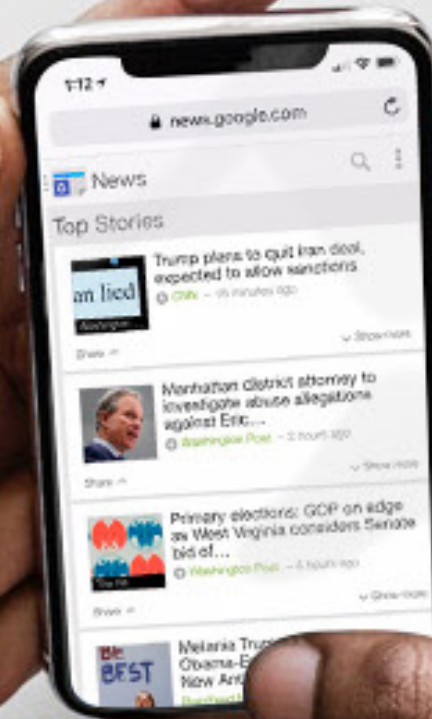




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USA OUTLOOK

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Foto: Morning Brew

Biogen Shocks the Medical Community with Reversal on Alzheimer's Drug

Biogen shocked the medical community by announcing it is bringing back aducanumab, an Alzheimer's drug it shelved earlier this year. Current treatments for Alzheimer's, the most common cause of dementia, only ease symptoms temporarily. They don't slow memory loss or deterioration of thinking skills. In one Biogen's studies, patients given a high dose of aducanumab showed 23% less decline on one measure of cognitive ability compared with patients given a placebo.

This could be a big medical game-changer. Alzheimer's affects about 5.7 million people in the U.S. and about 50 million globally. The announcement was definitely a year-changer for Biogen shares. They erased a 25% year-to-date drop in just one day. Biogen said it will file for FDA approval in early 2020.



Foto: The Hustle

Amazon's Marketplace Woes Extend to Food Products

Amazon might have gained some culinary cred after it purchased the upscale grocery chain Whole Foods, but customer reviews show a real problem with expired, unsafe, or just-plain-gross edibles. A data analytics firm found that the 40% of the sellers of Amazon's 100 top-selling food items had at least 5 complaints about food being expired.

Food is part of the 58% of merchandise sold by 3rd-party sellers in Amazon \$900B Empire. Third-party merchants making up the Marketplace can be official distributors or randos selling product they picked up in clearance aisles and closeouts sales. Further muddying the waters: two sellers can exist within the same listing, so it's truly luck of the draw whether a transaction goes well.

Amazon says Marketplace vendors must provide expiration dates and 90-day shelf lives if they're selling food products... but that's clearly not happening. Consumer safety advocates worry that the problem is going to get worse as the Marketplace grows.

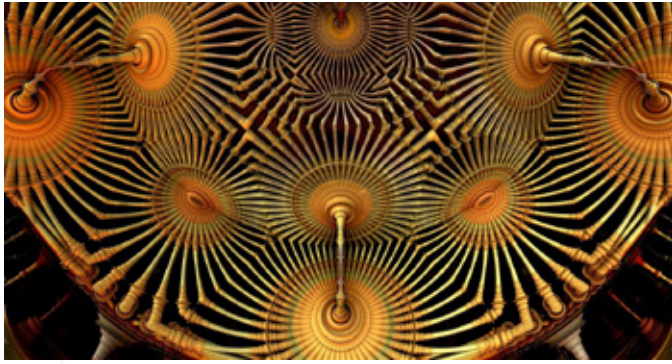


Foto: Morning Brew

Google Achieves Quantum Supremacy... or Does IT?

Researches announced that Google's quantum processor, Sycamore, achieved "quantum supremacy", meaning that it surpassed the computational prowess of every computing system at our disposal today. Researchers said they solved in 200 seconds a calculation that would take the world's best supercomputer 10,000 years. This achievement demonstrates "quantum speedup is achievable in a real-world system. Applications could include random number generation, AI, materials science, and chemistry.

Days before the announcement, competitor IBM published a presort arguing Google didn't achieve supremacy and is misleading people by saying it did.

Companies don't usually exchange diss memos on their research blogs. Quantum is a hot field pulling in major investments from academia, business and government. Hitting supremacy would be the biggest breakthrough in decades.



Foto: Detroit Free Press

Hackers Hover Near Online Shopping Carts, too. It's Called E-Skimming

It is known that everyone needs to be on the lookout for skimming devices that crooks install at ATMs or at the pump at gas stations. But just in time for the holiday shopping season, we're now being warned that the hackers are watching our online shopping carts, too, in order to steal our credit card and debit card information. Such theft can happen whether you're buying something online through a legitimate website or mobile app. Big names that have been targeted.

It may be difficult for a consumer to actually detect compromised websites that have been hit by an e-skimming scheme. Unfortunately, you're not going to be able to spot any odd gadgets or hardware that are used in the process, like you might with a skimmer installed on an ATM or gas pump. It's the next new wave for collecting stolen data to fill the shelves of the cyber black market.



Foto: US News & World Report

States with the Strongest Online Privacy Protections

California is the state with the strongest online privacy protections according to a ranking by Comparitech, a privacy and cybersecurity research firm. The Golden State earned the highest score, followed by Delaware, Utah, Illinois and Arkansas. The scores are based on 20 criteria related to privacy, including whether states require a warrant to track someone's location using GPS and whether companies must delete a person's personal data upon request.

company to forfeit electronic information without a warrant. Delaware also has some of the nation's strongest online privacy laws, including one that requires the state government to get rid of consumer data after a set period of time. Utah bans internet service providers from sharing consumers' data with third parties without permission and prohibits employers from asking employees for their social media account information.

California is the only state to include in its constitution that privacy is an inalienable right. The state's Electronic Communications Privacy Act prevents investigative entities including law enforcement from forcing a