

MAR 12, 2017

TechLife

NEWS

**25 iOS TIPS
& TRICKS**

HOW TO GET MORE
OUT OF YOUR IPHONE

**QUESTIONS
& ANSWERS**

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FROM SPYING ON ME?

YOU HACKED

WIKILEAKS REVEALS CIA WIDE-SCALE HACKING



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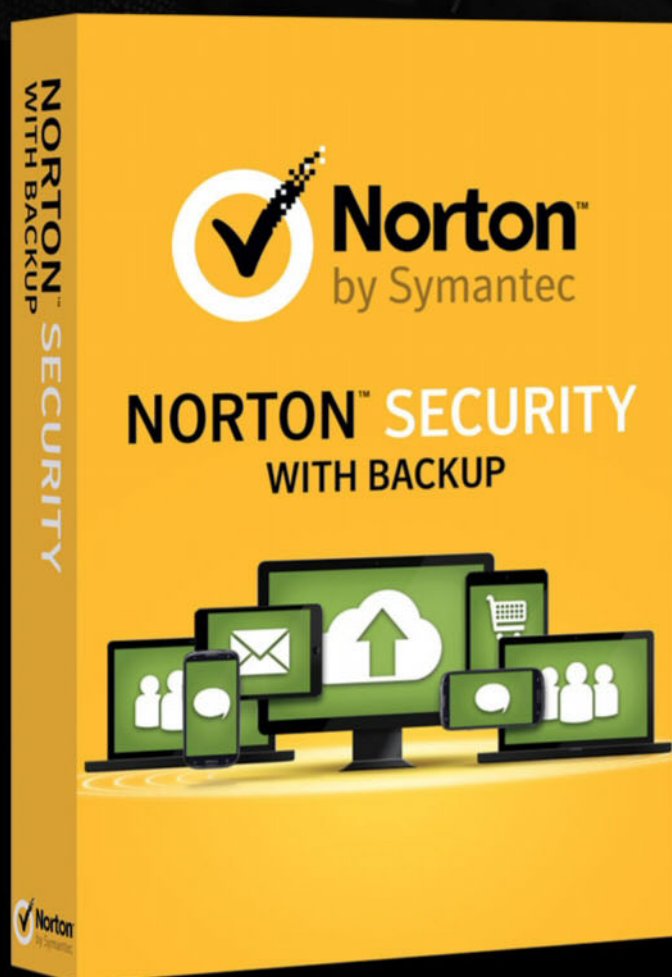
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SUMMARY

| | |
|--|------------|
| <i>OH SNAP! SILICON VALLEY SCHOOL MAKES \$24M OFF OF INVESTMENT</i> | 06 |
| <i>NINTENDO SWITCH'S BIG CHALLENGE: LURING CASUAL GAMERS</i> | 12 |
| <i>WIKILEAKS REVEALS CIA TROVE ALLEGING WIDE-SCALE HACKING</i> | 24 |
| <i>Q&A: HOW CAN I STOP MY TV FROM SPYING ON ME?</i> | 34 |
| <i>WILL WIKILEAKS WORK WITH TECH FIRMS TO DEFEAT CIA HACKING?</i> | 42 |
| <i>MASTER YOUR iPhone: 25 iOS 10 TIPS AND TRICKS</i> | 52 |
| <i>HACKERS DRAWN TO ENERGY SECTOR'S LACK OF SENSORS, CONTROLS</i> | 72 |
| <i>UBER DEPLOYS SECRET WEAPON AGAINST UNDERCOVER REGULATORS</i> | 78 |
| <i>UBER TO HIRE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TO HELP EMBATTLED CEO</i> | 84 |
| <i>UBER SELF-DRIVING CARS ARE COMING BACK TO CALIFORNIA ROADS</i> | 86 |
| <i>OH SNAP? AFTER BURSTING OUT OF THE GATE, SHARES GIVE WAY</i> | 90 |
| <i>EUROPE-WIDE RAIDS AGAINST CYBERCRIME NETWORKS</i> | 94 |
| <i>iTunes REVIEW</i> | 98 |
| <i>BOX OFFICE TOP 20: 'LOGAN' DEBUT EVEN BIGGER THAN EXPECTED</i> | 114 |
| <i>SAMUEL JACKSON QUESTIONS BRITISH BLACK ACTORS IN AMERICAN FILMS</i> | 124 |
| <i>REVIEW: KRISTEN STEWART, OTHERWORLDLY IN 'PERSONAL SHOPPER'</i> | 126 |
| <i>FITBIT TRACKS YOUR STEPS; NOW IT WANTS TO CHART YOUR ZS, TOO</i> | 132 |
| <i>'GOOD FIGHT' TAKES TELEVISION LEAD IN MAKING TRUMP AN ISSUE</i> | 138 |
| <i>NEW KIDS STREAMING SERVICE WILL HAVE 'SCOOPY DOO,' 'JETSONS'</i> | 144 |
| <i>FBI'S COMEY: 'YOU'RE STUCK WITH ME FOR ANOTHER 6 1/2 YEARS'</i> | 148 |
| <i>BACON, SODA & TOO FEW NUTS TIED TO BIG PORTION OF US DEATHS</i> | 150 |
| <i>ZAP MAP: SATELLITE TRACKS LIGHTNING FOR BETTER HEADS UP</i> | 156 |
| <i>WORLD'S 1ST WOMAN IN SPACE, VALENTINA TERESHKOVA, TURNS 80</i> | 158 |
| <i>AFTER 44 DAYS, HEARINGS END FOR GIANT TELESCOPE IN HAWAII</i> | 162 |
| <i>SENIOR CHINA GOVERNMENT ADVISER CRITICIZES WEB CENSORSHIP</i> | 166 |
| <i>CELEBS USE SOCIAL MEDIA TO SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY</i> | 170 |
| <i>BUSINESS GROUP: CHINA TECH PLAN THREAT TO FOREIGN FIRMS</i> | 176 |
| <i>FORGET TRUMP; SLOVENIAN PRESIDENT RULES INSTAGRAM</i> | 182 |

OH SNAP! SILICON VALLEY SCHOOL MAKES \$24M OFF OF INVESTMENT

Bake sales and car washes?

Not for one Silicon Valley parochial high school that hit it big this week and, by doing so, highlighted anew gaping economic disparities in the region.

St. Francis High School in Mountain View parlayed a \$15,000 investment in the company that developed the Snapchat app into a windfall of at least \$24 million, capitalizing on a unique venture capital fund set up by the school's investment-savvy parents.

The fund paid off when Snap Inc. began selling shares to the public and the school sold about 1.4 million of the 2.1 million shares at \$17 each. It's holding the remaining 700,000 shares, which were valued at about \$19 million last week.

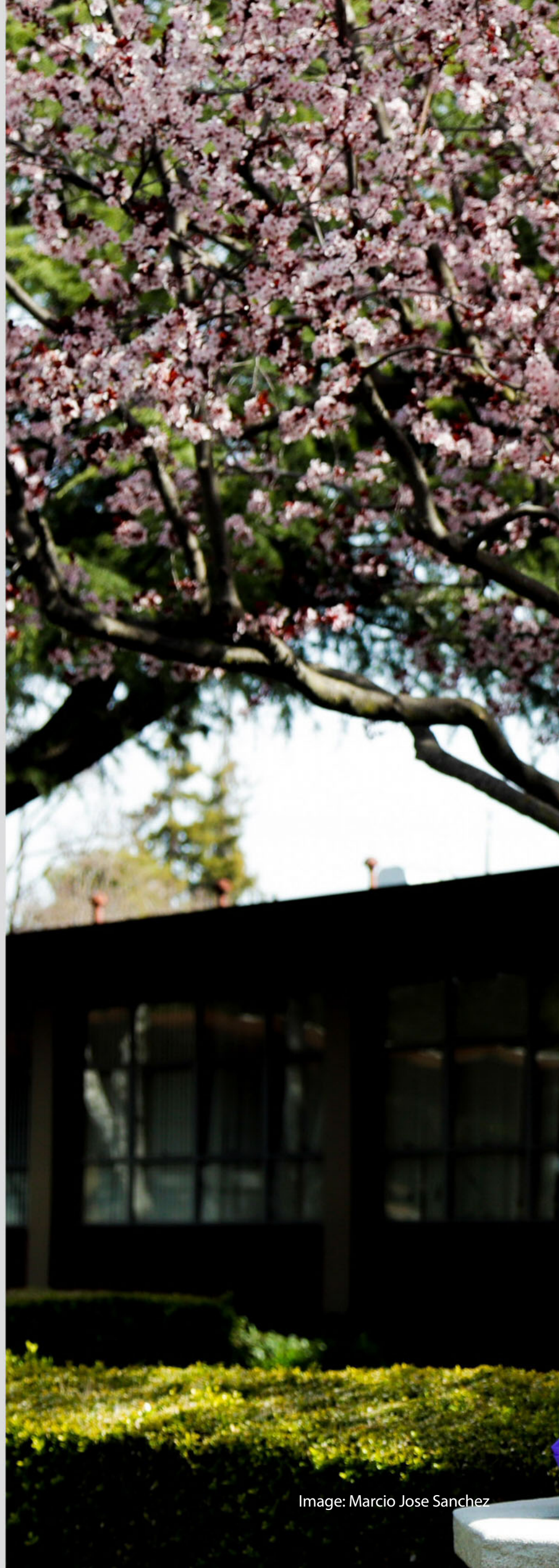


Image: Marcio Jose Sanchez



“Silicon Valley is a pretty amazing place to live,” school President Simon Chiu said. “This obviously couldn’t have happened anywhere else.”

St. Francis High School launched the fund in 1990 at the urging of two of the many venture capitalists with children attending the school. The fund’s aim is to tag along with deep-pocketed investors when they make big bets on startup companies. The school takes a small sliver of a venture capitalist’s bigger investment in a startup company.

Chiu and other educators say they know of no other school with a similar fundraising scheme.

Few, if any other schools, have that sort of advantage, said Stephen Andriole, a professor of business, accountancy and information systems at the Villanova School of Business in Pennsylvania.

“The only way to do this is through a personal relationship,” he said. “The probability of success is quite low.”

About 10 miles north, in East Palo Alto, educators are focused on raising graduation levels in a predominantly Latino community with high pockets of poverty. The city of about 30,000 just a few miles from Stanford University has succeeded in lowering a staggeringly high homicide rate in the early 1990s to the national average and income levels have risen to about \$48,000 for a family of four compared with \$120,000 in next-door Palo Alto. The median income in Mountain View is \$83,000.

But East Palo Alto still struggles with a dropout rate hovering about 50 percent annually.





Image: Marcio Jose Sanchez

"We don't have the bandwidth to follow the stock market," said Amika Guillaume, principal of the East Palo Alto Academy, which is in one of the poorest cities in Northern California. "It's tough enough keep kids on track to graduate."

Chiu declined to disclose the size of the school's venture fund, but he said it currently holds investments in about a dozen other companies. He said the money will be added to the school's endowment, which will double it, while administrators decide how to spend the infusion of cash.

Generally, the windfall will enable the school to offer scholarships, retain faculty and improve facilities, Chiu said. "I think everyone understands it's a pretty transformational event for our school," he said.

Before the Snap investment, the school's biggest profit from a single investment was \$2 million. Chiu also said the school has lost money on several investments.

The school's Snap saga began at the kitchen table of venture capitalist Barry Eggers.

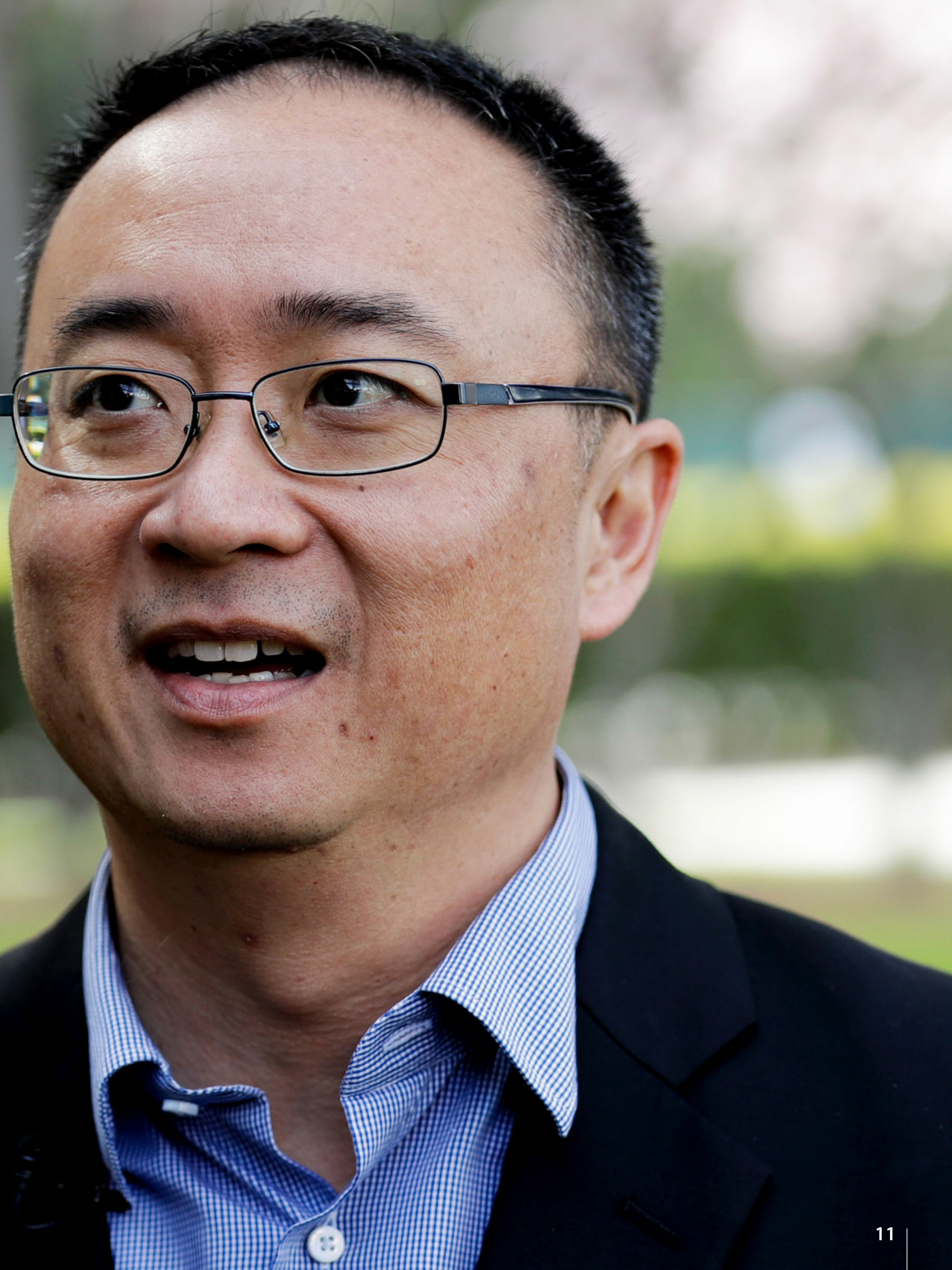
Eggers said he came home from work one day in 2012 and found his children and their St. Francis schoolmates sitting at the kitchen table, giggling over the new Snapchat app, which allows users to easily exchange messages with videos and photographs. Best of all, the images automatically destruct after a few minutes.

Eggers researched the company and negotiated a \$500,000 investment with the company founders, including a \$15,000 contribution from the school.

"It all started at my kitchen table with my kids," Eggers said. "Only in Silicon Valley."



Image: Marcio Jose Sanchez







NINTENDO SWITCH'S BIG CHALLENGE: LURING CASUAL GAMERS

With three kids and constant travel for work, John Hussey jumped at the chance to play an open-world adventure game like "The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild" anywhere, anytime.

After he heard about the Nintendo Switch, a hybrid game machine that works as both a console at home and a tablet on the go, Hussey ordered one in January even though it wouldn't arrive until Friday, when Nintendo's latest game machine debuts.

Nintendo will need lots of traditional gamers like Hussey to redeem itself as a console maker, after being eclipsed by Microsoft and Sony in the game-console wars. But Nintendo will also need lots of casual gamers who are satisfied with playing on a smartphone and would never have dreamed of buying a \$300 game machine.

And in trying to appeal to many audiences, Nintendo risks not being the best at serving any one.

THREE LIVES

The Switch is like three machines in one. Wireless controllers attach to a game tablet for hand held gaming. Take the tablet to a gathering with friends, and you can rest it on a table with a kickstand and detach the controllers for use as stand-alone devices. Back home, slide the tablet into a docking station and snap the controllers into a grip accessory and you have a traditional game console attached to a TV. With each switch - get it? - you can pick up where you left off.

"Knowing I could get the 'Zelda' game both at home and on the road, at this stage in my life that's essential," said Hussey, a sales rep from Bloomington, Indiana. "I can't sit around at home and play a 70-hour game, but if I'm on airplanes or hotels, it's perfect for me."

The new "Zelda" game is the biggest available at launch, though Nintendo is also pushing a collection of casual party games called "1-2-Switch." Nintendo says more than 80 titles are in development, including "Super Mario Odyssey" and the action-puzzle game "Snipperclips: Cut it Out, Together."





GAME OVER ... TRY AGAIN

Nintendo's Wii in 2006 introduced motion control to gaming and was a massive success, forcing Microsoft and Sony to respond with their own motion controls. But the Wii's successor in 2012, the Wii U, proved disappointing. People thought it was too expensive at \$300, especially when it had few must-have games.

Since then, the Japanese video game maker has faced other hiccups. Its NES Classic retro module was a "hot" holiday gift, but it was difficult to find during the holidays. It fared better with the monster-chasing "Pokemon Go" sensation on phones, but that wasn't developed in-house. The iPhone game "Super Mario Run" garnered buzz, but some balked at the \$10 price. It's also not available on Android until later this month.

The Switch represents a new hope. Nintendo is forecasting sales of 2 million units in the first month. IDC analyst Lewis Ward estimates Nintendo will ship 8 million within a year - better than the Wii U, though not as much as the Wii.









