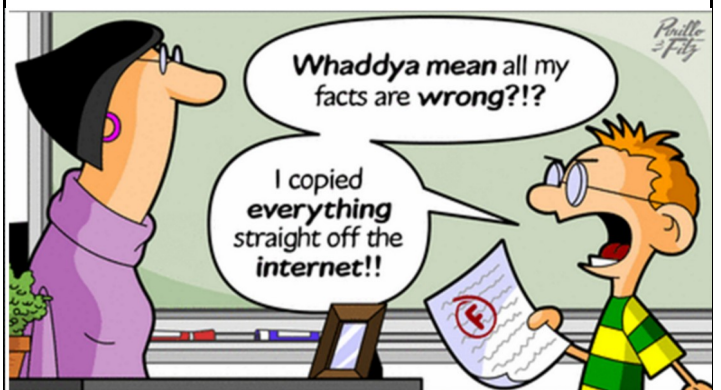
Seriously, look it up online, I don't want to put anyone to sleep here...



## ATM Jackpotting Hits North America

The US Department of Justice recently charged 2 men with bank fraud after they allegedly hacked ATMs causing them to eject all of their cash reserves like a Vegas slot machine.

'Jackpotting' previously occurred more frequently in Europe, Mexico and Asia, but is picking up in North America. Thieves posing as technicians use a medical endoscope to locate an internal section of the ATM where they can attach a cord which then allows them to sync their laptop the ATM. The ATM then displays an 'Out Of Service' message and 'money mules' then come to collect the cash when the hackers force the machine to disperse it.



**HACKERS ARE USING MORE ADVANCED METHODS THAN EVER!**

**PHISHING SCAMS** **Don't be a Victim!**

**MALWARE**



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## TechTips

### Microsoft Planning to Remove Scareware

Several years after the fact, Microsoft is finally going to program it's built in Antivirus—Windows Defender, to remove Scareware programs. Scareware basically tells you that there is an issue with your PC while trying to look official and then gets you to either purchase a program or time with a technician to 'fix' the scare issue. Excuse me if we're not impressed on this one since scareware has been around for a number of years and Microsoft is finally building in protection against it. Fear not, however, they won't start protecting your computer until March 1st, and because developers can test their apps at the Windows Defender Portal, I'm sure there will be a whole new slew of Scareware that by-passed the security checks. Bravo Microsoft, Bravo...



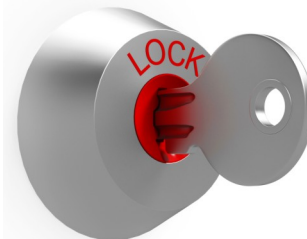
### Samsung Making Crypto-Mining Specific Chips

Samsung is jumping on the Crypto-currency craze by producing chips designed specifically for mining cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin and Ethereum. The chips called ASICs are application specific processors designed for 1 task as opposed to the multi-purpose processors we use daily in computers and phones. It is estimated that the chips will add 1 billion dollars to Samsung's annual revenue.



## Ransomware is on the Rise

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## DeepFakes Makes Revenge ‘Porn’, Fake News and a Whole Lot More, Terrifying!

Deepfakes are videos of one person with the face of another mapped over the top—it sounds crude but the results are amazing. The app isn't for basic users, but anyone with a powerful Nvidia GPU, some computer knowledge and plenty of power can pull off a DeepFake with convincing results. The results are so convincing that the DeepFake sub-reddit was recently shut down and Twitter and Pornhub have banned DeepFakes. To take it one step further, there is now concern that the technology is so good that it could generate fake news, political scandal and be used to shape social opinion. When the technology was just an infant experts figured it would be years before it would be automated—that happened in months, and as the technology progresses it will become harder and harder to detect a deepfake.

## Apple Watch and Other Wearables Can Detect Diabetes

A study has found that the heartrate sensors in your Apple, Android, Garmin and Fitbit are actually able to detect early signs of diabetes with 85% accuracy which is really cool. These sensors can also detect atrial fibrillation, hypertension and sleep apnea. If you have one of these devices and are curious, check out the cardiogram app.



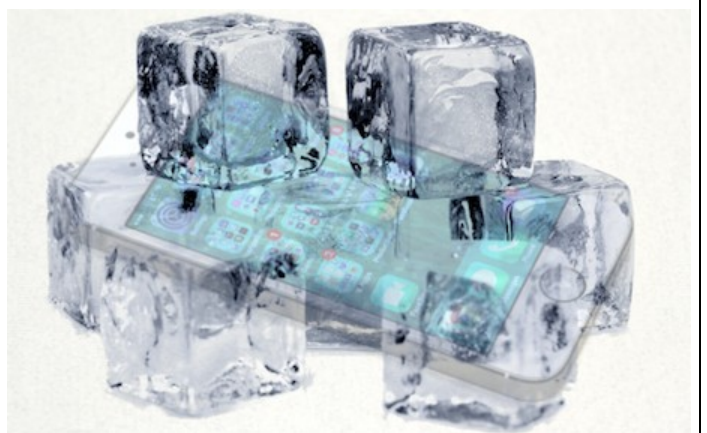
## Creeping DeefFakes? You May be Crypto-Mining for the Website Owners!

Not the first time we've reported on this one, but recently a website dedicated to DeepFake pictures (see left) comes packaged with a script that then uses your computer to mine cryptocurrency for the owners. Titled 'CryptoJacking', a Chinese security firm said it found malicious software on not only computers, but Android phones and Smart TVs. Add this to the fact that in January another security firm reported that hackers could use public wifi to mine cryptocurrency on computers that connect to them and back in September cryptojacking software was found on official ShowTime websites.



