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This Week's Stories

India Temporarily Blocks Google Street View For Security

Reasons

June 10, 2016

India's security agencies were especially concerned because the 2008 terrorist attacks in Mumbai were preceded by photographic surveillance of the city's targets by Pakistani-American terrorist David Coleman Headley. As a result, the government believes that allowing Google to take images for Street View would compromise the country's security.

However, in 2013, India's Ministry of Tourism had tied up with an Indian company called WoNoBo to extensively cover over 50 Indian cities for its Google Street View-like app.

The company's app and website show 360-degree-views of cities, including roads and important buildings in Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru.

"We believe this innovative and entertaining technology will make it extremely easy for tourists to walk or drive through our most-visited cities," a government official was quoted as saying in 2013. Yet, this is not the government's final decision. Kiren Rijiju, the Minister of State for Home, said that Google's request will be considered after the government's proposed Geospatial Information Regulation Bill is passed.

The controversial bill will require companies like Google to get a license to offer and publish maps in the country and those publishing "incorrect" maps being fined or imprisoned.

This isn't the first time Google Street View has come under the scanner for security reasons in India. In 2011, when it first tried to capture Street View images of the streets of Bangalore, it was stopped by the city's police.

Bangalore Police told Google that the city was "highly sensitive" and had important defence and scientific institutions.

Google Street View returned to India in 2013, partnering with the Archaeological Survey of India and the Ministry of Culture to photograph over 100 monuments. Since then, several important historic landmarks and UNESCO World Heritage Sites have been included on its website, such as Taj Mahal, the Qutub Minar, Red Fort and Ajanta Caves.

Google has also had trouble with Indian government for its Maps service. This February, Google was accused of displaying high-resolution photographs of sensitive defence installations and nuclear power plants, following a terrorist attack of the Pathankot air base near the India-Pakistan border. Meanwhile, Street View is available in neighbouring countries of Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Bhutan. *Mashable* has reached out to Google for comments.

mashable.com

VTime Lets You Hang With Friends In VR, Whatever The Hardware

June 9, 2016

As virtual reality goes more and more mainstream, there are still scant few options where you can just get your friends together and, you know... *hang out* in a VR world. Like, on the side of a cliff perhaps. Enter: vTime, which just rolled out an updated version for Gear VR, Google Cardboard and Oculus Rift.

The main hook of vTime is a socializing feature where users can just sort of sit around and chat with family and friends (or their avatars, to be precise). The app currently offers a variety of exotic and pre-rendered settings in which to virtually hang, so this is your place if you've ever dreamt of catching up with pals on a Parisian rooftop at sunset, or talking to your VR-ready grandparents while dangling on the side of a cliff. (Which might actually be therapeutic for your friends with acrophobia.) While you can't quite forge your own reality yet, vTime does allow users to create their own setting by uploading 360-degree images or 2D still photos. And there's also a feature to take vSelfies of your vSelf hanging out with your vFriends.

While the concept may feel a bit like re-treading an early 2000s idea of a virtual chat room, it does offer cross-platform support for today's fractured VR world.

engadget.com

Products & Services

Google And Lenovo Launch The First Project Tango Smartphone, And It's (Literally) Huge

June 10, 2016

Lenovo unveiled the Phab2 Pro, the first flagship Project Tango smartphone, on Thursday at the company's Tech World event in San Francisco. The unveiling comes more than two years after Google first introduced Project Tango, its (at the time) experimental effort to bring computer vision and 3D-sensing abilities to smartphones and tablets.

In addition to the typical cameras and sensors that power most smartphones, Tango devices are equipped with motion and depth sensors, along with computer vision software, to create augmented-reality experiences that wouldn't be otherwise be possible on a smartphone. The Phab2 Pro is massive, weighing more than half a pound.

These extra components (and the types of experiences they create) help account for the Phab2 Pro's massive size — and it is massive. Its Quad HD display clocks in at a plus-size 6.4 inches, and it weighs more than half a pound.