MULTIPLAYER

With the Switch, Nintendo is hoping “to reach gamers, families and we even hope to reach people who haven’t played video games before,” Nintendo managing executive director Shinya Takahashi said. “Really the goal with the Nintendo Switch is to reach as broad an audience as possible.”

Part of that involves changing the nature of game play. Nintendo developed the mini-games in “1-2-Switch” so players look at their opponents - not screens - as they draw guns or milk cows.

Nintendo Switch developer Yoshiaki Koizumi said he wanted the game to reflect Nintendo’s roots as a playing card company in the 1880s. Nintendo wants to bring people together, and “one of the best ways to do that is giving them the opportunity to be able to see each other’s expression,” much like when you’re playing cards, he said.

Andrew Maher, a cook in Columbia, Missouri, looks forward to playing with his girlfriend, something they couldn’t do together on phones. He said the Switch “seems like a fun group experience.”

But Nintendo doesn’t want to give up on traditional gamers either - thus the docking station for playing on the big screen.

PRESS START

The be-all approach comes with compromises . As a game console, the Switch doesn't have the range of games available on Sony's PlayStation 4 and Microsoft's Xbox One. As a tablet, it lacks traditional features such as a web browser and streaming video apps like Netflix (even rival game consoles have these).

Euromonitor analyst Matthew Hudak said Nintendo needs a way to be different from rivals, and "the smartest play for them is to try to be this all-purpose console for social, casual or dedicated needs."

But if Nintendo fails to persuade casual gamers to spend \$300 on something that does less than their phones, the Switch could wind up on the trash heap like the Wii U.

"For the average consumer seeking a new console, they want to be able to spend the least money, be able to keep up with all the biggest releases and play the same games as their friends, none of which they can currently do with Nintendo Switch," said Joshua Clay, a video game programmer in Derby, U.K., who doesn't plan to switch from his PlayStation 4.

IDC's Ward is more optimistic. While hardcore gamers might stick with the Xbox One or PlayStation 4 because they're more powerful and support more multiplayer online games, he said the Switch's portability and easy-to-use controllers will appeal to first-time gamers.

"I'm predicting Nintendo is going to be viewed in retrospect at the end of the year as 'Back in the game,'" he said.





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Image: Ron Sumners



WIKILEAKS REVEALS CIA TROVE ALLEGING WIDE- SCALE HACKING

WikiLeaks published thousands of documents this week described as secret files about CIA hacking tools the government employs to break into users' computers, mobile phones and even smart TVs from companies like Apple, Google, Microsoft and Samsung.

The documents describe clandestine methods for bypassing or defeating encryption, antivirus tools and other protective security features intended to keep the private information of citizens and corporations safe from prying eyes. U.S. government employees, including President Donald Trump, use many of the same products and internet services purportedly compromised by the tools.

The documents describe CIA efforts - cooperating with friendly foreign governments and the U.S. National Security Agency - to subvert the world's most popular technology platforms, including Apple's iPhones and iPads, Google's Android phones and the Microsoft Windows operating system for desktop computers and laptops.

The documents also include discussions about compromising some internet-connected televisions to turn them into listening posts. One document discusses hacking vehicle systems, indicating the CIA's interest in hacking modern cars with sophisticated on-board computers.

WikiLeaks has a long track record of releasing top secret government documents, and experts who sifted through the material said it appeared legitimate.

Jonathan Liu, a spokesman for the CIA, said: "We do not comment on the authenticity or content of purported intelligence documents." White House spokesman Sean Spicer also declined comment.

Missing from WikiLeaks' trove are the actual hacking tools themselves, some of which were developed by government hackers while others were purchased from outsiders. WikiLeaks said it planned to avoid distributing tools "until a consensus emerges" on the political nature of the CIA's program and how such software could be analyzed, disarmed and published.

Tuesday's disclosure left anxious consumers who use the products with little recourse, since repairing the software vulnerabilities in ways that might block the tools' effectiveness is the responsibility of leading technology companies.







Image: Frank Augstein



The revelations threatened to upend confidence in an Obama-era government program, the Vulnerability Equities Process, under which federal agencies warn technology companies about weaknesses in their software so they can be quickly fixed.

It was not immediately clear how WikiLeaks obtained the information, and details in the documents could not immediately be verified. WikiLeaks said the material came from “an isolated, high-security network” inside the CIA’s Center for Cyber Intelligence but didn’t say whether the files were removed by a rogue employee or perhaps involved hacking a federal contractor working for the CIA or breaking into a staging server where such information might have been temporarily stored.

“The archive appears to have been circulated among former U.S. government hackers and contractors in an unauthorized manner, one of whom has provided WikiLeaks with portions of the archive,” WikiLeaks said in a statement.

The tools described in the documents carried bizarre names, including Time Stomper, Fight Club, Jukebox, Bartender, Wild Turkey, Margarita and “RickyBobby,” a racecar-driving character in the comedy film, “Talladega Nights.”

That RickyBobby tool, the documents said, was intended to plant and harvest files on computers running “newer versions of Microsoft Windows and Windows Server.” It operated “as a lightweight implant for target computers” without raising warnings from antivirus or intrusion-detection software. It took advantage of files Microsoft built into Windows since at least 10 years ago.

The files include comments by CIA hackers boasting in slang language of their prowess: “You know we got the dankest Trojans and collection tools,” one reads.

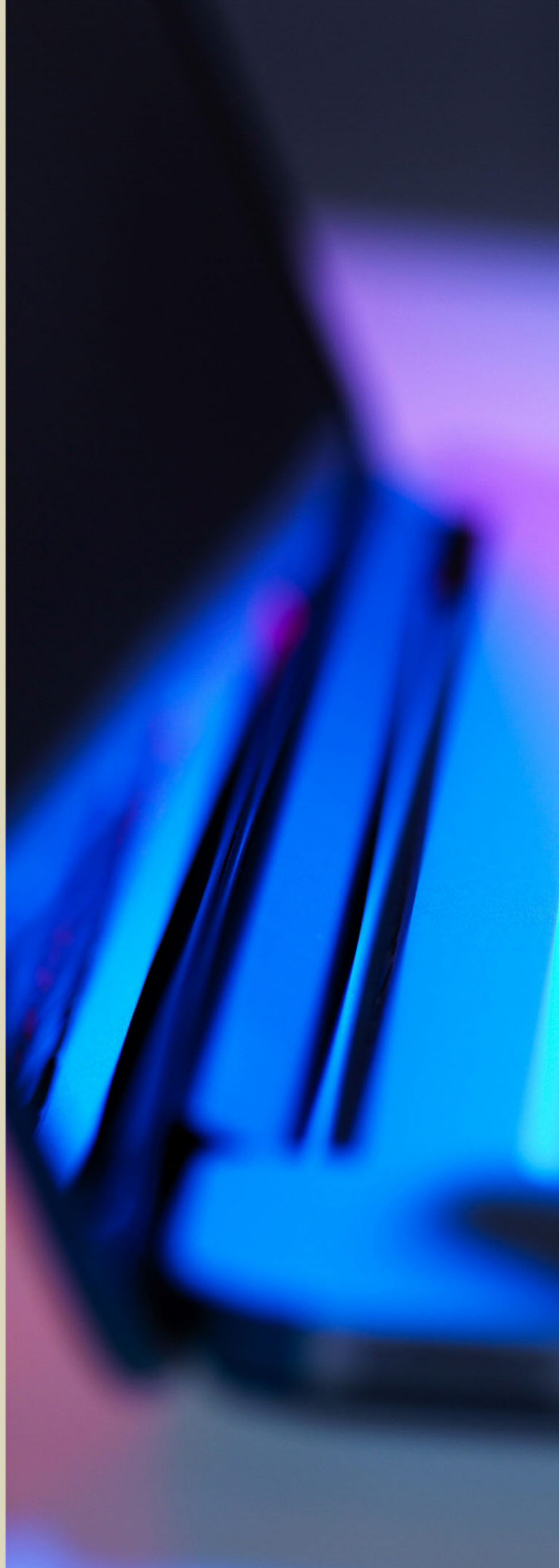
The documents show broad exchanges of tools and information among the CIA, NSA and other U.S. intelligence agencies, as well as intelligence services of close allies Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

WikiLeaks claimed the CIA used both its Langley, Virginia, headquarters and the U.S. consulate in Frankfurt, Germany, as bases for covert hackers. The AP found that one purported CIA hack that imitates the Domain Name System - the internet’s phone book - traced to an internet domain hosted in Germany.

Jake Williams, a security expert with Augusta, Georgia-based Rendition Infosec who has experience dealing with government hackers, said the files’ extensive references to operation security meant they were almost certainly government-backed. “I can’t fathom anyone fabricated that amount of operational security concern,” he said. “It rings true to me.”

In an unusual move, WikiLeaks said it was withholding some secrets inside the documents. Among them, it said it had withheld details of tens of thousands of “CIA targets and attack machines throughout Latin America, Europe and the United States.”

WikiLeaks also said its data included a “substantial library” of digital espionage techniques borrowed from other countries, including Russia.





If the authenticity of the documents is officially confirmed, it would represent yet another catastrophic breach for the U.S. intelligence community at the hands of WikiLeaks and its allies, which have repeatedly humbled Washington with the mass release of classified material, including from the State Department and the Pentagon.

Tuesday's documents purported to be from the CIA's "Embedded Development Branch" discuss techniques for injecting malicious code into computers protected by the personal security products of leading international anti-virus companies. They describe ways to trick anti-virus products from companies including Russia-based Kaspersky Lab, Romania-based BitDefender, Dutch-based AVG Technologies, F-Secure of Finland and Rising Antivirus, a Chinese company.

In the new trove, programmers also posted instructions for how to access user names and passwords in popular internet browsers like Microsoft Internet Explorer, Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox. Under a list of references in one exchange, users were advised: "Be advised, the following may be low traffic sites, sites in which it might be a good idea to disable JavaScript, etc," referring to a widely used internet programming language. "Remember, practice safe browsing, kidz!" they were told.

Some documents were classified "secret" or "top secret." One file said such classifications would protect deployed hacks from being "attributed" to the U.S. government. The practice of attribution, or identifying who was behind an intrusion, has been difficult for investigators probing sophisticated hacks that likely came from powerful nation-states.





Image: Jonathan Ernst





Q&A: HOW CAN I STOP MY TV FROM SPYING ON ME?

The publication by WikiLeaks of documents it says are from the CIA's secret hacking program describe tools that can turn a world of increasingly networked, camera- and microphone-equipped devices into eavesdroppers.

Smart televisions and automobiles now have on-board computers and microphones, joining the ubiquitous smartphones, laptops and tablets that have had microphones and cameras as standard equipment for a decade. That the CIA has created tools to turn them into listening posts surprises no one in the security community.

Q: HOW WORRIED SHOULD CONSUMERS BE WHO HAVE SURROUNDED THEMSELVES WITH THESE DEVICES?

A: Importantly, the intrusion tools highlighted by the leak do not appear to be instruments of mass surveillance. So, it's not as if everyone's TV or high-tech vehicle is at risk.

"It's unsurprising, and also somewhat reassuring, that these are tools that appear to be targeted at specific people's (devices) by compromising the software on them - as opposed to tools that decrypt the encrypted traffic over the internet," said Matt Blaze, University of Pennsylvania computer scientist.

The exploits appear to emphasize targeted attacks, such as collecting keystrokes or silently activating a Samsung TV's microphone while the set is turned off. In fact, many of the intrusion tools described in the documents are for delivery via "removable device."

Q: ONCE DEVICES ARE COMPROMISED THEY NEED TO BE INTERNET-CONNECTED IN ORDER TO SHARE COLLECTED INTELLIGENCE WITH SPIES. WHAT CAN BE DONE TO STOP THAT?

A: Not much if you don't want to sacrifice the benefits of the device.

"Anything that is voice-activated or that has voice- and internet-connected functionality is susceptible to these types of attacks," said Robert M. Lee, a former U.S. cyberwar operations officer and CEO of the cybersecurity company Dragos.

That includes smart TVs and voice-controlled information devices like the Amazon Echo, which





Terminal — top — 58x19

Processes: 193 total, 3 running, 4 stuck, 186 sleeping, 12
1:58:45 Load Avg: 2.09, 2.31, 2.26
CPU usage: 17.14% user, 12.4% sys, 70.81% idle
SharedLibs: 1008K resident, 0B data, 0B linkedit.
MemRegions: 101474 total, 3358M resident, 47M private, 682
PhysMem: 6203M used (1328M wired), 971M unused.
VM: 524G vsize, 1026M framework vsize, 7070012(0) swapins.
Networks: packets: 3757450/3794M in, 2789373/570M out.
Disks: 1170575/42G read, 1485800/49G written.

| PID | COMMAND | %CPU | TIME | #TH | #WQ | #PORT |
|------|----------|------|----------|-----|-----|-------|
| 7459 | mdworker | 0.0 | 00:00.08 | 3 | 0 | 52 |
| 7458 | mdworker | 0.0 | 00:00.15 | 4 | 0 | 54 |
| 7449 | zsh | 0.0 | 00:00.04 | 1 | 0 | 19 |
| 7448 | login | 0.0 | 00:00.01 | 2 | 0 | 30 |
| 7447 | top | 18.0 | 01:06.16 | 1/1 | 0 | 26 |
| 7443 | zsh | 0.0 | 00:00.03 | 1 | 0 | 19 |
| 7442 | login | 0.0 | 00:00.16 | 2 | 0 | 30 |
| 7441 | pbs | 0.0 | 00:00.09 | 2 | 1 | 43 |

af -78 11 Y US WPA2(PSK/AES/AES)
cc -76 11 Y -- WEP
24 -81 6 N -- WPA(PSK/AES,TKIP/TKIP) WPA2(PSK/AES,TKIP/TKIP)
f0 -33 4 Y US WPA2(PSK/AES/AES)

| RSSI | CHANNEL | HT | CC | SECURITY (auth/unicast/group) |
|------------|---------|----|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ec -82 2 | Y | -- | WPA(PSK/AES,TKIP/TKIP) | WPA2(PSK/AES,TKIP/TKIP) |
| 2:15 -85 1 | Y | -- | WPA(PSK/AES,TKIP/TKIP) | WPA2(PSK/AES,TKIP/TKIP) |
| af -77 11 | Y | US | WPA2(PSK/AES/AES) | WPA2(PSK/AES,TKIP/TKIP) |
| cc -73 11 | Y | -- | WEP | WPA2(PSK/AES,TKIP/TKIP) |
| f:26 -83 7 | Y | -- | WPA(PSK/AES,TKIP/TKIP) | WPA2(PSK/AES,TKIP/TKIP) |
| 0:24 -83 6 | N | -- | WPA(PSK/AES,TKIP/TKIP) | WPA2(PSK/AES,TKIP/TKIP) |
| f:f0 -35 4 | Y | US | WPA2(PSK/AES/AES) | WPA2(PSK/AES,TKIP/TKIP) |

MacBook Air

Terminal — zsh

igd[18]: network changed: v4(en0!):192.168

EventAgent[11]: Captive: en0: Not probing
icates not captive)
EventAgent[11]: Captive: CNPluginHandler

nwindow[67]: CoreAnimation: warning, del
on; set CA_DEBUG_TRANSACTIONS=1 in enviro

[88]: Unrecognized leaf certificate
layUIAgent[7220]: 2016-04-13 11:51:38.3
ring: no
layUIAgent[7220]: 2016-04-13 11:51:38.3
ring: no
el[0]: Google Chrome He (map: 0xffffffff
nnest for map: 0xffffffff8021a5a000, reg
not abnormal for debuggers, this incre
get exits.
el[0]: Google Chrome He (map: 0xffffffff
nnest for map: 0xffffffff8021a5a2d0, reg
not abnormal for debuggers, this incre
get exits.
nel[0]: Google Chrome He (map: 0xffffffff
nnest for map: 0xffffffff8023694870, reg
not abnormal for debuggers, this incre
get exits.
in[7442]: USER_PROCESS: 7442 ttys002
in[7448]: USER_PROCESS: 7448 ttys003
omg webcam tape



can read news, play music, close the garage door and turn up the thermostat. An Amazon Echo was enlisted as a potential witness in an Arkansas murder case.

To ensure a connected device can't spy on you, unplug it from the grid and the internet and remove the batteries, if that's possible.

Or perhaps don't buy it, especially if you don't especially require the networked features and the manufacturer hasn't proven careful on security.

Security experts have found flaws in devices - like WiFi-enabled dolls - with embedded microphones and cameras.

Q: I RECENTLY BEGAN USING WHATSAPP AND SIGNAL ON MY SMARTPHONE FOR VOICE AND TEXT COMMUNICATION BECAUSE OF THEIR STRONG ENCRYPTION. CAN THE EXPLOITS DESCRIBED IN THE WIKILEAKS DOCUMENTS BREAK THEM?

A: No. But exploits designed to infiltrate the operating system on your Android smartphone, iPhone, iPad or Windows-based computer can read your messages or listen in on conversations on the compromised device itself, though communications are encrypted in transit.

"The bad news is that platform exploits are very powerful," Blaze tweeted. "The good news is that they have to target you in order to read your messages."

He and other experts say reliably defending against a state-level adversary is all but impossible. And the CIA was planting microphones long before we became networked.

Q: I'M NOT A HIGH-VALUE TARGET FOR INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES. BUT I STILL WANT TO PROTECT MYSELF. HOW?

A: It may sound boring, but it's vital: Keep all your operating systems patched and up-to-date, and don't click links or open email attachments unless you are sure they are safe.

There will always be exploits of which antivirus companies are not aware until it's too late. These are known as zero-day exploits because no patches are available and victims have zero time to prepare. The CIA, National Security Agency and plenty of other intelligence agencies purchase and develop them.

But they don't come cheap. And most of us are hardly worth it.





WILL WIKILEAKS WORK WITH TECH FIRMS TO DEFEAT CIA HACKING?

The anti-secrecy group WikiLeaks raised the prospect of sharing sensitive details it uncovered about CIA hacking tools with leading technology companies whose flagship products and services were targeted by the government's hacker-spies.