## Apple Rushes to Fix Telugu Letter Text Bomb Bug

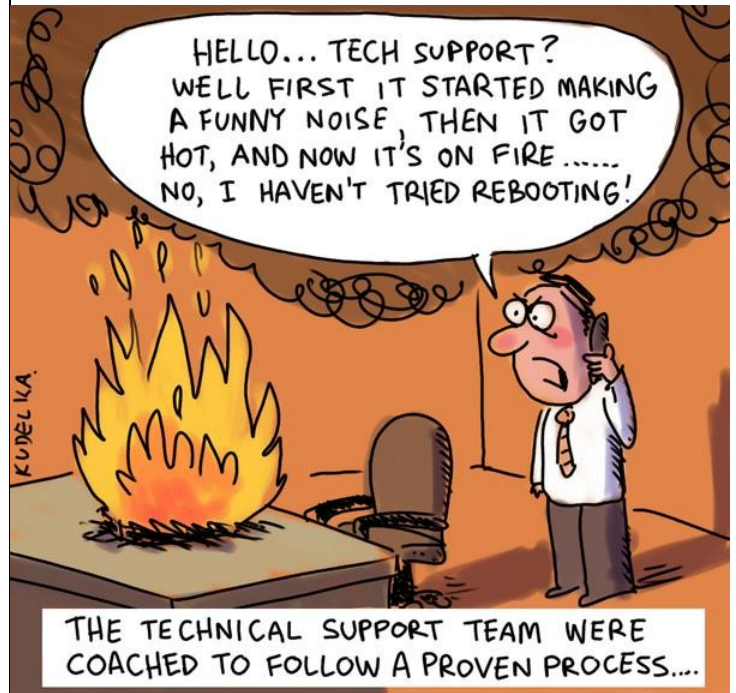
Recently a bug was discovered that pranksters used to freeze Apple devices by way of text, social media, private messages and even Uber's app. A specific character from the Telugu alphabet was the cause, and messaging it so it appeared on an Apple device made the device freeze up. It was also reported a trip to Manitoba in the past 2 months would have the same





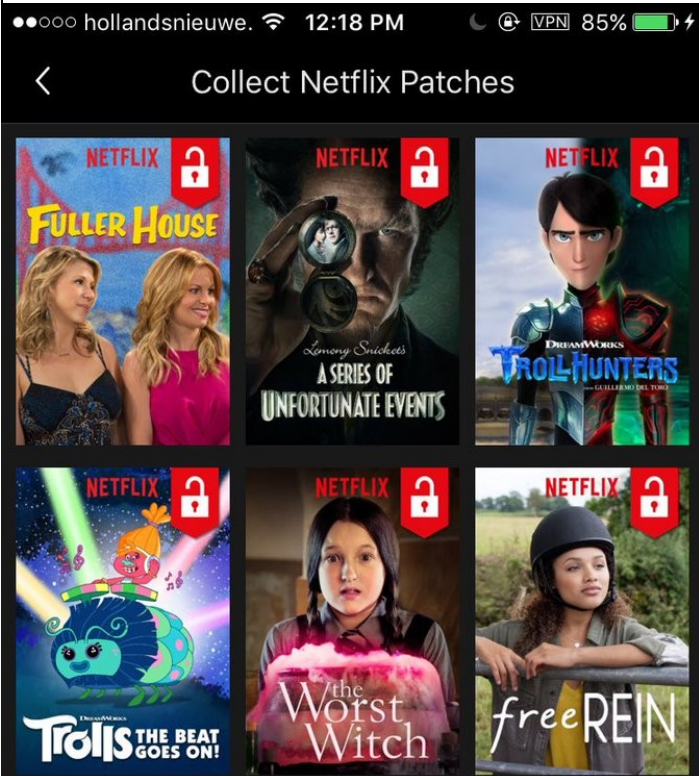
## 3D Printed Homes Becoming Reality

ICON has developed a method for printing a single story 650sqft home out of cement in only 12-24 hours. The first model was unveiled recently and the company is planning to bring the costs down from \$10,000 to \$4,000. They also have plans to increase the size to 800sqft. The models have a living room, bedroom, bathroom and a curved porch.



## Netflix Testing Awarding ‘Patches’ to Kids for Watching Certain Shows

Not sure I'm crazy about this, but Netflix is testing the ‘gamification’ of children’s shows by awarding ‘patches’ to kids for watching certain shows. You can’t actually do anything with the patches once they are awarded, but they have already found that the test samples are in fact watching the shows that award the patches more than the shows that don’t award anything...



## Google Spinoff Waymo’s Self Driving Trucks to Start Delivering Freight in Atlanta

Google is soon going to use it’s autonomous trucks to deliver freight for their datacenters in Atlanta. The trucks will not start out completely driverless, but will be operating on public roads during the pilot. They first began testing the autonomous technology on Class-8 tractor trailers last year in California and Arizona. Uber also has tests going in Arizona and the drivers are only taking over for the last few miles—the software does the rest of the run. Seems like it won’t be long before the driverless truck is the standard.



## It’s Not A Flamethrower...

Elon Musk’s ‘Boring Company’ recently released a consumer ‘safer’ flamethrower for sale to the general public. The device has spawned 20,000 pre-orders, however custom’s officials are saying they won’t allow shipment of anything called a ‘Flamethrower’, so to combat this, Elon recently tweeted that they may change the name to ‘Not a Flamethrower’ or a ‘Temperature Enhancement Device...