"It was a tough engineering feat," Lenovo's VP of Android Jeff Meredith tells *Mashable*. "You need a relatively large screen to be able to fully take advantage and enjoy the experience of what Tango offers... we felt that 6.4 was the right selection for us at this stage."

Display aside, the handset is also equipped with a 4K-ready 16MP camera, 4GB of RAM and dual SIM slots all powered by a Qualcomm Snapdragon 652 octa-core processor. It comes in two color variants: champagne gold and gunmetal gray and comes with 64GB of storage, along with a microSD slot.

"Tango devices are equipped with motion and depth sensors, along with computer vision software, to create augmented-reality experiences that wouldn't be otherwise be possible on a smartphone. The Phab2 Pro is massive, weighing more than half a pound."

Those would be more than respectable specs by most Android flagship standards but more impressive may be the price: The Phab2 Pro will cost just \$499 when it goes on sale in August. For those who want to spend a little less, Lenovo is also introducing two other Tango-enabled handsets, the \$199 Phab2 and \$299 Phab2 Plus, which have the same form factor as the Phab2 Pro but aren't Tango-enabled.

The \$199 Phab2 also has a 6.4-inch HD display and is equipped with a 13MP camera. The \$299 Phab2 Plus, on the other hand, is being positioned as a midrange device that doesn't skimp on the camera. The device, also 6.4-inches, has two 13MP rear-facing cameras with f/2.0 lenses. The cameras are powered by the same image processor inside of a Leica camera, Lenovo says.

Of course, extra cameras, 3D-sensing, and advanced computer vision are only as good as the apps that can actually take advantage of them. There are already more than 100 Tango-ready apps in Google Play, including several augmented reality games. Gaming, says Meredith, will likely be one of the biggest use cases for Project Tango since it marks the first time gamers can get a true augmented-reality experience on a smartphone.

But AR is good for more than just games: Lenovo also showed off an app from Google called Measure, which allows people to measure the dimensions of the spaces around them just by pointing the device at the area. Lowe's, one of the first retailers that will sell the Phab2 Pro, also has an app that allows users to see visualizations of how new appliances and other items will look in their houses before they buy them.

The Phab2Pro will go on sale in August for \$399, the \$299 Phab2 Plus and \$199 Phab2 will both be available in September.

mashable.com

The Gear Fit 2 Is Samsung's Best Wearable Yet

June 10, 2016

Samsung has made plenty of wearables over the years, but few were as immediately impressive as the Gear Fit. Its curved screen and relatively slim design almost made us forget the company's early, clunky Gear smartwatches. Now with the \$179 Gear Fit 2, Samsung has refined its original design to make it a lot more useful for athletes. It has built-in GPS, a slightly larger screen and smarter activity tracking. It's Samsung's best fitness wearable yet, but it's still a tough sell compared to competing devices from the likes of Fitbit.

Pros

- Stylish and comfortable design
- Accurate activity tracking
- Built-in GPS and step tracking
- Automatic workout logging

Cons

- Android-only at the moment
- Samsung's health apps aren't as robust as others

Summary

With the Gear Fit 2, Samsung has succeeded in making a capable and stylish fitness tracker. But it also doesn't do anything significantly better or differently than the competition.

Hardware

The Gear Fit 2 is an evolution of the original Fit's design in all of the right ways. Its 1.58-inch curved touchscreen display is now flush with the band so that it no longer sticks out awkwardly. It reminds

me of Microsoft's Band 2, which also benefited from having a curved display sitting right alongside the wristband. The screen is also slightly wider now, which makes it more useful for actually reading information, and there's less of a bezel around the sides so it's almost like an edge-to-edge display. Beyond that screen, the Gear Fit 2 looks restrained. The top half of the device is made from some fetching-looking metal while the bottom is more of a subdued plastic. There are only two buttons on the side of the device, which serve as home and power buttons. On the bottom there's a heart rate sensor and two small connectors for its charging stand. The relatively minimalist design is a stark cry from the overly complex wearables we used to see from Samsung.