If that sharing should take place, the unusual cooperation would give companies like Apple, Google, Microsoft, Samsung and others an opportunity to identify and repair any flaws in their software and devices that were being exploited by U.S. spy agencies and some foreign allies, as described in nearly 9,000 pages of secret CIA files WikiLeaks published on Tuesday.

The documents, which the White House declined anew Wednesday to confirm as authentic, describe clandestine methods for bypassing or defeating encryption, antivirus tools and other protective security features for



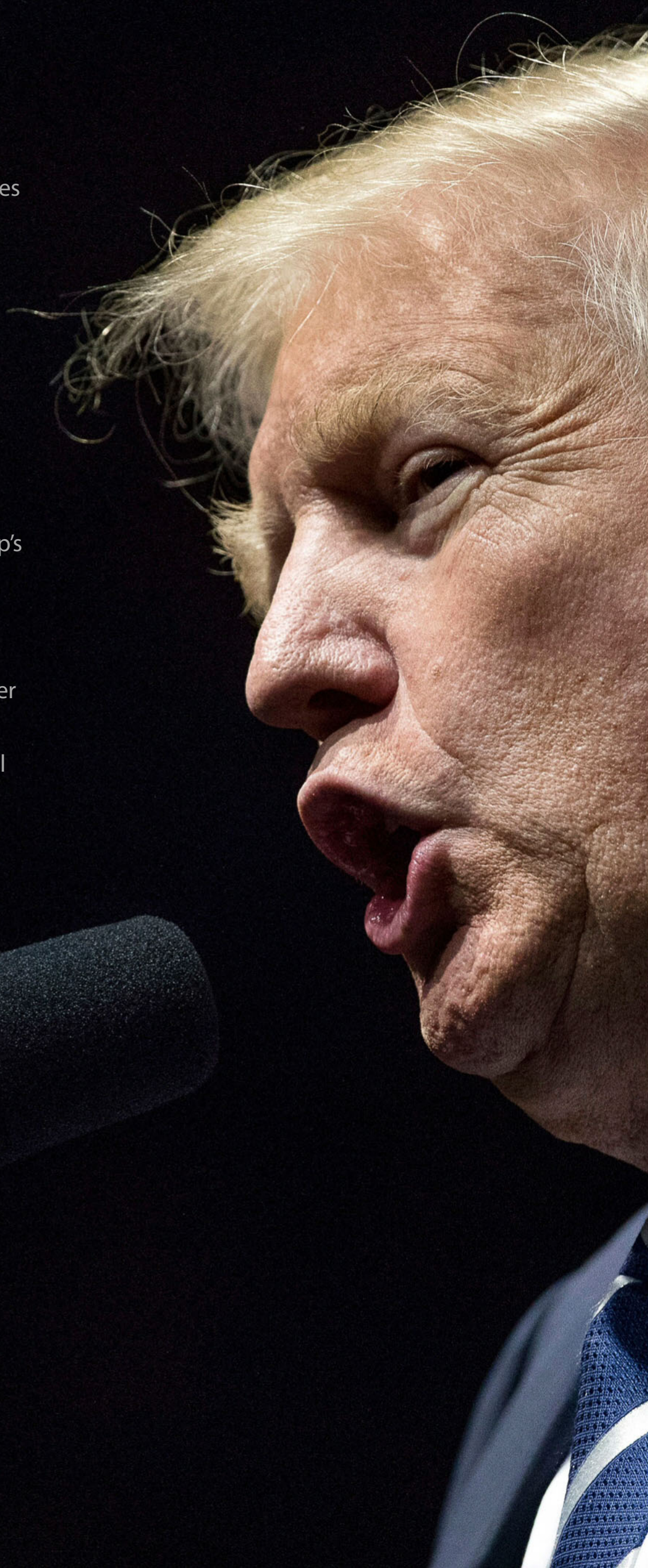


computers, mobile phones and even smart TVs. They include the world's most popular technology platforms, including Apple's iPhones and iPads, Google's Android phones and the Microsoft Windows operating system for desktop computers and laptops.

"This is the kind of disclosure that undermines our security, our country and our well-being," White House spokesman Sean Spicer said.

"This alleged leak should concern every single American."

Spicer defended then-candidate Donald Trump's comment in October 2016 - "I love WikiLeaks!" - after it published during the presidential campaign private, politically damaging emails from Hillary Clinton's campaign manager. Spicer said there was a "massive, massive difference" between WikiLeaks publishing stolen, personal emails of a political figure and files about national security tools used by the CIA.





The CIA has declined to confirm that the documents are authentic. But on Wednesday, the agency said Americans should be “deeply troubled” by the disclosures.

WikiLeaks has not released the actual hacking tools themselves, some of which were developed by government hackers while others were purchased from outsiders. The group indicated it was still considering its options but said in a statement Wednesday: “Tech companies are saying they need more details of CIA attack techniques to fix them faster. Should WikiLeaks work directly with them?” It wasn’t clear whether WikiLeaks - a strident critic of Google and Facebook, among others - was serious about such action.

A message seeking additional details from WikiLeaks was not immediately returned, and an attempt to speak to founder Julian Assange at the Ecuadorean Embassy in London on Tuesday was rebuffed.

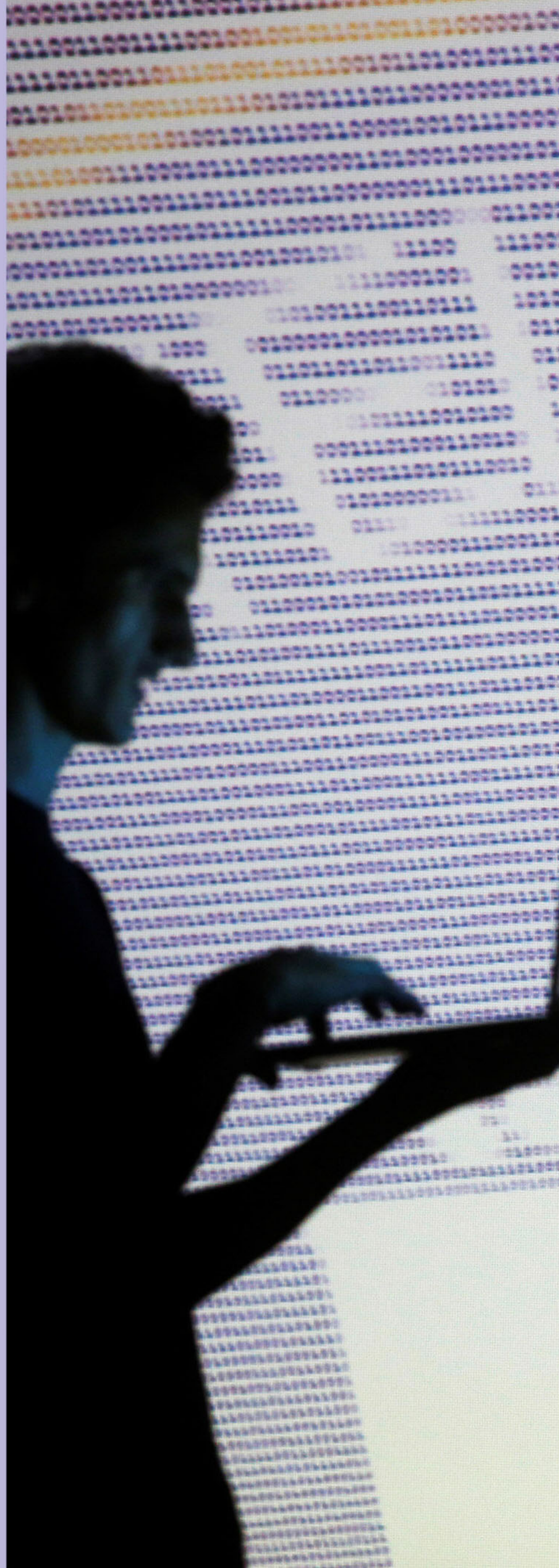
Security experts said WikiLeaks was obligated to work privately with technology companies to disclose previously unknown software flaws, known as zero-day vulnerabilities because consumers would have no time to discover how to defend themselves against their use, and with companies that design protection software. WikiLeaks has said the latest files apparently have been circulating among former U.S. government hackers and contractors.

"The clear move is to notify vendors," said Chris Wysopal, co-founder and chief technology officer of Veracode Inc. "If WikiLeaks has this data then it's likely others have this data, too. The binaries and source code that contain zero days should be shared with people who build detection and signatures for a living."

The political fallout and damage to U.S. intelligence operations was still being assessed. The former head of the CIA and National Security Agency, Michael Hayden, sought to assure people the U.S. would use such cyber weapons only against foreign targets.

"I can tell you that these tools would not be used against an American," Hayden said Tuesday night on "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert."

"But there are people out there that you want us to spy on. You want us to have the ability to actually turn on that listening device inside the TV, to learn that person's intentions."



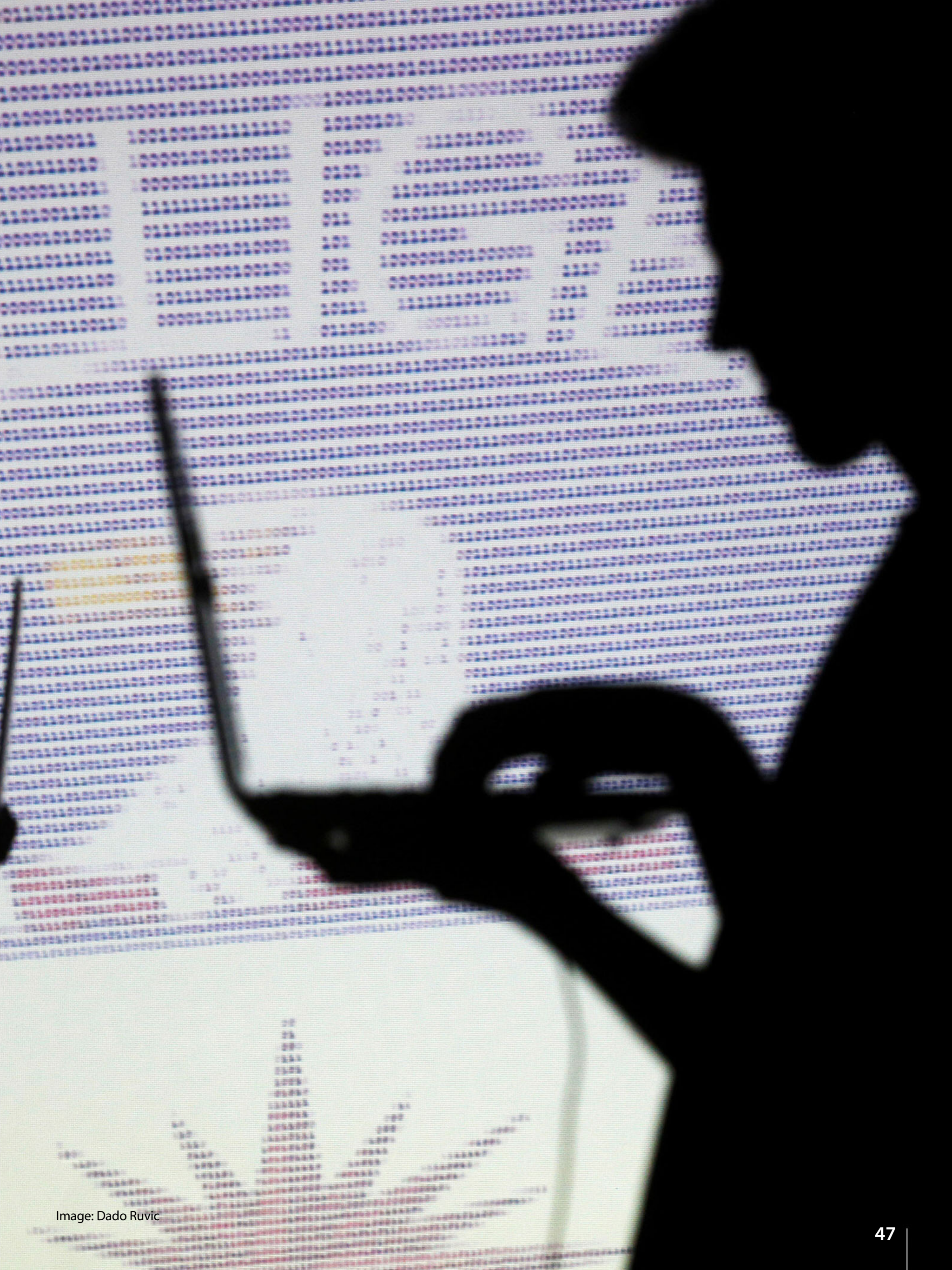



Image: Dado Ruvic





One clear risk is that WikiLeaks revealed enough details to give foreign governments better opportunities to trace any of the sophisticated hacking tools they might discover back to the CIA, damaging the ability to disguise a U.S. government hacker's involvement. "That's a huge problem," said Adriel T. Desautels, the chief executive at Netragard LLC, which formerly sold zero-day exploits to governments and companies. "Our capabilities are now diminished."

Some vendors were already sifting through the disclosures to fix flaws in their software. The first confirmed patch came from Avira Operations GmbH & Co., a German antivirus vendor, which told The Associated Press it fixed what it described as "a minor vulnerability" within a few hours of the WikiLeaks release.

Apple said many of its security vulnerabilities disclosed by WikiLeaks were already fixed. In a statement late Tuesday, it said its initial analysis showed that the latest version of the iOS system software for iPhones and iPads fixed many of those flaws. Apple said it will "continue work to rapidly address any identified vulnerabilities."

Google hasn't commented yet.

The WikiLeaks disclosures were an extraordinary coup for a group that has already rocked American diplomacy with the release of 250,000 State Department cables, embarrassed the U.S. military with hundreds of thousands of logs from Iraq and Afghanistan and upended the U.S. presidential election by publishing Democratic Party emails.

The new releases are all the more remarkable given that WikiLeaks' founder Assange is

midway through his fifth year at the Ecuadorean Embassy. He received political asylum after skipping bail to avoid extradition to Sweden, where he is wanted for an allegation of rape. Last year, a United Nations panel declared that the U.K. and Sweden were detaining him arbitrarily, but there's no suggestion that Swedish or British authorities will budge on their desire to detain and extradite him.

Meanwhile, the upcoming second round of Ecuador's presidential contest may mean Assange's welcome at the embassy is wearing thin. The front-runner in the race, Guillermo Lasso, has said he would evict Assange, an action Assange says could eventually lead to his extradition to the United States.

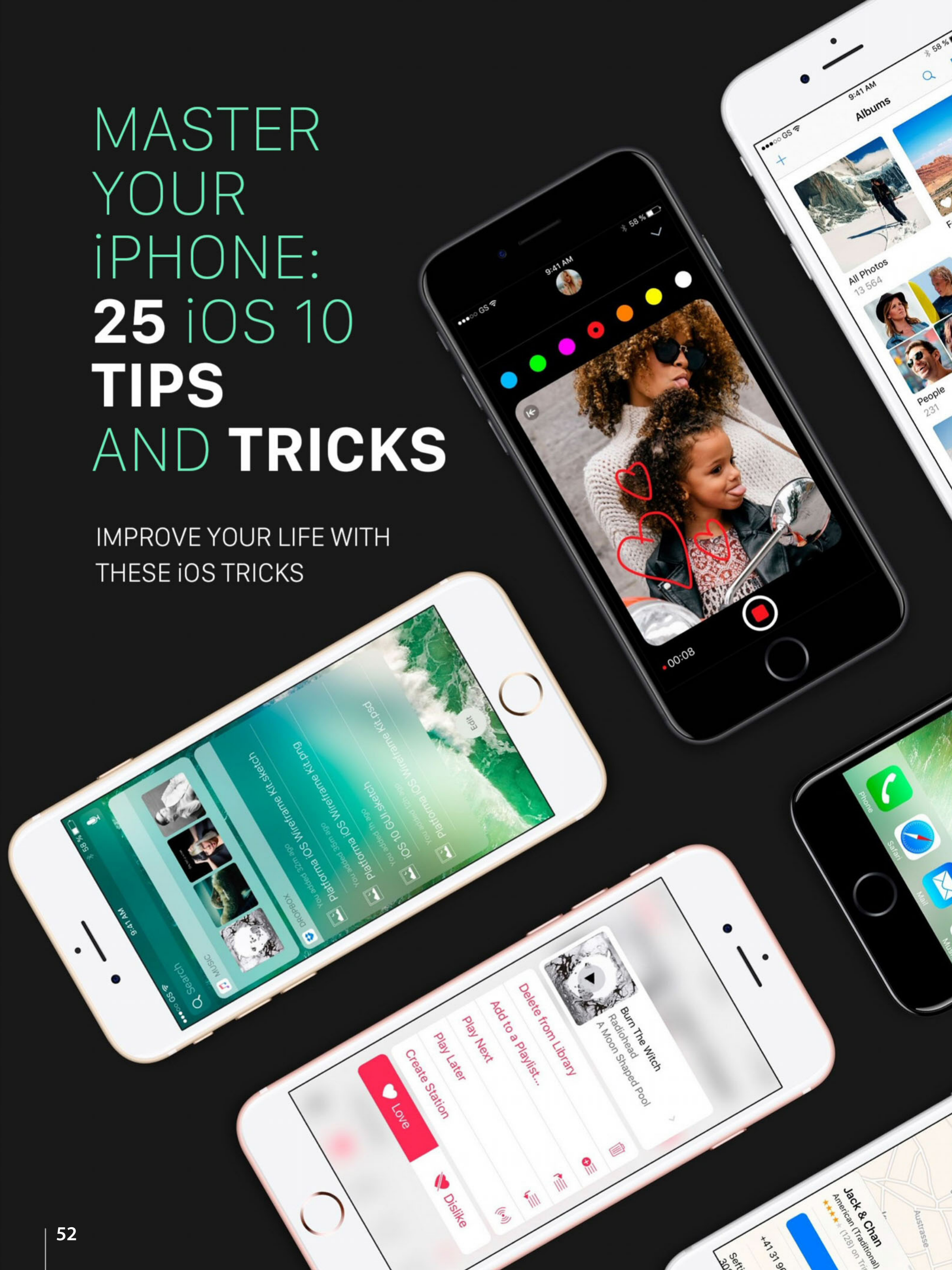
WikiLeaks' release:

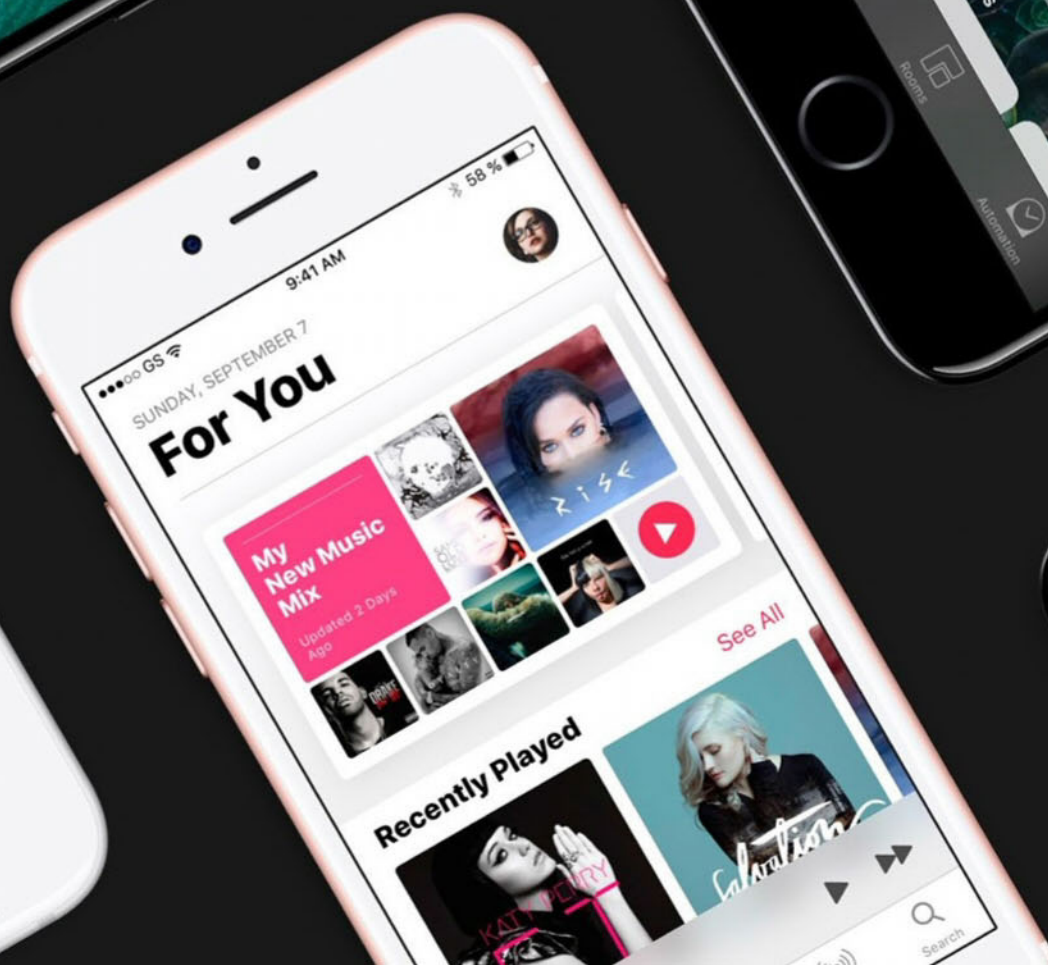
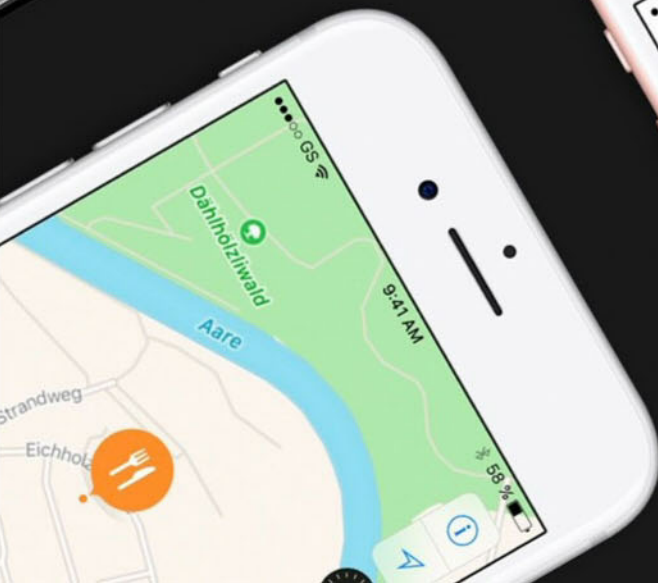
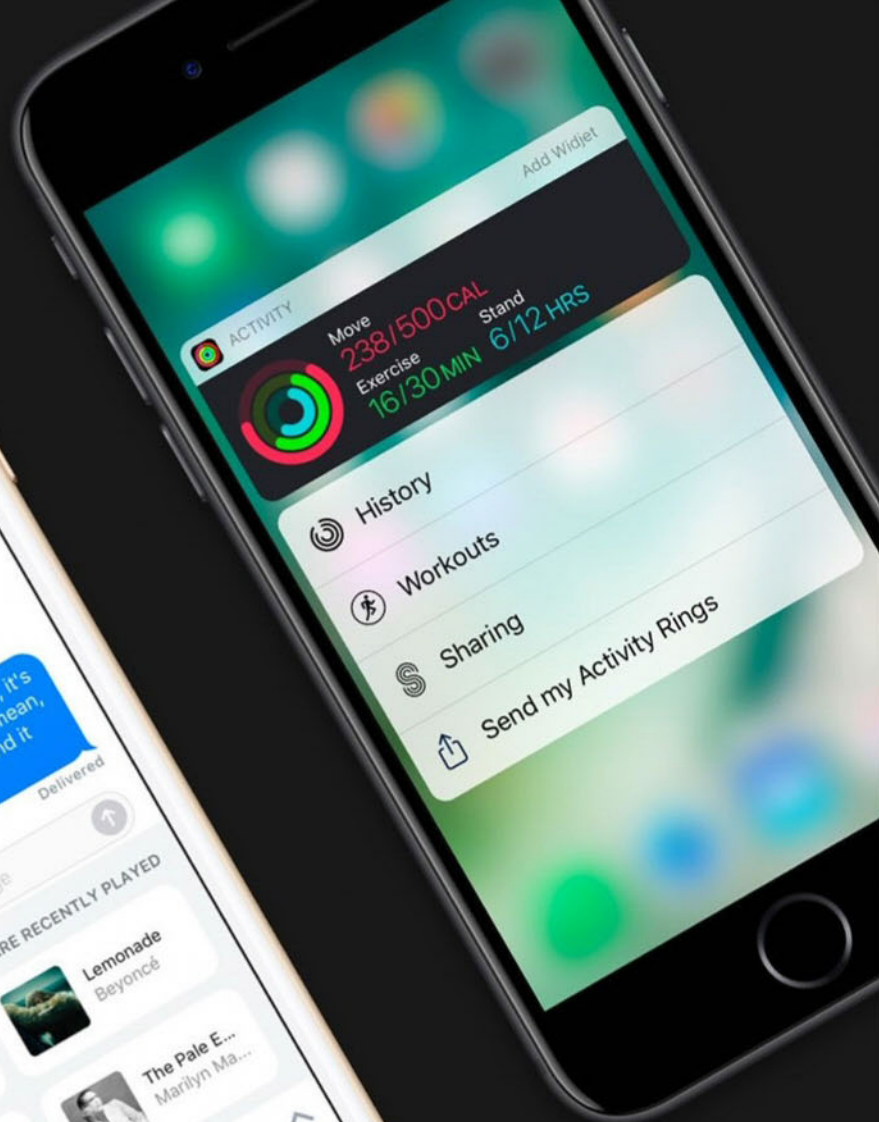
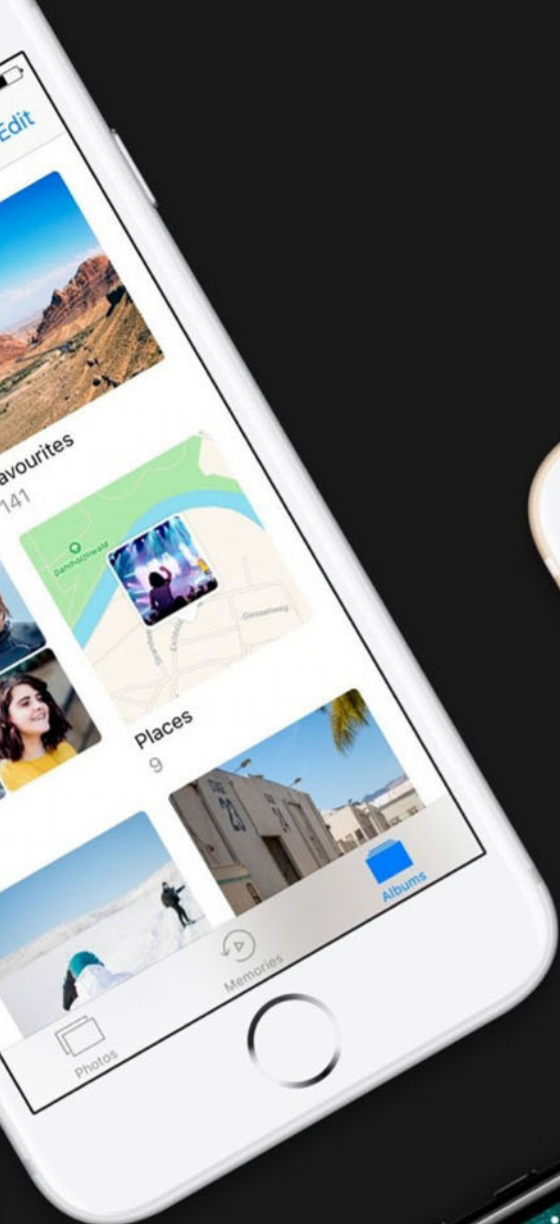
<http://wikileaks.org/ciav7p1/>



MASTER YOUR iPhone: 25 iOS 10 TIPS AND TRICKS

IMPROVE YOUR LIFE WITH
THESE iOS TRICKS









MAKE MORE OF YOUR iPhone

Nearly six months has passed since the release of iOS 10, and the mobile operating system is still the world's most advanced. Apple is expected to unveil the next iteration of iOS at the **WWDC 2017 Keynote on June 5 in San Jose**, with rumors suggesting features such as a Dark Mode and a **Snapchat-style video sharing app** will be added. Until then, here are 25 fantastic tips for helping you make the most out of your iPhone and iPad.

1.

UNLOCK PHONE WITHOUT PRESSING THE HOME BUTTON

It was one of the most annoying parts of iOS 10 – the **removal of the 'swipe to unlock' feature that many iPhone users had become accustomed to**. It's possible to unlock the screen without pressing down on the Home button, however, and that is by going to **Settings >> Touch ID & Passcode** and toggling the **Rest Finger to Open** option. Now, you can unlock your iPhone simply by placing your finger on the Home button.

2.

MAKE YOUR FLASHLIGHT BRIGHTER

If you have an iPhone with 3D Touch capabilities – that is, the iPhone 6S onwards – you can control the brightness levels of your flashlight. Open your control panel and long press your

flashlight icon, which will then allow you to select Bright, Medium or Low light levels.

3.

PRIORITIZE ESSENTIAL DOWNLOADS

Downloading or updating more than one app at a time? Prioritize the most important by pressing down on the app and tapping the Prioritize Download button. By doing so, you'll be able to choose which app is updated or download first, saving you time and allowing you to get back into action as soon as possible.

4.

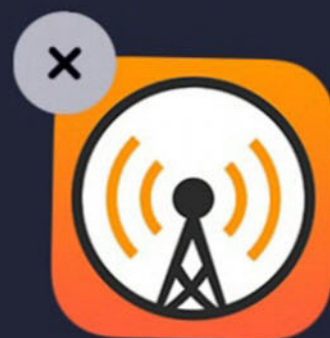
CLEAR YOUR HOME SCREEN BY REMOVING STOCK APPS

It was one of the most commonly requested features, and it finally came with iOS 10. If you want to delete stock apps such as Stocks, Maps, and Contacts from your phone, then hold the app icon and click on the 'X' on the top-left corner. Although the app icon will be removed from your home screen, **removing stock apps won't save space on your phone.**

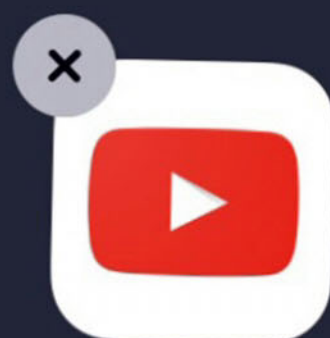
5.

COLLABORATE WITH FRIENDS ON NOTES

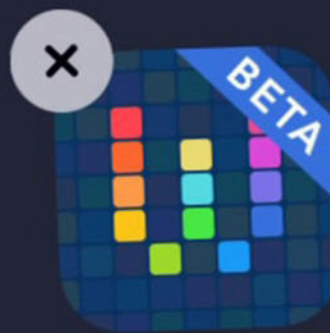
If you've used Google Docs or Dropbox Paper in the past, you'll know how convenient it can



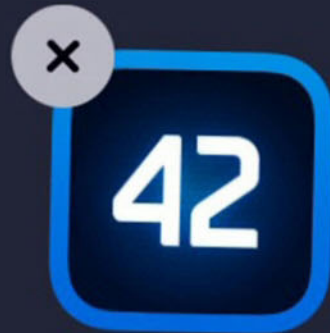
Overcast



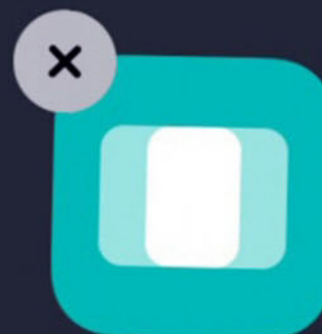
YouTube



Workflow



PCalc



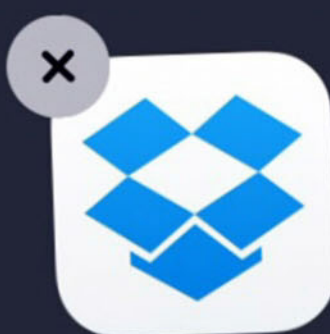
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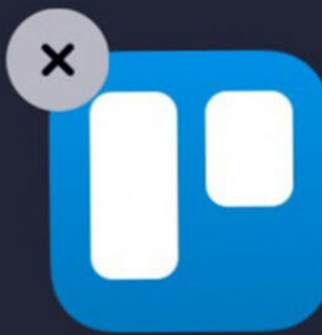
Nuzzel



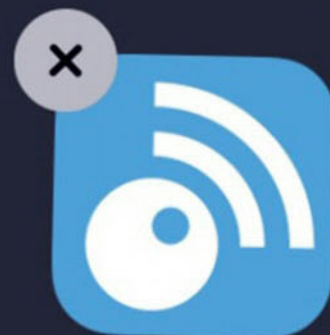
Slack



Dropbox



Trello

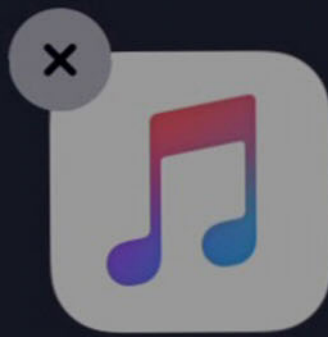


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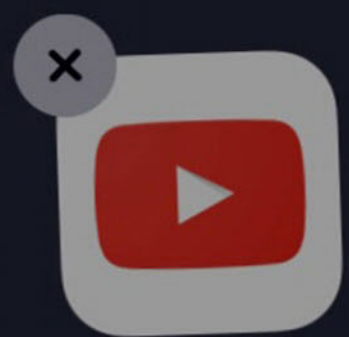
App Store



Music



Overcast



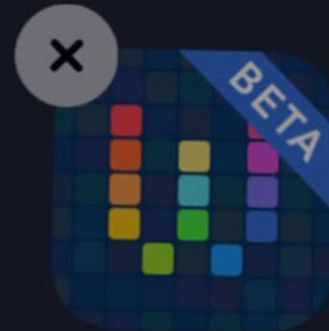
YouTube



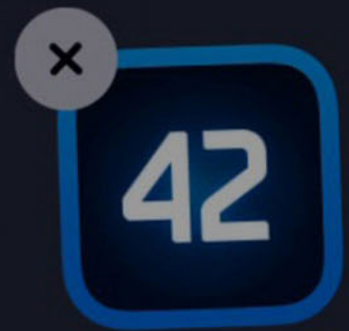
Photos



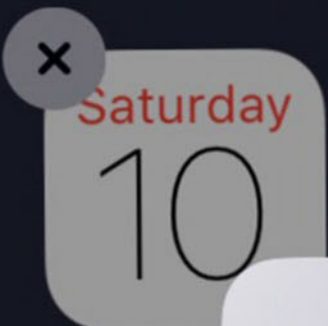
Quip



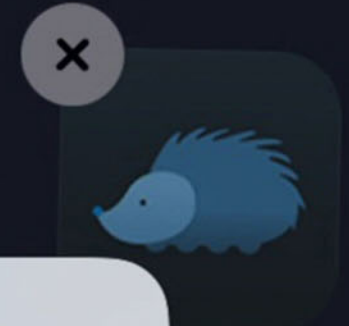
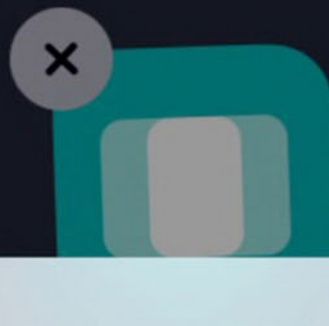
Workflow



PCalc



Calendar



Puzzle



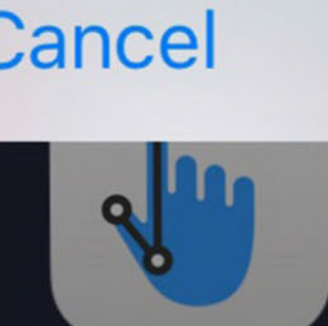
Pocket



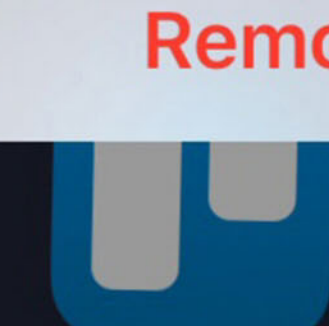
Dropbox



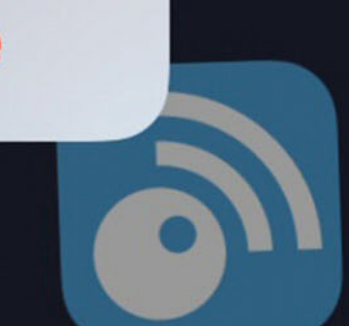
Airmail



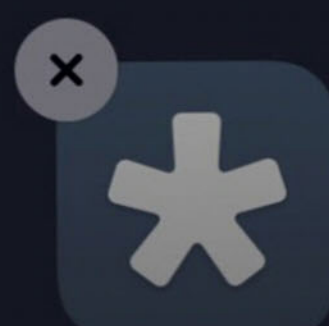
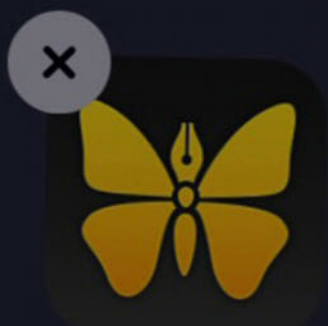
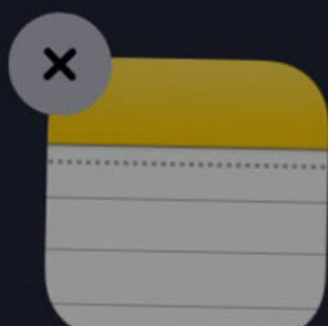
Copy



Trello



Inoreader



Remove "Notes"?

