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## This Week's Stories

### New Apple Watch Patents Hint At Built-In Camera And More Buttons

June 17, 2016

Two new patents from Apple reveal some potential new features that could land on the Apple Watch in the future: a camera and a couple extra buttons.

The two patents, published Thursday and first seen by *Patently Apple*, aren't actually focused around cameras and new buttons, but the illustrations used to show the device designs include them.

#### Apple Watch camera

The patent that mentions the camera is focused on mobile device and smartwatch interaction, specifically with sharing and using location data. There is no illustration of the camera, but it's called out in one of the system outlines along with a description in the patent text.

The patent describes the camera on the edge of the Apple Watch "oriented to allow a user to capture images of nearby objects in the environment such as a bar code or QR code." It continues, saying the camera could be on the front surface of the wearable, "To capture images of the user."

The language of the patent doesn't limit the Apple Watch camera just still photos; it mentions that it could be used to capture videos, too.

SEE ALSO: [Curved iPhone in Apple's future? New patent hints at possible designs.](#)

Of course, none of this means the next Apple Watch will have a camera on it, but its inclusion in the patent certainly hints its top of mind. As some companies experiment with replacing passwords for facial recognition, a smartwatch with a built-in camera makes even more sense.

#### Apple Watch buttons

Mysterious new Apple Watch buttons are also included in illustrations for a patent describing the functionality of the turning crown button currently on the side of the Apple Watch.

The current design only includes the crown button and another button on the right side of the wearable, while the new patent includes two additional buttons on the left side of the Apple Watch.

The buttons aren't described as having any specific function, but could be either physical buttons that you press or touch-sensitive buttons.

Again, these buttons may not actually be included in the design of an upcoming Apple Watch, but if you combine both new patents, we wouldn't be surprised to see a camera-specific button. For now, though, all we can do is speculate and wait.

[mashable.com](http://mashable.com)

## Microsoft To Acquire LinkedIn For \$26.2 Billion

June 16, 2016

*“Microsoft also sees opportunities in Lynda.com, a channel for training videos that LinkedIn bought for \$1.5 billion last year. Microsoft will be able to offer Lynda’s videos inside its own software, such as Excel spreadsheets.”*

Microsoft Corp. snapped up LinkedIn Corp. for \$26.2 billion in the largest acquisition in its history, betting the professional social network can rev up the tech titan’s software offerings despite recent struggles by both companies.

The deal is Chief Executive Satya Nadella’s latest effort to revitalize Microsoft, which was viewed not long ago as left behind by shifts in technology. Mr. Nadella hopes the deal will open new horizons for Microsoft’s Office suite as well as LinkedIn, both of which have saturated their markets, and generally bolster Microsoft’s revenue and competitive position.

Mr. Nadella said today’s work is split between tools workers use to get their jobs done, such as Microsoft’s Office programs, and professional networks that connect workers. The deal, he said, aims to weave those two pieces together.

“It’s really the coming together of the professional cloud and the professional network,” Mr. Nadella said in an interview on Monday.

For instance, connecting Office directly to LinkedIn could help attendees of meetings learn more about one another directly from invitations in their calendars. Sales representatives using Microsoft’s Dynamics software for managing customer relationships could pick up useful tidbits of background on potential customers from LinkedIn data.

Microsoft also sees opportunities in Lynda.com, a channel for training videos that LinkedIn bought for \$1.5 billion last year. Microsoft will be able to offer Lynda’s videos inside its own software, such as Excel spreadsheets.

Mr. Nadella also talked about giving its Cortana digital assistant access to data from LinkedIn.

As for LinkedIn, the deal offers hope to renew decelerating growth as well as an exit for shareholders after the stock tumbled from a peak of \$269 in February 2015 to as low as \$101.11 last February.

Microsoft will pay \$196 per LinkedIn share, a 50% premium to the social network’s closing price on Friday. Both boards approved the deal, and Reid Hoffman, LinkedIn’s chairman and controlling shareholder, supports the transaction. LinkedIn Chief Executive Jeff Weiner will keep his current job when the deal closes, which the companies expect to happen by the end of the year.

The tie-up will also test Microsoft’s ability to meld a large acquisition with its own operations. The Redmond, Wash.-based company has struggled to integrate previous purchases including Nokia Corp.’s handset business and a Quantive Inc., costing shareholders billions of dollars in the process.