For the wristband, it looks like Samsung is using the same plastic material from the last model, which remains flexible yet sturdy without feeling too stiff. You can disconnect the wristbands easily from the sides of the device, which will be useful if you ever feel the need for a new look down the line.

Under the hood, the Gear Fit 2 now runs a dual-core 1GHz Exynos 3250 processor and 512MB of RAM. (As someone who remembers being very excited when I got 512MB of RAM on a desktop, I find that latter stat hard to fathom.) Both of those specs are significant upgrades from the first Fit, which had a measly 160MHz processor and 8MB of RAM. It's no wonder we found the original to be underpowered. There's also GPS onboard the Fit 2, along with 4GB of storage for music and a barometer sensor for stair-tracking.

Software

Samsung is using its homegrown Tizen OS to power the Gear Fit 2, something it also uses in TVs and other wearables like the Galaxy Gear 2. And instead of being tied to Samsung's phones, the Fit 2 is now compatible with any Android phone running 4.4 or above. There's no word about iOS support yet, though. (Is it even worth the effort?)

Thanks to Tizen, the Fit 2 is much more capable than its predecessor. You've got multiple watch faces to choose from (and more can be downloaded through the Gear app), some of which will show fitness stats alongside the time. You can also customize the screens you see as you swipe through the Fit's interface. I have it set up to show the number calories I've burned, the number of steps and stairs I've taken, and my heart rate. Naturally, there's also a screen for quickly logging a workout.

The Fit 2 supports 15 different workout types, including common things like running and cycling, and more specific activities like yoga and Pilates. It's now smart enough to automatically detect five different types of workouts, something competing health trackers from Fitbit and Jawbone have been able to do for years.

Thanks to its onboard storage (and vastly more functional OS), the Gear Fit 2 can also send locally stored music right to your wireless headphones. It can also control music stored on your phone, and it can tap into Spotify through your phone as well. Basically, if you prefer to run completely unencumbered, or with your phone, the Fit 2 has you covered.

To control the Gear Fit 2, you'll have to rely on Samsung's Gear app for Android. And to track your workouts, there's Samsung's S Health app. More on those in a moment.

In Use

In day-to-day use, the Gear Fit 2 felt just as comfortable to wear as the Apple Watch Sport and Jawbone's Up24 (which are among my favorite wearables). It sits well on your wrist; most of the time you'll forget it's even there. I'd still like to see Samsung make it even thinner, so that it doesn't rise above your wrist as much, but the Fit 2 is nonetheless on par with competing wearables in terms of thickness.

“The Fit 2 supports 15 different workout types, including common things like running and cycling, and more specific activities like yoga and Pilates.”

I also had no problem putting it on -- and keeping it stable -- throughout the day. The Fit 2 has a simple clasp design that makes it easy to slip on while you're on the go. That's a good thing, because I've fought with plenty of wearables (especially from Fitbit) that are simply a chore to secure. And even though it's easy to wear, I also had no trouble with the Fit 2 falling off (which was a killer issue with the Jawbone Up3).

When it comes to tracking basic things like your steps and stairs climbed, the Gear Fit 2 seemed just as accurate as most other modern wearables. Its heart-rate tracking was also solid, delivering readings in line with what I've been seeing from the Apple Watch and recent Fitbit gear. But really, if you're buying this you're probably more interested in its GPS tracking, and in that regard it didn't disappoint. It accurately mapped several of my runs through Brooklyn's Prospect Park (I have a two-mile stretch that I cover regularly). It was also on par with RunKeeper's location tracking, which I normally use on my iPhone during workouts.