Removing this app from the home screen will also delete your "Notes" data, but any documents and data stored in iCloud will not be deleted.

Cancel

Remove

be to collaborate on documents. Now, with iOS 10, you can finally share notes with your friends. Tap on the share icon in the top right-hand corner of your Notes app and share an invite to collaborate on notes with friends and family through email, Twitter or iMessage.

6. DRAW ON YOUR PHOTOS

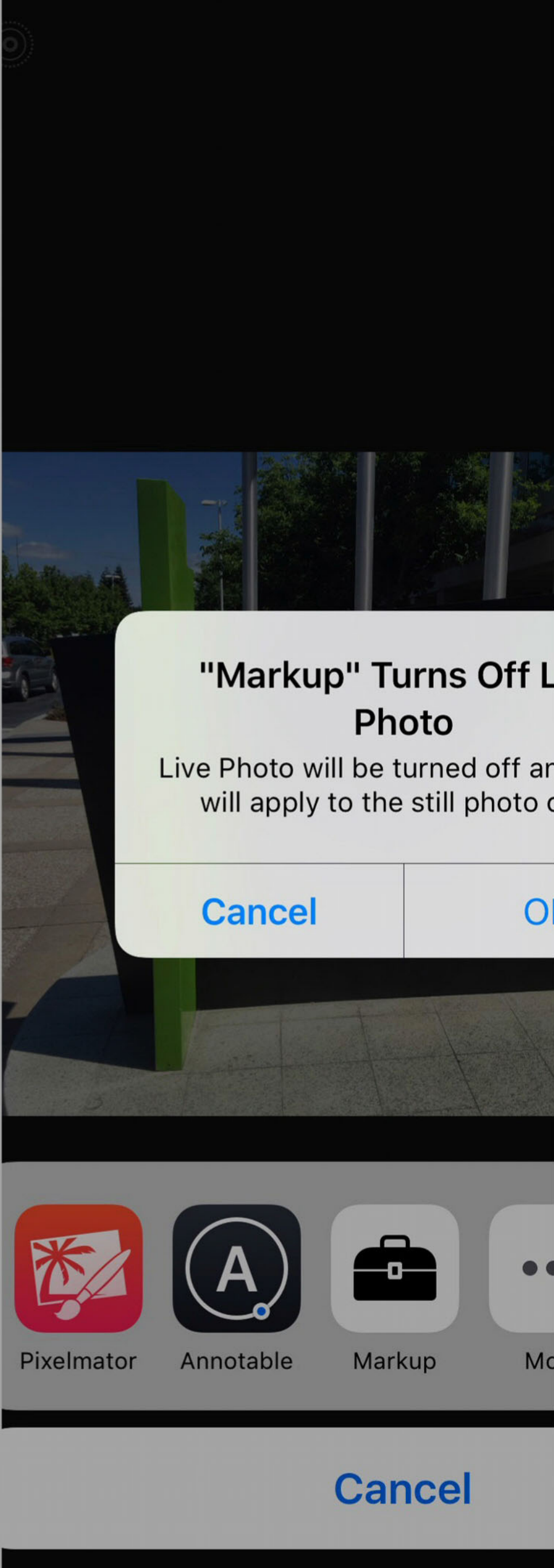
In a similar vein to Snapchat and Facebook Messenger, Apple lets you draw on your photos when sending them through iMessage. **When you send a picture to a friend, tap on it to reveal a *Markup* option**, which allows you to add text, magnify areas and draw on notes.

7. CLOSE ALL TABS IN SAFARI AT ONCE

If you're the sort of person who fills their internet browser with hundreds of tabs, then this one's for you. Open Safari, click on the Tabs button and, once you're in Tab view, click on the Done button and you'll be able to close all of your open tabs in one go.

8. MAKE SIRI MORE USEFUL

A relatively new feature to Siri is the ability for her to announce the name or number of an incoming caller. This is particularly useful when

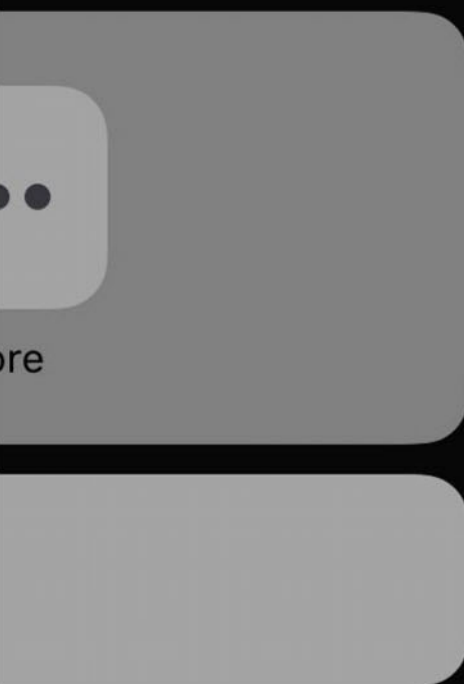
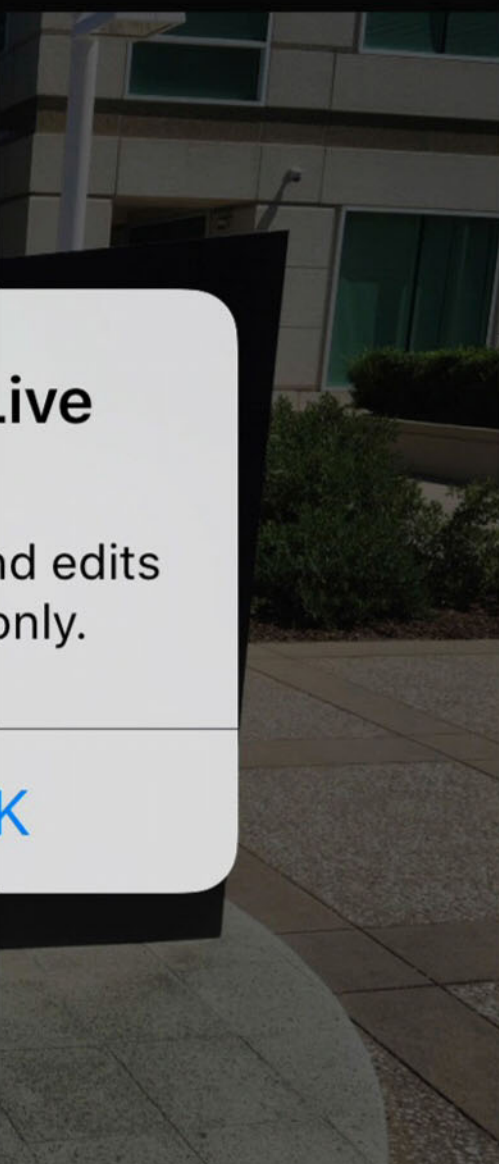


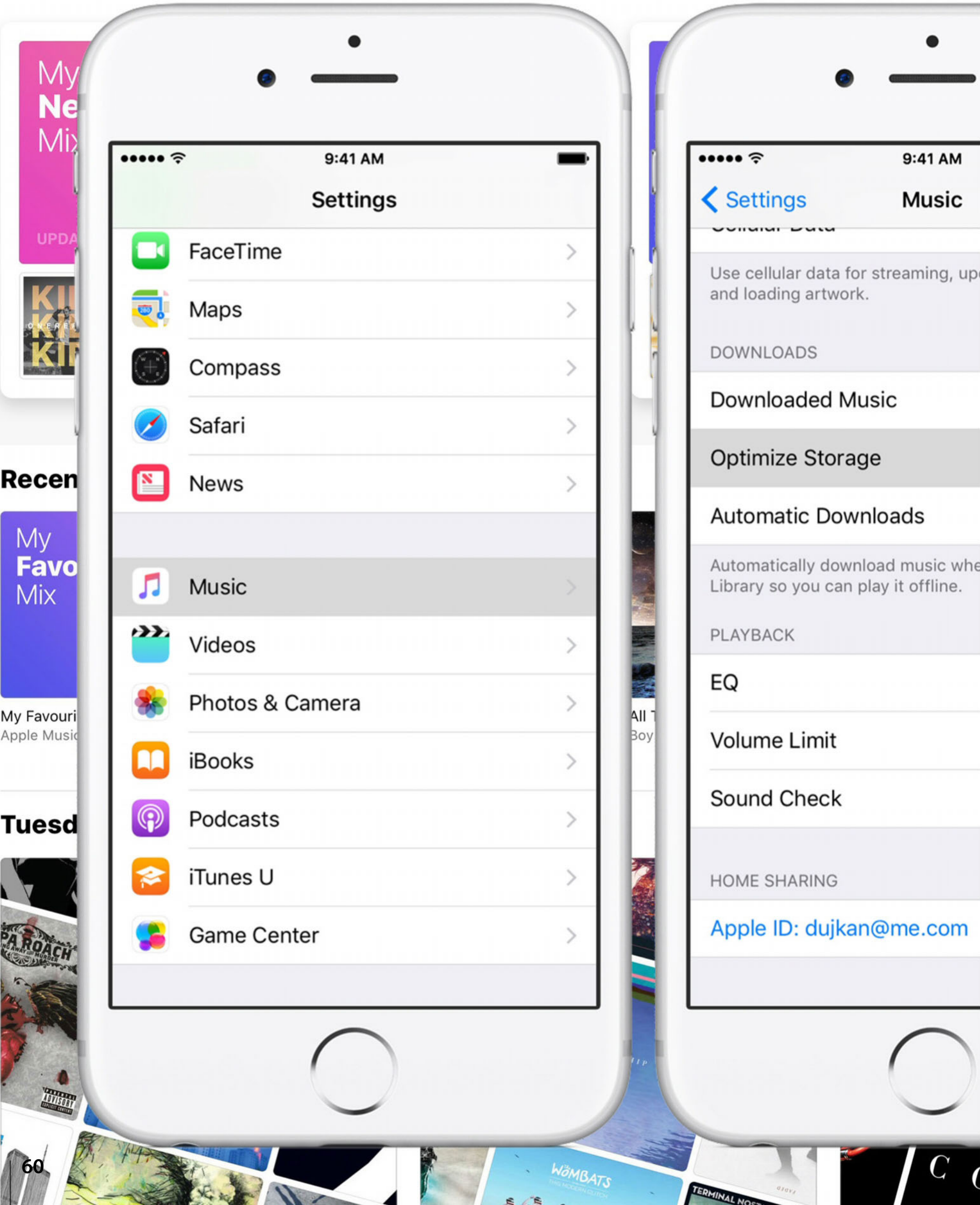


Cancel

Markup

Done





My
Ne
Mix

UPDA



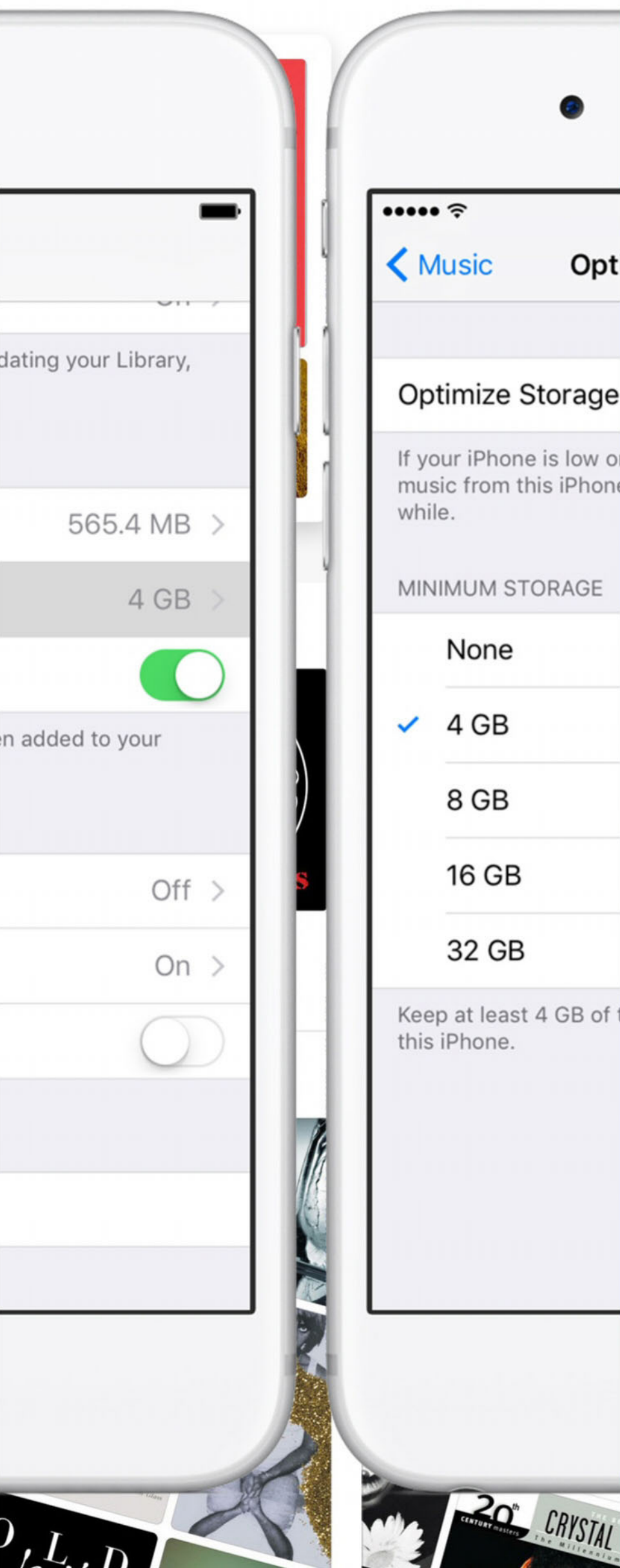
Recent

My
Favo
Mix

My Favouri
Apple Music

Tuesd





you're driving or are away from your phone – just head to Siri in the Settings menu, and you'll be able to activate this feature.