[wsj.com](http://wsj.com)

## Products & Services

### Overwhelmed By Demand, Dominos Pulls Out of T-Mobile Tuesdays

June 17, 2016

T-Mobile customers love their pizza very much. A little too much, perhaps.

After just two T-Mobile Tuesdays, the Un-carrier's pizza partner Dominos said it is discontinuing participation in the promotion.

According to T-Mobile CEO John Legere, the decision came after Dominos was pressed to meet an overwhelming response from T-Mobile customers that boosted volume to three to four times the regular daily amount. Legere said Dominos wasn't able to fully keep up with the demand.

"Basically, @tmobile customers love @dominos pizza so much, you broke them!" Legere wrote on Twitter.

In lieu of pizza, Legere said the Un-carrier will be thanking customers next Tuesday with another free ride on Lyft. Legere said the voucher would carry a \$15 value.

Legere said T-Mobile will also offer customers \$20 of "free stuff" from MLB.com. The Un-carrier will continue to offer a free Wendy's Frosty and Vudu rental as part of its T-Mobile Tuesdays giveaway, he said.

Since the launch of the program nearly two weeks ago, Legere said the T-Mobile Tuesdays app has been downloaded more than 2 million times. Legere called the program a "massive success" and said T-Mobile already has new partners lined up. Those partners will be announced "soon," he said.

The Dominos decision is the second hiccup T-Mobile Tuesdays has faced in as many weeks.

Last week, the sky-high traffic from customers trying to access the T-Mobile Tuesdays app crashed T-Mobile's servers, leaving many customers in the lurch for most of the day. The issue was fixed the same evening, just in time for customers to claim their free pizza for dinner.

[wirelessweek.com](http://wirelessweek.com)

### Tablo Launches Its Live TV And DVR App For Apple TV

June 17, 2016

Looking to cut the cord and have a new Apple TV? A new app from Tablo can help. Launching shortly for Apple TV 4th generation devices – the new models that include access to the Apple TV App Store – the app allows you to both stream live television and watch recorded programs. The app works in conjunction with the company's Tablo DVR, a \$200 device that can access broadcast programs it receives via a connected over-the-air antenna, as well as record those programs to a hard drive for later viewing.

The company had promised this January that it had this app in the works, and would be launching it sometime this spring. Clearly, it didn't meet that deadline.

The Tablo DVR, for those unfamiliar, is something of an alternative to TiVo. It's competitively priced at \$200 (for 2 tuners), while ongoing access to its TV Guide data is an optional and affordable \$5 per

month. And if you only really use Tablo for watching live television, you can easily skip paying for the guide data, which is mainly helpful for managing future recordings.

For more serious TV watchers, A 4-tuner device is also available for \$300.

Tablo is not the simplest system to set up for non-technical users because it's not an all-in-one solution. Instead, it requires you to attach your own external drive to serve as storage for its recordings. The advantage to this, of course, is that you're in control of how much storage you have available and can expand that at will. However, it does mean you'll have to buy another piece of hardware beyond the antenna, and you'll have to make room for more equipment in your media center.

That said, once you get past the initial installation hurdles, the software itself is fairly straightforward to use. The Apple TV app offers a clean user interface, complete with colorful thumbnail images for show titles, and makes it easy to move between watching live TV or viewing your recordings.

Plus, the app will work with Apple TV's voice-enabled remote, allowing you to ask Siri to skip the commercials or move forward or back in the stream. (E.g. "Skip ahead two minutes" or "Go back to the start.") You can also just press the pause button instead, then swipe back and forth in the scrubber while viewing the fast forward previews.

In the 1.0 release of the app, users will be able to watch live TV, and view and schedule recordings for programs airing in the next 24 hours. You can schedule both one-time and series recordings, says the company. Other features are planned for the months ahead which will focus bringing feature parity between the Apple TV app and those on other platforms. That means things like the TV View, Movies View, and Prime TV View will make their way over to Apple TV as well.

In addition to Apple TV, Tablo offers apps for a number of platforms, including Roku, iOS and Android smartphones and tablets, Fire tablets, Amazon Fire TV, Android TV, web, Kodi and Plex.

It's also worth pointing out that Tablo is not the only way to watch live TV on Apple TV. The Channels app works with the HDHomeRun TV tuner to offer similar functionality. Meanwhile, Dish's SlingTV also just launched on Apple TV this week, but is focused mainly on live television, with a smaller selection of on-demand content. Plus, its channel lineup is cable TV, not broadcast networks nor does it offer DVR functionality.