Setting up a manual workout takes a lot of swiping and menu pressing if you're moving between a variety of exercise types. But if you mainly do the same sort of workout, it's pretty easy to just get up and go. The Fit 2's touchscreen response is fast for such a small wearable, but even so, it's not something you'd want to deal with much in the middle of an intense session.

The Fit 2 also surprised me several times by accurately tracking how long I walked during my work commute. That's something other wearables have been doing for a while, but it's still a useful addition for Samsung fans. It's also the sort of thing wearables will have to get smarter about moving forward, so hopefully Samsung will be able to add automatic tracking support for more than just five workout types.

While you can view some basic post-workout details on the Gear Fit 2, you'll have to turn to Samsung's S Health app for a more detailed view. It's a fairly clean-looking app: The home screen highlights your most recent workouts, heart-rate readings and steps. Tapping into a workout lays out everything you've done that day, and you can also step backward to previous days pretty easily. Despite its minimalist look, I still had some trouble navigating around S Health. And it wasn't always obvious how to access more detailed information about workouts. But perhaps I've just been spoiled by better health apps from Fitbit and Jawbone.

As a smartwatch-like device, the Gear Fit 2 fares well. It can display notifications from your phone, and even though it has a tiny screen, there's enough room to read short text messages and tweets. It's not a screen where you'd ever want to read long emails, but that's true of dedicated smartwatches too. You can also have the Fit 2 open up apps on your phone from its notifications, which helped me quickly reply to Hangout messages and texts on several occasions.

Samsung claims the Gear Fit 2 gets around three to four days of battery life from its 200mAh battery. In my testing, which involved constantly wearing it throughout the day and doing a few runs, it usually lasted around two and a half days before needing a trip to the outlet. Speaking of recharging, I was pleased to find that Samsung moved towards a larger charging cradle for the Fit 2. That may sound paradoxical, but the original Fit's cradle was so small that I ended up losing it pretty quickly. This new version is better suited to staying in one place on your desk.

The competition

The Fitbit Surge.

Since it's a GPS-enabled fitness wearable, the Gear Fit 2 is best compared to the likes of the Fitbit Surge (\$229) and the Microsoft Band 2 (\$175). Aesthetically, it has a lot more in common with the Band 2, but if you can get past its looks, the Fitbit Surge is probably a better buy for fitness junkies. Fitbit has a much more robust fitness platform, as well as better integration with third-party services. As with all wearables, aesthetics play a big part in the purchasing decision, though, so it's understandable if you'd rather have a better-looking tracker instead of a more functional one.

Wrap-up

With the Gear Fit 2, Samsung has succeeded in making a capable and stylish fitness tracker. But it also doesn't do anything significantly better or differently than the competition. It feels like a fitness tracker meant for people who really want something to match their Samsung phones, rather than something every consumer would desire. It's ultimately unremarkable, but that's mainly because there are so many decent alternatives out there.

engadget.com

Emerging Technology

Philips' New Smart Toothbrush Brings A Lot Of Bells And Whistles To Your Bathroom

June 9, 2016

Philips announced a new Sonicare electric toothbrush called the FlexCare Platinum Connected, which connects to your smartphone. It's a smart toothbrush, and it claims to help you make sure you're brushing your teeth as well as you can.

The toothbrush, slated to come out in July, is one of a handful of smart toothbrushes that have come out or been announced over the past couple years. Most of them have similar goals of making sure you brush your teeth for long enough. The FlexCare boasts some extra personal features, as would be expected given its steep asking price of \$200.

The toothbrush connects to a smartphone app via Bluetooth and uses different sensors to tell you how well you're brushing, so it's like an electric toothbrush with a built-in guidance system.



In this app prototype, the white areas received enough attention while the yellow areas were lacking.

If that seems like too much to pack inside a toothbrush, the American Dental Association probably wouldn't disagree with you.

"Both manual and powered toothbrushes can effectively and thoroughly clean your teeth," the ADA says on its website. In fact, in its list of recommended toothbrushes, the ADA does not list any "powered" toothbrushes. We can surmise anything much more advanced than the free, manual toothbrush you get from your dentist is pretty superfluous to the average brusher.