9. CLEAR YOUR STORAGE

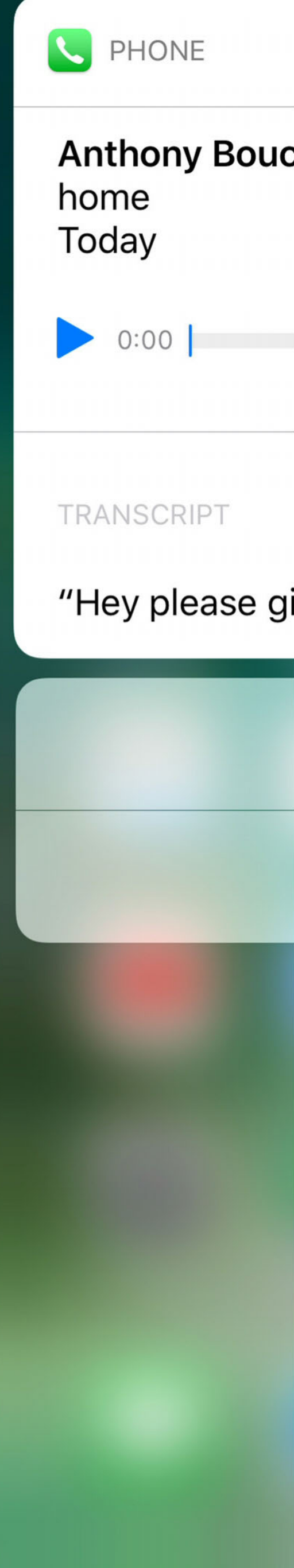
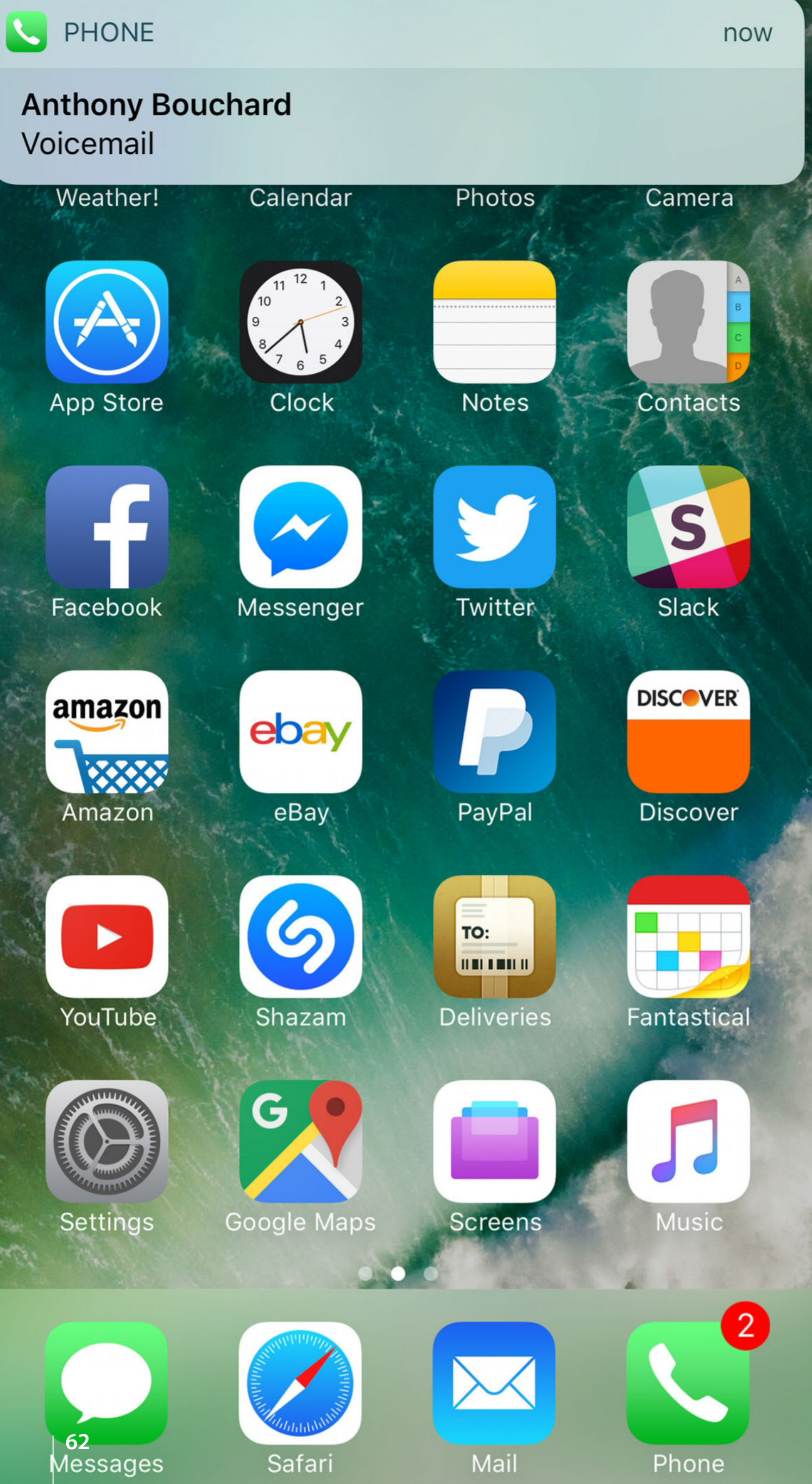
Living with a 16GB iPhone has always been a challenge, but iOS 10 made it more convenient for those who are running low on storage. Head to the Storage settings menu and toggle the Optimize Storage feature. Doing so will automatically delete songs from your Apple Music library that haven't been played in a long time, giving you more room to download apps and listen to music without those **pesky 'low on storage' pop-ups**.

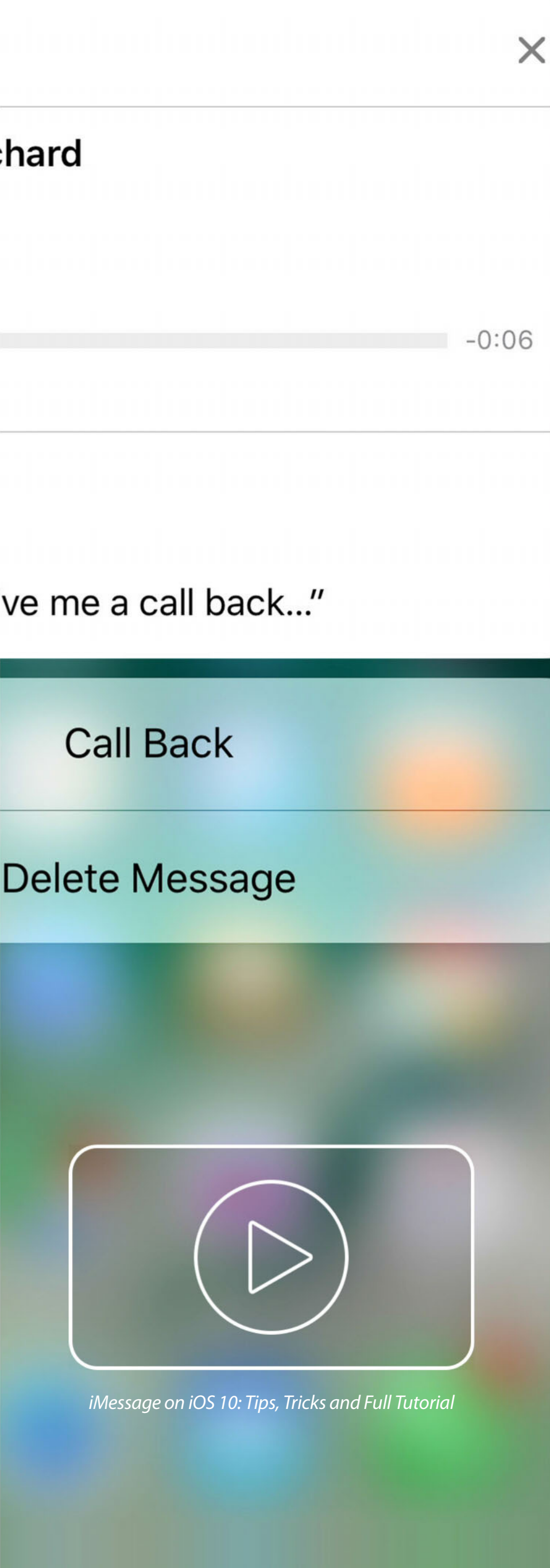
10. FIND YOUR CAR

Forget where you've parked your car every time you visit the mall? Activate Bluetooth when you're in your vehicle, and Maps will automatically add a pin to your destination when you disconnect, alerting you with a 'Find My Car' pop-up when you're ready to go home.

11. SAVE MONEY ON TOLL ROADS

If you want to avoid toll road charges when traveling long-distance, visit **Settings >> Maps**





>> **Driving & Navigation** and then toggle the switch to bypass routes with tolls.

12.

VOICEMAIL TRANSCRIPTION

Don't have the time or energy to sit through long voicemail messages? iOS 10 will listen to and transcribe them for you. Just click on the Voicemail section of your Phone app.

13.

LET APPLE KNOW YOU LIKE TO WALK

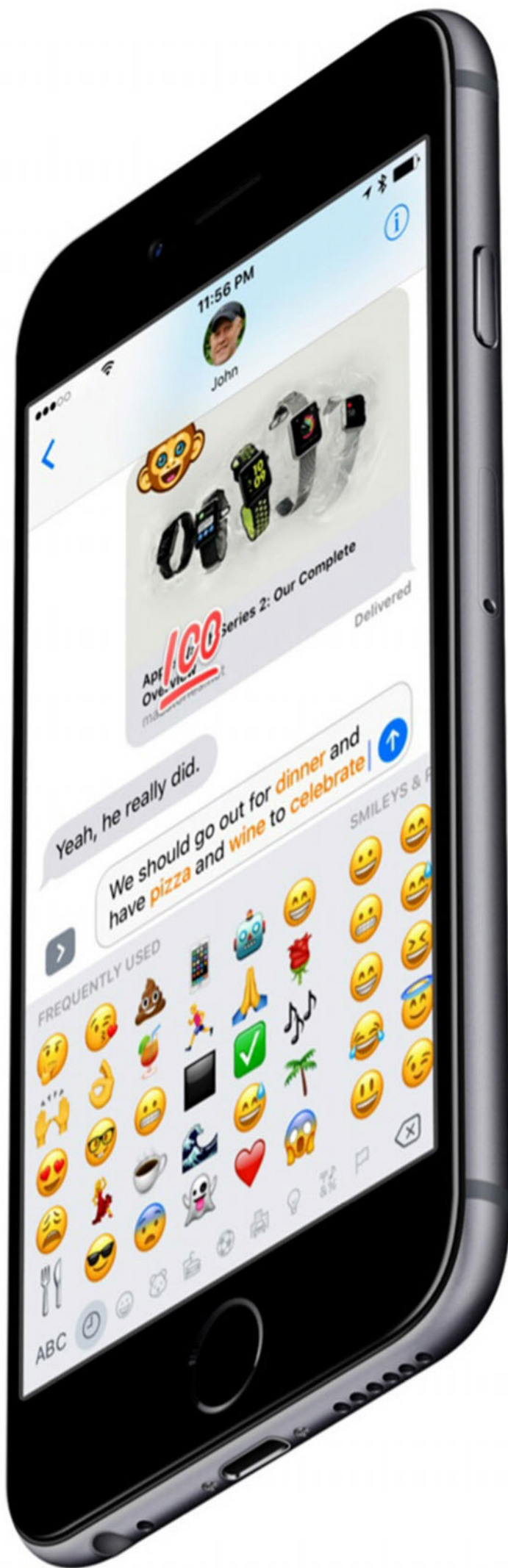
Want Apple Maps to give you streamlined directions in your preferred mode of transport?

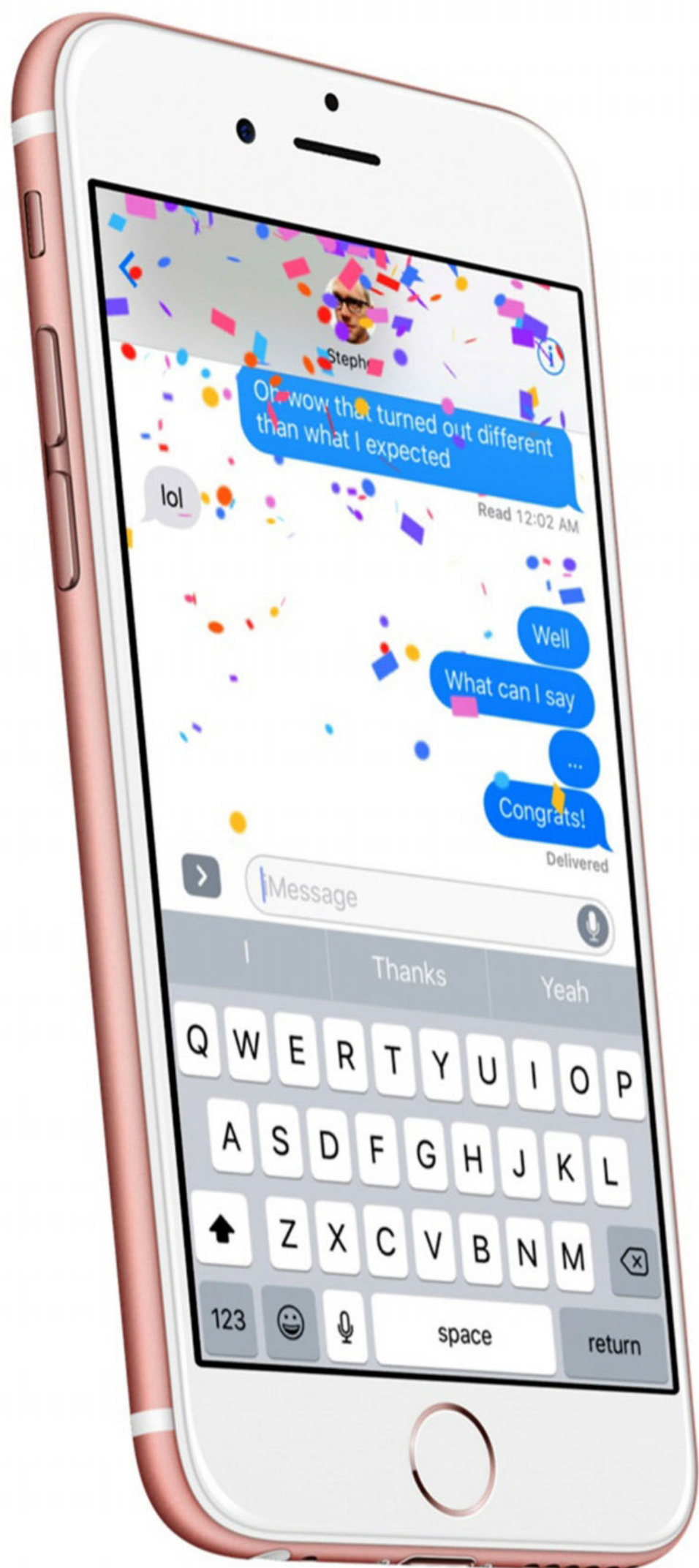
Go to **Settings** >> **Maps** and choose between Driving, Walking and Public Transport – the app will default to your preferred mode every time, and you can quickly switch between them.

14.

READ AND WATCH AT THE SAME TIME

Want to look at a video on a website and read an article at the same time? Before iOS 10 this wasn't possible, but a new exit full-screen mode will allow you to watch the video from within the browser window. This feature is also available within iMessage – **you can watch full-length YouTube videos while chatting with your friends.**





15.

UNSUBSCRIBE FROM MAILING LISTS

Mailing lists can be annoying – indeed, **more than 269 billion emails are sent every day**. Luckily, for those who don't like email spam, iOS 10 makes it easy to unsubscribe. Instead of scrolling to the bottom of an email to find the unsubscribe button and then wait for a website to confirm that you're no longer on their list, Mail will now automatically detect if an email is a mail-out and display an 'unsubscribe' button at the top of the page.

16.

STOP YOUR FRIENDS FROM KNOWING YOU'RE IGNORING THEM

Read Receipts have always been a contentious subject, but with iOS 10, it's now possible to toggle them on and off on an individual basis. This means, if you have a friend or client who you want to get back to later, you can turn off Receipts, and they won't know you've read their message.

17.

CALL WITHOUT UNLOCKING YOUR PHONE

Add preferred contacts to your Favorites widget, and you'll be able to call them with just a tap, instead of unlocking your phone and heading to your contacts menu.

18.

COPY AND PASTE FROM ONE DEVICE TO THE NEXT

If you have an iPhone, iPad and a Mac, then **Universal Clipboard** is the **ultimate companion**. Ensure you're running the latest operating systems – iOS 10 and macOS Sierra – and then copy and paste your text across your devices. The technology saves the copy and pasted content in the cloud for two minutes and then reverts to an individual clipboard.

19.