Tablo says its Apple TV app version 1.0 has been published to the App Store, where it's pending approval. It will be live shortly, the company says.

[techcrunch.com](http://techcrunch.com)

## Emerging Technology

### Google's New iPhone Keyboard, 'Gboard,' Launches In Australia

June 17, 2016

*"Gboard, its new keyboard purpose-built for the smartphone, comes with a built-in search function that you can access with a quick tap of the "G" symbol."*

If you're over having to launch Chrome to search for argument-winning trivia answers while messaging with friends, Google has you covered.

Gboard, its new keyboard purpose-built for the smartphone, comes with a built-in search function that you can access with a quick tap of the "G" symbol. After launching in the U.S. in May, the keyboard made it to Australia Friday and is now available to download Down Under.

Apart from its smooth search functionality, the keyboard also comes with glide typing, GIF search and emoji search, which can be used across your apps, from Slack to Uber.

It also makes finding the perfect emoji a little easier than on your typical iOS keyboard, allowing you to search for emoji by name — "lol," for example — rather than requiring you to scroll through multiple pages.

Let's be honest: Anything that facilitates emoji use is probably a good idea. Now if only someone would create a boxing kangaroo emoji.

[mashable.com](http://mashable.com)

## Smartwatches Are Getting Smarter, Though Not Quickly Enough

June 16, 2016

Apple and Android smartwatches are getting better as their makers sand off the rough edges that have frustrated many early adopters. But the improvements are just small steps in a long journey to convince people they need a computer on their wrist.

The Apple Watch, for instance, promises faster app launching and a one-button 911 call. Android Wear watches will soon let you track gym workouts such as weight training. Both systems will let you swipe-write texts with your finger. All are nifty features — just nothing likely to turn a smartwatch into the day-to-day necessity a smartphone has become.

That's not too surprising. Smartphones didn't get intelligent overnight, either. In the meantime, current smartwatch enthusiasts have a fair bit to look forward to as Apple and Google push out free software updates in the coming months.

With the upcoming watchOS 3 software, your favorite apps will launch automatically and load data in the background. You no longer have to wait several seconds for the app to start up and retrieve data from the phone. This could address a major frustration today: It's often faster just to pull out the phone from your pocket.

Apple Watch currently offers favorite apps through Glance, but it gives you limited information and works only from the watch face. The Glance replacement, called Dock, gets you full apps from any screen with a press of the side button. Meanwhile, swiping up will soon get you frequently used settings, and message replies will be possible without first hitting "reply."

Entering text on a small screen is challenging, but voice dictation isn't always the right answer. It might be noisy, or you might want privacy. With Scribble, you'll use your finger to write characters on the screen one at a time. The watch translates them into computerized text. You'll still have the current options for voice or pre-configured replies like "yes" and "no."

You'll be able to skip the password screen on Macs when wearing your Apple Watch. Android watches can already unlock Android phones and tablets automatically. Apple Watch will also let you challenge friends on fitness, something Fitbit and other fitness devices already offer.

With SOS, you can hold the side button for a few seconds to call 911 — or the equivalent when traveling abroad. The watch will also message your emergency contact and display key information such as your allergies on the screen. A new watch app will also guide you through breathing exercises to help reduce stress.

Apple Watch has come a long way in just 14 months, and its starting price just dropped to \$300. But it's still tough to explain to friends and family why they need one.

The SOS feature could be popular among those with known health issues. But it's not something many people will believe they'll need — at least not soon enough to buy a watch right away. Longer battery life and GPS tracking for workouts will require better hardware down the road. Even then, Apple Watch isn't likely to work with Android phones anytime soon; you'll need an iPhone.

The upcoming Android Wear 2.0 software will let apps run directly on the watch, so they can communicate directly with remote servers through the watch's Wi-Fi or cellular connection, if it has one. Information might arrive faster because it doesn't need to go through the phone first. Apps need to be updated to take advantage of this stand-alone capability.

Currently, you swipe up and down for notifications, but left and right for actions like replies. The update will eliminate the zig-zagging and present everything in one vertical feed. Message notifications will also turn into mini-chat apps. Currently, your chat notification disappears after you reply, even if you have more to say. With the update, the notification becomes an ongoing conversation stream until you dismiss it.