The FlexCare on its own looks like most other electric toothbrushes. It has replaceable heads and three different vibration frequency levels, which according to Philips will get you about 31,000 brush strokes per minute.

The bells and whistles

The connected FlexCare has a location sensor to determine what section of your mouth you're brushing and how long you're hitting each section. The sections are kind of broad, and the sensor isn't accurate enough to tell you if you're missing a specific tooth, just a range of about five or six teeth.

As you brush, the app highlights which area you are brushing and lets you know when that section has received enough attention.

It can sense how much pressure you're applying and how much you're scrubbing

Other connected toothbrushes will time out your brushing process as well but they don't get quite as detailed as the FlexCare. It also claims to sense how much pressure you're applying and how much you're scrubbing, and will tell you to adjust in real time if you're overdoing it.

You can also input specific data for your teeth, like if you have gum recession in an area. If that's the case, the app will adjust to tell you to use less pressure on that area of your mouth. Though, you could easily just brush with less pressure without an app to tell you that. The app will ask if you flossed, too, and while you could just lie to it, the guilt factor alone may shame you into doing it.

Based on all of the brushing data the FlexCare accrues, you can get personalized tips. Philips said there are about 3,000 different lines of coaching to help you adjust for the best cleaning — which seems like vastly more tips than we would have expected there to be. The toothbrush gamifies dental health by giving you points as an incentive to form good dental habits, although currently the points cannot be used for anything.

The competition

Connected and gamified toothbrushes have been around for a while, with some even offering rewards. The Beam Brush lets you buy movie tickets and clothes with your points and only costs \$50.

Compared to other smart brushes, the \$200 FlexCare is on the pricier side, excluding the \$400 smart toothbrush/camera combo Prophix. The most similar brush is the Oral-B SmartSeries toothbrush, which costs about \$100 but doesn't give quite the extensive range of sensors and personal tips.

Just because the FlexCare is the most feature-heavy toothbrush available doesn't mean the features are the best available or necessary to maintaining good oral health. It comes with an asking price that most people will pass over in favor of a cheap manual brush, or even a non-Bluetooth electric brush. Just because the technology exists doesn't necessarily mean it needs to be included.

mashable.com

Apple Patents Hint At A Waterproof iPhone And 'Bone Conduction' EarPods

June 7, 2016

“Several rumors have suggested that the Cupertino giant is considering waterproofing its 2017 iPhone iteration, and the invention described in the patent could well become part of a future iPhone or iPad's construction.”

A patent has emerged showing that Apple is at least considering experimenting with waterproofing features for a future iPhone build.

A second patent could also lead to EarPods with noise-cancelling capabilities via an integrated accelerometer and a 'bone conduction' process.

The liquid resistant acoustic device patent describes how a standard headphone jack could include an "umbrella section" to prevent internal damage to a device.

Filed as far back as July 2014, the protective measure sounds comparable to the Apple Watch's O-ring inside its speaker unit which provided the Watch an IPX7 rating.

Several rumours have suggested that the Cupertino giant is considering water-proofing its 2017 iPhone iteration, and the invention described in the patent could well become part of a future iPhone or iPad's construction.

While there are several variations on the invention, the solution fixates on enhancing the usual protective mesh layer found in most headphone ports with an "umbrella" so that "potential damage to the mesh and/or internal acoustic device components may be mitigated."

Equally intriguing is a separate patent – filed in March 2013 – which describes a hands-free headphone system based on an internal accelerometer which is intended to improve recorded sound quality.

The patent (spotted by AppleInsider), states that an accelerometer housed inside an earbud would be used to "detect vibration of the user's vocal chords based on vibrations in bones and tissues of the user's head," which, with the assistance of an on-wire microphone, would filter out non-vocal acoustics for the receiver.