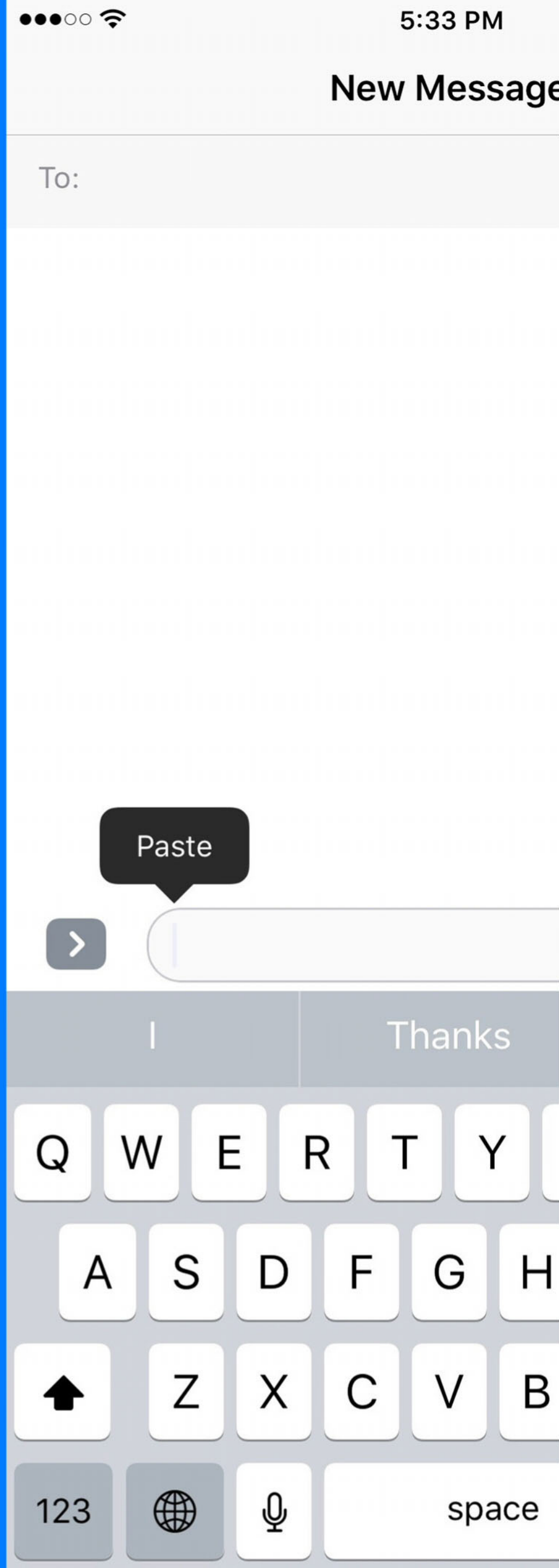
FIND OBJECTS IN PHOTOS

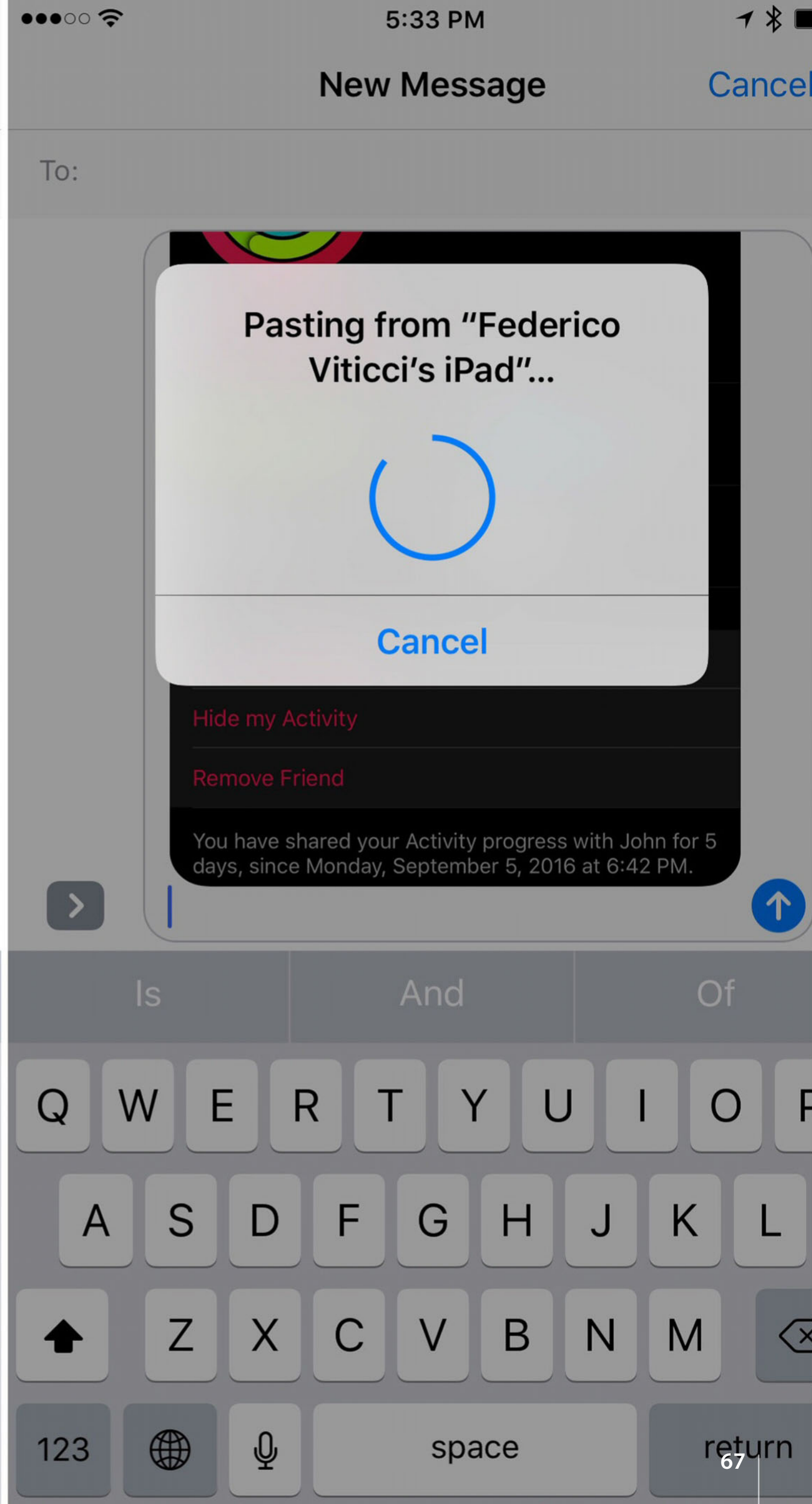
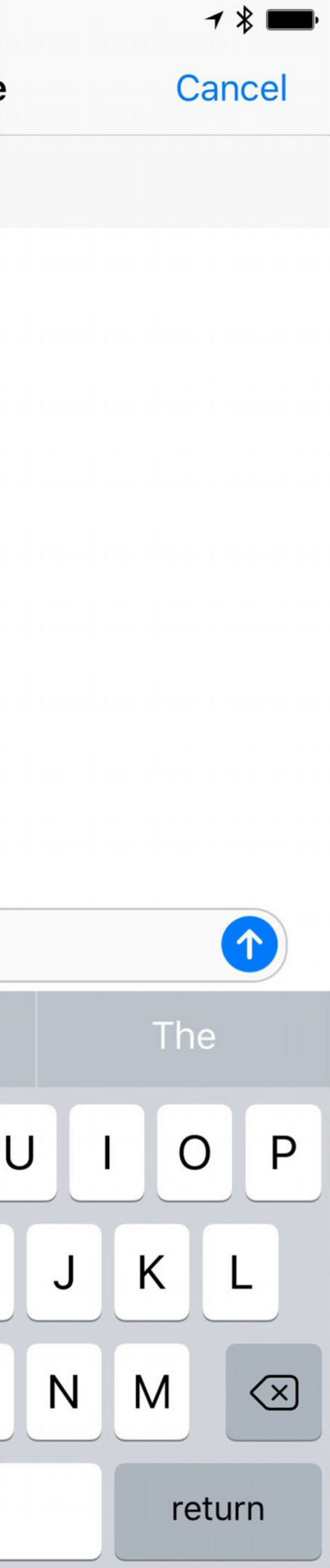
Want to find an image of a particular object? Search for it in Photos, like Horses or Houses, and it will show all of the relevant results.

20.

USE RAISE AND WAKE

The Apple Watch springs to life the moment you lift it up – and now, iPhone does the same. As Raise to Wake requires an M9 motion coprocessor, only owners of the iPhone 6s, iPhone 6s Plus, iPhone SE, iPhone 7 and iPhone 7 Plus can use it. Head to **Settings >> Display & Brightness >> Raise to Wake** to activate this feature.





21.

GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP

The Clock app was redesigned for iOS 10, and now has a feature called Bedtime. The option sets a recurring wake-up alarm and reminds you when it's time to go to bed.

22.

'HACK' YOUR IPHONE INTO DARK MODE

It's a feature we've all been waiting for, and **although it's not here yet**, it's possible to add some Dark Mode features to your iPhone on iOS 10. Go to **Settings >> General >> Accessibility** and then tap **Zoom**, **Choose Filter** and **Low Light**. Although this doesn't affect the interface design of your iPhone, it makes it easier to use your phone at nighttime.

23.

TROUBLESHOOT YOUR WI-FI

It can be irritating to have problems with your internet connection, but not know why. With iOS 10, you can navigate to the Wi-Fi options at **Settings >> Wi-Fi** and browse information about your connection. It may say, for example, that you're browsing on an Unsecured Connection, or that your connection is not providing access to the Internet.

Bedtime

Weekdays

 **Bedtime**

4:00_{AM}



Sleep Analysis

4:00_{AM}





89%

9:41 AM

-101 AT&T LTE

Bedtime



Options

Bedtime
Weekdays

Wake

7:00 AM

Bedtime

10:35 PM



Sleep Analysis

10:35 PM



Stopwatch

Timer



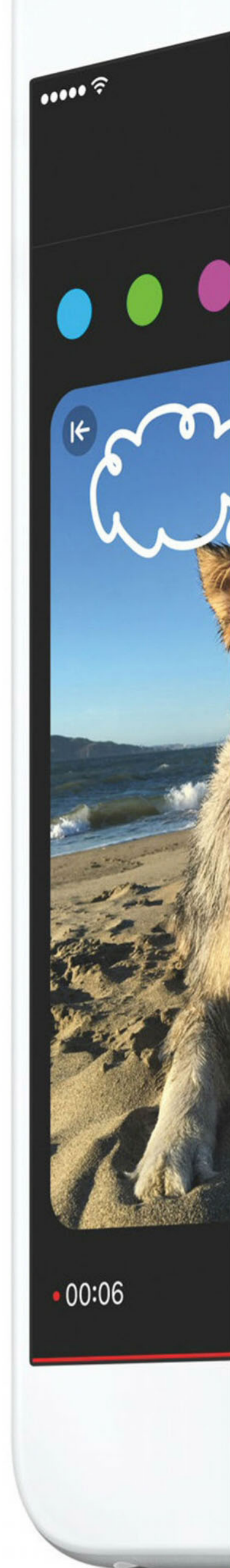
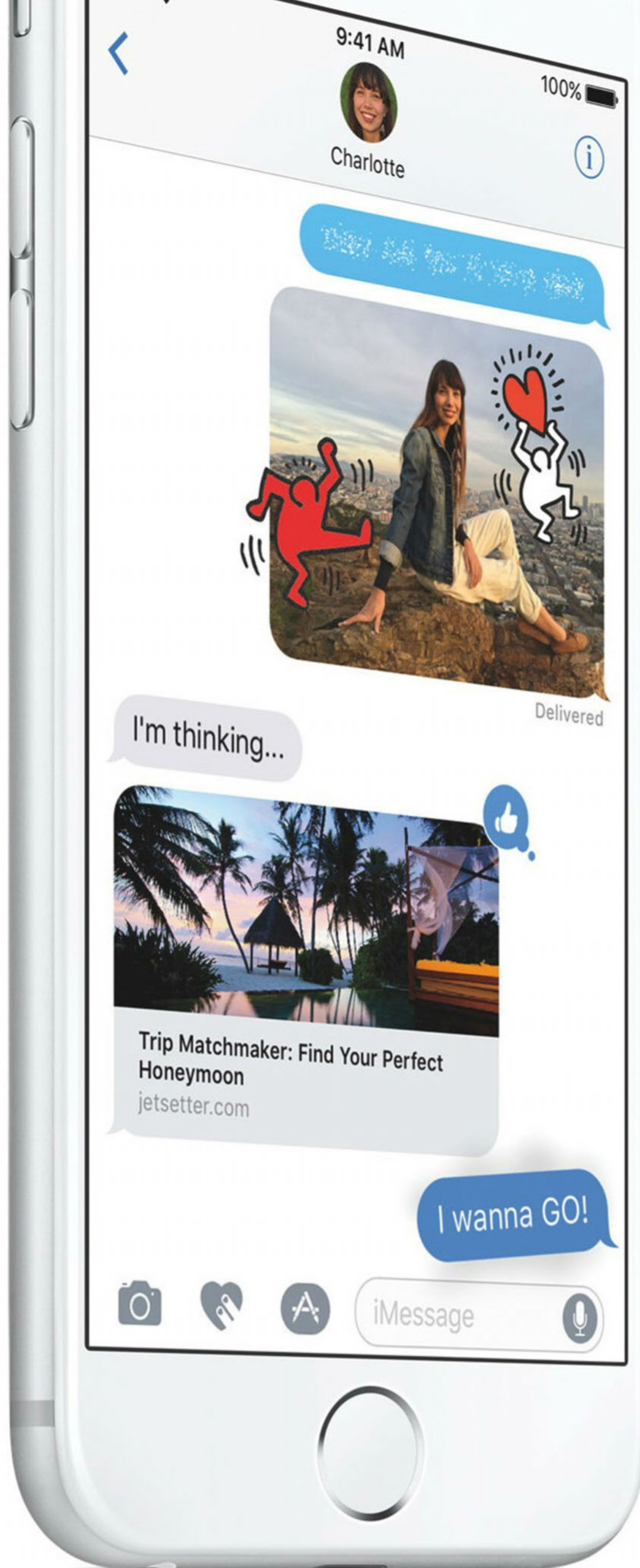
World Clock

Alarm

Bedtime

Stopwatch

Timer





24.

CUT YOUR DATA BILL

If you don't have an unlimited mobile data plan, **an extra movie download or FaceTime chat can be expensive.** One way to reduce your mobile data usage is to reduce image quality on iMessage. Go to **Settings >> Messages >> Enable Low-Quality Image Mode** and you'll save data without even realizing.

25.

STOP YOURSELF FROM SPENDING MONEY

If you're trying to save money or want to stop your children from making purchases on your phone, then turn off Apple Pay from your Safari app. Go to **Settings >> Safari** and ensure that **Check for Apple Pay** is switched off.

We've highlighted just 25 of iOS 10's most convenient features – features that will save you time and help you make the most out of your Apple device. Until iOS 11 is announced in June, spend time exploring the ins and outs of your smartphone to make it more efficient, more personalized and more suited to your lifestyle.

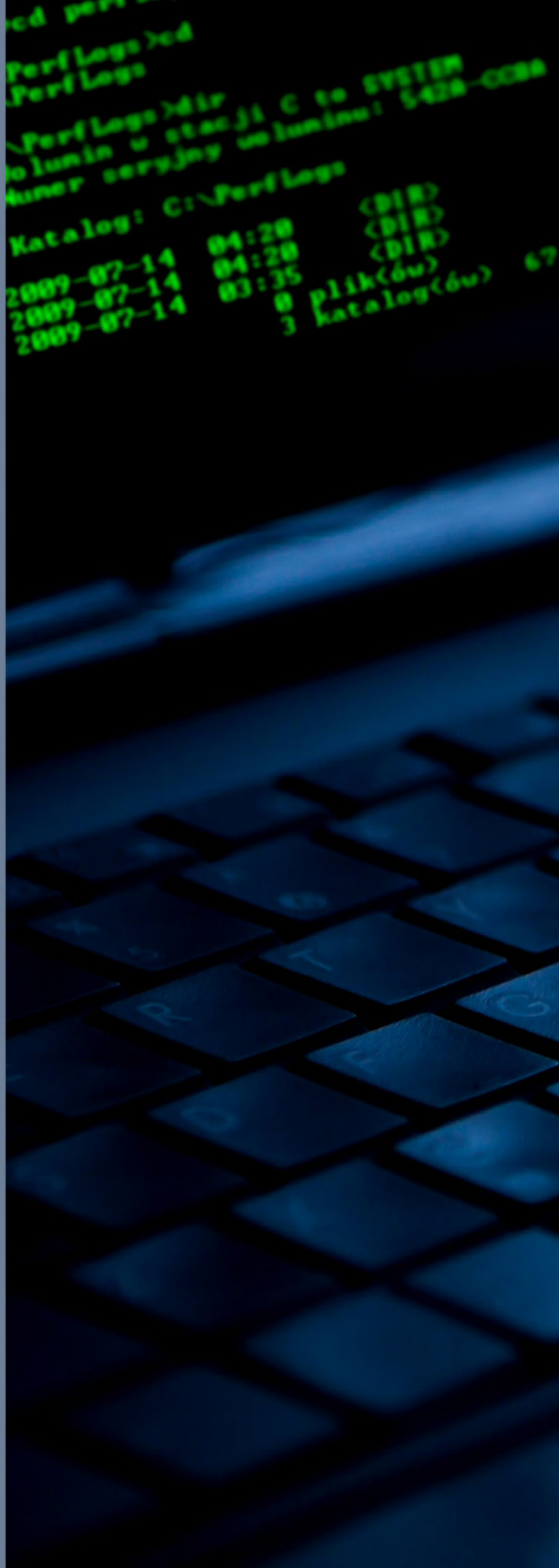
by Benjamin Kerry & Gavin

HACKERS DRAWN TO ENERGY SECTOR'S LACK OF SENSORS, CONTROLS

Oil and gas companies, including some of the most celebrated industry names in the Houston area, are facing increasingly sophisticated hackers seeking to steal trade secrets and disrupt operations, according to a newspaper investigation.

A stretch of the Gulf Coast near Houston features one of the largest concentrations of refineries, pipelines and chemical plants in the country, and cybersecurity experts say it's an alluring target for espionage and other cyberattacks.

"There are actors that are scanning for these vulnerable systems and taking advantage of those weaknesses when they find them," said Marty Edwards, director of U.S. Homeland Security's Cyber Emergency Response Team for industrial systems.









Homeland Security, which is responsible for protecting the nation from cybercrime, received reports of some 350 incidents at energy companies from 2011 to 2015, an investigation by the Houston Chronicle has found (<http://bit.ly/2lOFJgz>). Over that period, the agency found nearly 900 security flaws within U.S. energy companies, more than any other industry.

Steps are being taken to thwart attacks. For instance, the Coast Guard in a joint operation with Houston police patrolled the waters southeast of Houston last year conducting sweeps for unprotected wireless signals that hackers could use to gain access to facilities. The operation was one of the first of its kind in the U.S. concentrating on cyberattacks by sea.

But the vast network of oil and gas operations makes it difficult to secure. Thousands of interconnected sensors and controls that run oil and gas facilities remain rife with weak spots.

Many companies the technology and personnel to detect hackers. Equipment was designed decades ago without security features, and efforts over the years to link computer networks to devices that monitor pressure or control valves have exposed operations to online threats.

"You could mess with a refinery or cause a vessel to explode," Richard Garcia, a former FBI agent who became a cybersecurity specialist, told the Chronicle.

Power, chemical and nuclear facilities must adhere to strict cybersecurity measures, but federal law doesn't impose such standards on the oil and gas sector. And when oil and gas companies have been infiltrated by a hacker, they're not required to report the incident.

More than 20 of the nation's largest oil companies - including Exxon Mobil Corp. and ConocoPhillips, refiner Phillips 66 and pipeline operator Kinder Morgan - declined to comment or did not respond to multiple requests for comment. The American Petroleum Institute, the national trade association for oil and gas, also declined to comment.

Charles McConnell, executive director of Rice University's Energy and Environment Initiative, said oil companies tend to rush to deploy new computer technologies that make operations more productive, but only afterward considering ways to defuse online threats.

"The pace of change of the technology we've adopted is every step of the way more and more vulnerable to cyberattack," McConnell said.



UBER DEPLOYS SECRET WEAPON AGAINST UNDERCOVER REGULATORS

Uber has been wielding a secret weapon to thwart authorities who have been trying to curtail or shut down its ride-hailing service in cities around the world.

The program included a feature nicknamed “Greyball” internally that identified regulators who were posing as riders while trying to collect evidence that Uber’s service was breaking local laws governing taxis.

To stymie those efforts, Uber served up a fake version of its app to make it appear the undercover regulators were summoning a car, only to have the ride canceled. The San Francisco company mined the data that it collects through its real app to pinpoint the undercover agents.

The New York Times revealed Greyball’s existence in a story published Friday based on information provided by four current and former Uber employees who were not named.