The watch will now have a full keyboard with predictive texting, similar to phones. It will also support handwriting similar to Apple's Scribble. More apps will get pre-configured replies that you can select, and choices will vary based on context. Voice dictation remains an option.

Android joins Apple Watch in getting complications on watch faces. These are little bits of customizable data, such as weather info or stock quotes. And Apple Watch already supports stand-alone apps. Android Watch apps will also have darker backgrounds, as Apple Watch apps do now, to make the watch less annoying in dark settings like movie theaters.

Fitness trackers tend to focus on motion activities rather than strength training. Android Wear will soon support weight lifting, squats and push-ups. And the watch's redesigned app launcher will make fuller use of circular screens.

The 2-year-old Android Wear system has introduced significant improvements along the way, including the ability to work with iPhones, not just Android phones. But with iPhones, you're mostly limited to notifications and fitness — there's no turn-by-turn navigation on the watch, for instance. The stand-alone capability should change that, giving iPhone users a viable alternative to Apple Watch.

[wirelessweek.com](http://wirelessweek.com)

# Mergers and Acquisitions

## Apple Patented An iPhone With A Wraparound Screen

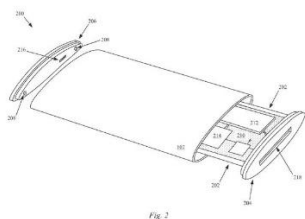
June 17, 2016

*"A new patent, filed in April of last year and just published, describes a method for building a "portable electronic device with a wraparound display...."*

Last month we saw Apple was already getting creative with screen placement in its patent filings, with some wild and wacky iPad setups, but this latest patent is truly out there. A new patent, filed in April of last year and just published, describes a method for building a "portable electronic device with a wraparound display," which sounds silly and amazing in equal measure.

Of course, "new" is kind of a relative term in patents. Apple actually first filed this concept in 2011, and was granted the patent in 2014. This is one of multiple "continuations" of that original filing.

From my reading of the patent, it appears Apple isn't patenting any specific screen technology here, but rather a manufacturing process that sticks a flexible OLED display underneath a seamless piece of glass that wraps all the way around the device. The glass itself can be opaque in places, to cover up any unsightly seams in the display. Because OLED displays are lit up per pixel, any parts of the screen that are hidden by the opaque glass won't be wasting power. Apple loves glass, if you hadn't heard.



In the drawings there's no example of where a rear-facing camera might belong on a device like this, presumably under the glass in the back. Interestingly, one of the filing's flights of fancy is the possibility of a "removable end cap" that can be swapped for other modules:

For example, an end cap could be installed that would allow two devices to be connected together and act as one system.

In yet another embodiment an alternate end cap could have an improved camera or a different set of wireless antennae.

Not that it means anything, but while the drawings include a "data connector," there's no headphone jack that I saw.

There are lots of examples of phones with a secondary display on the back, and, obviously, the clear analog here is Samsung's Galaxy Edge phones which wrap the screen over the sides. Also, I'd like to offer the traditional disclaimer here that Apple patents a lot of stuff that never ends up in a product. But hey, this is pretty wild, and sometimes that's all I want from a patent.

[theverge.com](http://theverge.com)

## Samsung Acquires Cloud Company Joyent

June 16, 2016

Cloud services company Joyent just got a bit of heavy artillery in its effort to fight the cloud wars.

South Korean electronics giant Samsung announced Thursday that it is buying San Francisco-based Joyent for an undisclosed sum. Joyent will operate as an independent subsidiary of Samsung, which will be an "anchor client," according to a blog post by Joyent CEO Scott Hammond.

The move gives Joyent a better footing from which to battle cloud services giants Amazon Web Services and Microsoft Azure, which control 30% and 10% of the cloud market respectively. The spoils are lucrative. Cloud spending is booming, hitting \$175 billion last year and projected to top \$315 billion by 2019, according to Gartner.

"We lacked the scale required to compete effectively in the large, rapidly growing and fiercely competitive cloud computing market," wrote Hammond. "Now, that changes."

Although known largely for hardware ranging from TVs to VR headsets, Samsung now can begin to explore ways in which to offer consumers and enterprise customers alike cloud-based services.