A separate variant also notes the possible use of an "inertial sensor" as opposed to an accelerometer, but all of the listed versions focus on separating "voiced speech and unvoiced speech", with the former being recognised and optimised by "bone conduction."

Whether or not we see a 'bone conducting' set of EarPods hit the market, anyone who has been on the receiving end of a muffled, distorted hands-free conversation can find some solace in the fact that developments are at least being considered for hands-free call quality.

ibtimes.com

Mergers and Acquisitions

Intel Gets Chip Order From Apple, Its First Major Mobile Win

June 10, 2016

Apple Inc.'s next iPhone will use modems from Intel Corp., replacing Qualcomm Inc. chips in some versions of the new handset, a move by the world's most-valuable public company to diversify its supplier base.

Apple has chosen Intel modem chips for the iPhone used on AT&T Inc.'s U.S. network and some other versions of the smartphone for overseas markets, said people familiar with the matter. iPhones on Verizon Communications Inc.'s network will stick with parts from Qualcomm, which is the only provider of the main communications component of current versions of Apple's flagship product. Crucially for Qualcomm, iPhones sold in China will work on Qualcomm chips, said the people, who asked not to be identified because Apple hasn't made its plans public.

Representatives for all of the companies declined to comment.

Orders from Apple represent the first major win for an Intel mobile chip program that had struggled for relevance and racked up operating losses. The shot in the arm for the world's largest chipmaker further dents the dominance of Qualcomm in baseband processors that connect phones to networks and convert radio signals into voice and data. While Qualcomm is losing some orders, it's retaining a major chunk of Apple's business, offsetting concern that one of its largest customers would drop it completely.

Intel reversed earlier declines and rose as much as 0.7 percent, to \$32.15. The shares declined 7.3 percent this year through Thursday. Qualcomm fell as much as 2.9 percent to \$53.40. It had been up 10 percent so far this year.

AT&T will sell an estimated 22 million iPhones this year and 23 million in 2017, according to Walt Piecyk, an analyst at BTIG LLC. Verizon, which has a slightly smaller iPhone user base, will sell an estimated 21 million iPhones in 2016 and 22 million next year, Piecyk estimates. Apple sold more than 231 million units globally in fiscal 2015. The next version, due for release this fall, is expected to be called iPhone 7.

Infineon Technologies AG provided the modem in the original iPhone in 2007. Infineon's wireless division was later acquired by Intel and Intel lost the contract when Apple chose Qualcomm for subsequent versions of the phone that offered high data rates. Since then, Intel's chip has failed to show up in any smartphone that has sold in significant numbers and the company has gained less than 1 percent market share.

Choosing Intel's part for an important role in the product that generates about two-thirds of Apple's annual revenue may represent a calculated gamble by the company. Bringing in second-source suppliers is a long-established practice by device makers looking to make sure they're in a better position to negotiate on price. However, analysts such as Stacy Rasgon at Sanford C. Bernstein have said that Qualcomm's modems remain ahead of Intel's offerings in performance when measured by how much data they can get from the network into the phone.

Rasgon estimates that Qualcomm gets about \$15 per phone from Apple, or about \$3.47 billion in Apple's fiscal 2015.

Qualcomm Chief Executive Officer Steve Mollenkopf told analysts on an earnings conference call in April that he was assuming that a major customer would switch to multiple suppliers. Qualcomm's other major customer is Samsung Electronics Co. which already uses multiple component providers for its phones. Mollenkopf said his company's chip business performance will continue to improve in the second half of 2016 regardless.

bloomberg.com

Verizon Partners With Lenovo On Exclusive “Moto Mods” Devices

June 9, 2016

LG will soon have company in the modular device space. Lenovo on Thursday said it will launch a new modular smartphone line from Motorola this summer exclusively on the Verizon network.

Headed by the Moto Z and the Moto Z Force, the new lineup will feature interchangeable “smart backs” that can snap on to the devices to boost and add capabilities.

The packs, called “Moto Mods” will enable a number of functions including movie projection, enhanced audio and longer battery life.

“We wanted to work with Motorola to introduce something entirely new that would inspire customers to get excited about smartphones again,” Verizon’s vice president of wireless devices Jeff Dietel said.

“This groundbreaking new modular system will revolutionize the smartphone landscape and Droid brand for years to come.”

The smartphones will both feature a 5.5-inch Quad HD display, 32 GB of storage, a 5 mp front camera, USB-C connectivity, a water-repellent coating and a fingerprint reader.

Both devices will run on Qualcomm’s Snapdragon 820 processor and support Verizon’s Advanced Calling with HD Voice.

The Moto Z will also feature a 2,600 mAh battery, 13 mp rear-facing camera and turbo charger that offers up to 8 hours of battery from 15 minutes of charging. The Moto Z Force improves on those specs with a 3,500 mAh battery, 21 mp rear camera and turbo charger that offers 15 hours of battery from 15 minutes of charging.

The Moto Z will be offered in black/lunar gray and white/fine gold, while the Moto Z Force will just be available in black/lunar gray.

The phones will be released alongside three initial Moto Mods, including the JBL SoundBoost Speaker to provide stereo sound, the Moto Insta-Share Projector that includes up to 70-inch projection and Power Packs from TUMI and Kate Spade New York for up to an additional 22 hours of battery life.

Though Verizon and Lenovo did not provide an exact launch date or pricing for the devices, they did say pre-orders for the Moto Z and Moto Z Force will open next month.

The devices will rise the total of modular devices in Verizon’s lineup to three.

In February, the carrier announced it would carry the new LG G5 device. Like the new Lenovo devices, the G5 is offered alongside a number of companion devices that can expand the smartphone’s capabilities. Verizon is currently offering the LG G5 for \$624 retail or \$26 per month for 24 months.

wirelessweek.com

Industry Reports

Twitter Confirms Stolen Passwords Are Real, Warns Affected Users

June 6, 2016

The recently leaked database containing nearly 33 million Twitter login credentials, including passwords in plain text, is definitely the real deal. In a blog post Friday, Twitter confirmed it started warning users whose accounts may have been affected, as well as locking some accounts and sending a password reset request to the account owners.

Twitter maintains the stolen passwords were not the result of a hack, but have rather been "amassed from combining information from other recent breaches, malware on victim machines that are stealing passwords for all sites, or a combination of both." The post doesn't say how many users were affected; only that "a number of Twitter accounts were identified for extra protection." However, Twitter confirmed to the *Wall Street Journal* that the number is "in the millions."

Leakedsource, a site that collects stolen login credentials and puts them in an online database, said Wednesday this particular leak contains 32,880,300 Twitter credentials.

The leak follows a string of high-profile Twitter accounts being hacked, including those belonging to Katy Perry, Drake, Mark Zuckerberg and Evan Williams. It's hard to say whether those hacks are related to this latest password leak; a recently unearthed stash of LinkedIn usernames and passwords, dating from 2012, could also be to blame as many users tend to use the same password on multiple sites. To protect your social accounts from hackers, you should follow a few simple rules: Use a password that's hard to guess or crack, never use the same password twice, and use two-factor authentication whenever possible. Here's our detailed post on the subject.

[mashable.com](#)

Uber Is Letting Business Travelers Book Rides In Advance

June 10, 2016

Uber is reportedly allowing a small group of business travelers to schedule rides up to 30 days in advance of when they take 'em. *Recode* is reporting that the option is being rolled out in Seattle, with San Francisco likely next to get the feature. Rather than actually pre-booking a ride, it's simply a way of scheduling the app to call for a pickup at a specific time and location. Naturally, that means you can't avoid surge pricing, so the utility for such a feature is limited to frequent fliers who want one less thing to worry about when they leave the airport.

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