"As smartphones and connected-devices have taken hold across the world, cloud computing has become fundamental in providing users with exciting and reliable services and experiences on their devices," read a Samsung blog post. "With leadership positions in both mobile and IoT, this acquisition represents Samsung's commitment to provide a seamless user experience to millions of customers."

[cnn.com](http://cnn.com)

## Industry Reports

### Union Vote On Verizon Contract Expected Today

June 17, 2016

The Communications Workers of America (CWA) and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) are set to tally up member votes on the new Verizon contract today, a CWA official said.

According to Peter Sikora, CWA's former strike mobilization coordinator for District 1, voting for the contract has been ongoing in local chapters since the agreement was announced at the end of May.

Sikora said member votes – which are submitted either in person, by mail or by drop box – will be turned in and tallied today. CWA is planning to announce the final results later this afternoon, he said.

Sikora said CWA is "confident" the contract will be approved.

The proposed contract offers union workers a 10.5 percent raise over the term of the contract, including three percent upon ratification and 2.5 percent on each anniversary of the contract.

The contract also provides for a \$1,250 signing bonus in the Mid-Atlantic and a \$1,000 signing bonus plus a \$250 healthcare reimbursement account in the Northeast and \$2,800 minimum in profit sharing over the next four years. CWA also said the deal includes three one percent pension increases over the term of the agreement.



The agreement also includes a promise from Verizon to hire 1,400 additional workers – including nearly 1,300 call center jobs – and keep its Mid-Atlantic call centers open.

The proposed contract is the result of the nearly two-month strike of almost 40,000 Verizon wireline and wireless workers.

After negotiations between Verizon and the unions broke down in April, U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez stepped in in May to bring the parties back to the bargaining table. An agreement was reached nearly two weeks later.

[wirelessweek.com](http://wirelessweek.com)

## Rolls-Royce Concept Uses An AI Assistant And (Projected) Red Carpet To Make Your Commute Luxurious

June 16, 2016

What might the future of luxury mobility look like? Rolls-Royce just gave us a pretty good idea. In London, England on Thursday morning, Rolls-Royce debuted its latest concept car, the Vision Next 100, which it has codenamed the 103EX. It follows in the footsteps of the BMW Vision Next 100, which debuted back in March.

While the Bimmer was all about sleek and sporty connected — and eco-friendly — mobility, the Rolls is understandably all about luxury. There's much to discuss, so let's dig right in.

Ignoring the body lines for a minute, let's delve into what is perhaps the car's standout feature. Intriguingly, it's one you'll never really see, *per se*. It's called "Eleanor," after the Rolls-Royce hood ornament.

In the Rolls-Royce 103EX, Eleanor is more than just a lighted piece of crystal; instead, she's a virtual assistant — one tied into all parts of your life, but especially mobility.

Using AI, Eleanor gets to know your habits, preferences and schedules and compiles options for your day. Once you're ready to leave the house, you call for her and she brings the car around. Imagine Tesla's Summon, but on a grander scale.

On the way to your first appointment, Eleanor will brief you on your day and allow you to tailor your mobility further.

If you were hoping this car would be powered by a Rolls V12, think again. This car is powered by, as Rolls puts it, "a futuristic, powerful, zero-emission drivetrain."

Of course, since the 103EX is driverless, you can comfortably relax on a sofa covered in the world's finest leather and surrounded by the most elegant wood. Up front, you can take meetings or simply watch your favorite show on the car's large OLED display.

When you arrive at your destination, the long hood, Parthenon grille and glowing "Spirit of Ecstasy" flying lady hood ornament will signal to onlookers your importance and gravitas.

As if the looks weren't enough, once the doors open, the 103EX projects a red light onto the ground, mimicking a red carpet you can step out on like the VIP you are.

While the 103EX is a bit of a far-off look into the future of the world's ultimate luxury brand, if developments from BMW hint at moves that Rolls-Royce might make, it's not *too* far off. Following

the debut of the BMW Vision Next 100, the German automaker said it will create an autonomous luxury sedan for 2021 called iNext.

So, could Rolls make the 103EX in five years? We'll have to wait and see.

If you'd like to see the Rolls-Royce 103EX in person, it will be on display at the Roundhouse in London from June 18 to 26.

[mashable.com](http://mashable.com)



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120 Madison Street, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Syracuse, New York 13202  
[www.ksrinc.com](http://www.ksrinc.com)  
(315) 470-1350  
1-888-8KS RINC