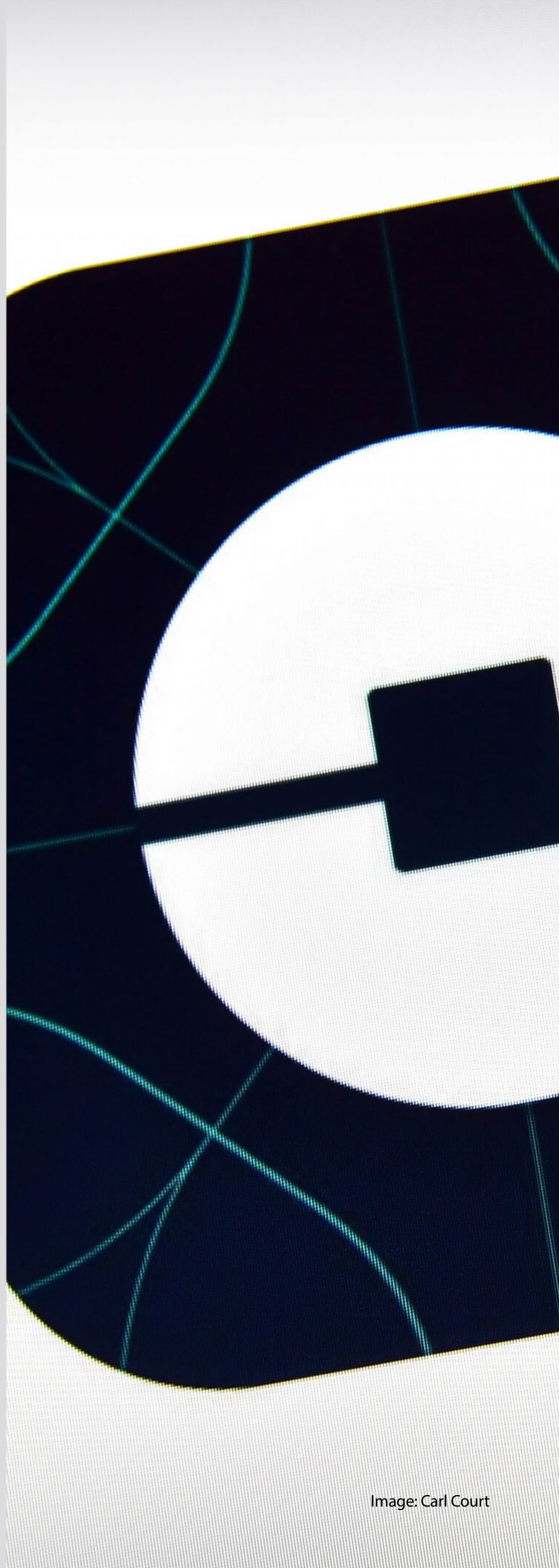


Image: Carl Court

2 MIN SET PICKUP LOCATION



Image: Geoffroy Van Der Hasselt



Uber acknowledged it has used Greyball to counter regulators working with the company's opponents to entrap its drivers.

Greyball is part of a broader program called VTOS, shorthand for "violations of terms of service," that Uber says it developed to protect its service.

"This program denies ride requests to fraudulent users who are violating our terms of service - whether that's people aiming to physically harm drivers, competitors looking to disrupt our operations, or opponents who collude with officials on secret 'stings' meant to entrap drivers," Uber said.

Although Uber is becoming more widely accepted than in its early years, the company says it still uses Greyball as a tool in some cities that it declined to identify.

The Times reported that Uber has targeted regulators in Boston, Paris and Las Vegas, among other cities, as well as a litany of countries that include Australia, China, Italy and South Korea.

The cat-and-mouse game with regulators is the latest example of the aggressive tactics that Uber has adopted while upending the heavily regulated taxi industry. In doing so, Uber has built a rapidly growing company valued at more than \$60 billion by its investors that is frequently accused of bending the rules.

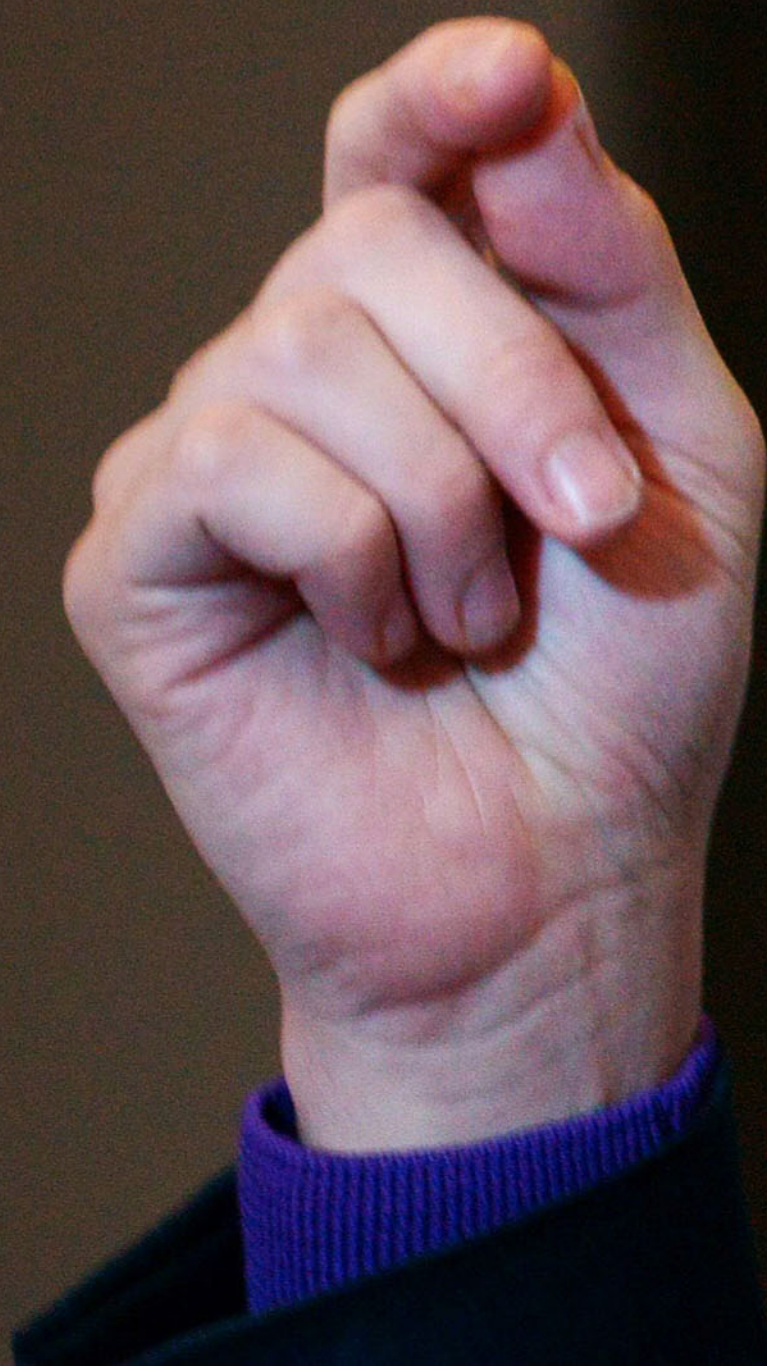
Among other things, the company has faced lawsuits for classifying its drivers as independent contractors to save money and allegedly stealing the technology for a fleet of autonomous cars that it is currently testing. In the past two weeks, a former female engineer alleged Uber routinely ignores claims of sexual

harassment and a video surfaced of CEO Travis Kalanick profanely berating a driver who confronted him about steep cuts in its rates for a premium version of its service.

Uber's rise also has raised tensions in cities that have sometimes gone to extreme measures to crack down on a service that they contended was operating without the proper permits. In Las Vegas, local taxi regulators confronted an Uber driver while wearing ski masks . And in Florida, Hillsborough regulators coordinated with taxi and limousine companies on an undercover operation that lured out Uber drivers so they could be assessed \$700 fines.



UBER CEO Travis Kalanick was filmed in a HEATED Argument with a Driver





UBER TO HIRE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TO HELP EMBATTLED CEO

Embattled Uber CEO Travis Kalanick says the company will hire a chief operating officer who can partner with him to write its “next chapter.”

The ride-hailing company has been hit by a series of controversies, including allegations that it routinely ignores sexual harassment, and a video of Kalanick profanely berating a driver who confronted him about steep cuts in Uber’s rates for a premium version of its service.

After the video surfaced, Kalanick apologized and said he needs “leadership help.” The 40-year-old executive also said he needs to “grow up.”

San Francisco-based Uber also acknowledged the existence of a program, dubbed “Greyball,” that it has used to thwart authorities who have been trying to curtail or shut down its service in cities around the world.







UBER SELF-DRIVING CARS ARE COMING BACK TO CALIFORNIA ROADS



Uber's self-driving cars will return to California's streets, though the ride-hailing company doesn't immediately plan to pick up passengers.

Uber received a permit Wednesday to test two Volvo SUVs on public roads, the California Department of Motor Vehicles said. Regulators also approved 48 people as backup drivers who must sit behind the wheel in case the prototype cars malfunction, according to agency spokeswoman Jessica Gonzalez.

The permit resolves a conflict dating to December. That's when Uber - an aggressive player in the self-driving race to bring the technology to the market - rolled out a pilot program of more than a dozen cars in San Francisco, its hometown.

Uber knew about the DMV's requirement to receive permission before testing in public, but argued that its cars do not meet the state's definition of an "autonomous vehicle" because they need a person to monitor them and intervene if needed. That argument raised eyebrows both among regulators and other companies with similar technology that did get permits.

The pilot program caught the state - and San Francisco city officials - off guard. Amid a several-days showdown, during which a few self-driving Uber SUVs did not stop for red lights, state prosecutors threatened to haul Uber before a judge if the service was not suspended immediately.

Uber responded by packing up its cars for Arizona, where it began picking up passengers last month.

Uber said in a statement Wednesday that it does not plan to ferry paying passengers for now, as it does in Pittsburgh and a Phoenix suburb. The company did not say when the two Volvos would be driving on California roads.

With the approval, Uber becomes the 26th company to have a self-driving car testing permit in California.







Snap In

Image: Mark Lennihan



nc.

OH SNAP? AFTER BURSTING OUT OF THE GATE, SHARES GIVE WAY

Anyone wanting to invest in the company that owns Snapchat now has an opportunity to do something that early investors were unable to do: buy shares for less than they cost on the first day of trading three days ago.

After tumbling 12 percent Monday, shares of Snap Inc. fell another 11 percent in early trading Tuesday, to \$21.10.

Snap priced its initial public offering of 200 million shares at \$17 each. Shares opened at \$24 apiece Thursday and jumped 44 percent on its first trading day.

Industry analysts grew leery of slowing user growth numbers last year and everyone is now trying to figure out the value of a young company that is quickly catching up to Twitter in the number of people who use it.

Snap Inc.



Yahoo Finance
Snap Inc. (SNAP)



The IPO of the Los Angeles company was the most anticipated arrival since Twitter Inc. entered the public market in 2013.

In a recent filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Snap said that it had 158 million daily users in its fourth quarter, up 48 percent from the prior-year period. But Wall Street has become skittish about future growth.

Whereas user growth expanded in each consecutive quarter of 2015, that expansion began to slip in each consecutive quarter of 2016, hitting just 5 million new users in the final quarter of the year.

That was half the user growth in the final quarter of 2015.

Snap blamed the slowing growth late in the year on technical issues, saying the launch of several products and release of multiple updates hurt the performance of its Snapchat app.

It's been a mixed bag for social media. Where Facebook has soared, Twitter has struggled to find its way.

Mark Zuckerberg's company debuted on Wall Street in 2012. It has continued to enhance its social network and its ad revenue and user base has grown fast. Twitter, since its 2013 IPO, has experienced stalling revenue growth and the company, after the return of co-founder Jack Dorsey, has been forced to cut costs and shuffle leadership.

Twitter is now valued at \$11 billion, while Facebook is valued at \$395 billion.

Snap, upon its IPO, became more valuable than the stalwarts like American Airlines, Macy's and Xerox.





EUROPE-WIDE RAIDS AGAINST CYBERCRIME NETWORKS

Police in three European countries have raided dozens of homes and offices linked to suspected cybercriminals, including the alleged operators of a secret forum used to trade illicit wares, officials said Wednesday.

More than 1,000 investigators searched over 120 premises across Germany late Tuesday in connection with [crimenetwork.biz](#), a so-called darknet site that is allegedly used to buy and sell stolen goods, drugs and medication.

The darknet is a part of the internet hosted within an encrypted network and accessible only through specialized anonymity-providing tools, most notably the Tor Browser.

German federal police said in a statement that the raids followed a four-month criminal probe during which investigators sifted through over a million posts and private messages exchanged by some 260 members of the darknet forum.

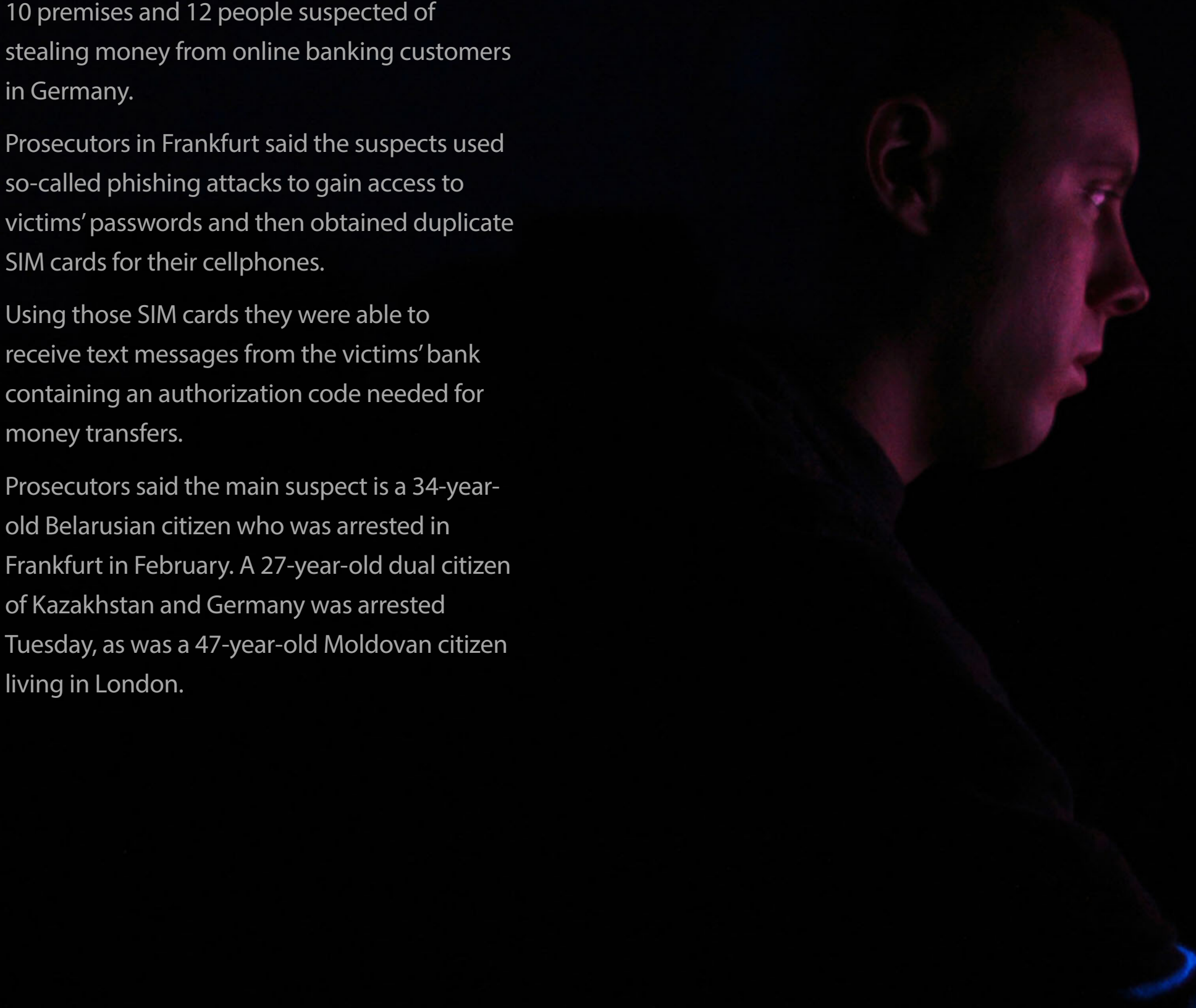
It said that 153 members of the forum were identified, including 11 people considered to be part of the “leadership level” who now face charges of forming a criminal organization.

In a separate set of raids Tuesday, police in Germany, Latvia and Britain on Tuesday targeted 10 premises and 12 people suspected of stealing money from online banking customers in Germany.

Prosecutors in Frankfurt said the suspects used so-called phishing attacks to gain access to victims’ passwords and then obtained duplicate SIM cards for their cellphones.

Using those SIM cards they were able to receive text messages from the victims’ bank containing an authorization code needed for money transfers.

Prosecutors said the main suspect is a 34-year-old Belarusian citizen who was arrested in Frankfurt in February. A 27-year-old dual citizen of Kazakhstan and Germany was arrested Tuesday, as was a 47-year-old Moldovan citizen living in London.





iTunes

Review



Trailer

*Movies
& TV Shows*



iTunes Preview



by Denzel Washington
Genre: Drama
Released: 2016
Price: \$14.99

★★★★★
86 Ratings

Rotten Tomatoes
 93%

Fences

Set in 1950's Pittsburgh, Fences centers around the story of former Negro league baseball player Troy Maxon (Denzel Washington) who tries to raise his family in a world rife with obstacles.

FIVE FACTS:

1. Fences was originally a 1983 play by August Wilson and is the sixth installment of Wilson's ten-part "Pittsburgh Cycle." The play won the 1987 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the 1987 Tony Award for Best Play.
2. This is the third film to be directed by Denzel Washington who previously directed Viola Davis in Antwone Fisher (2002).
3. Denzel Washington performed the play 114 times at the Cort Theatre in New York in 2010.
4. This was August Wilson's first ever screenplay adaptation of one of his plays and he insisted that it be directed by an African-American.
5. In 2017, Wilson received a posthumous Oscar nomination for Fences. He was the only credited writer of the film and passed away in 2005.

See more in
iTunes





Fences Official Trailer 2

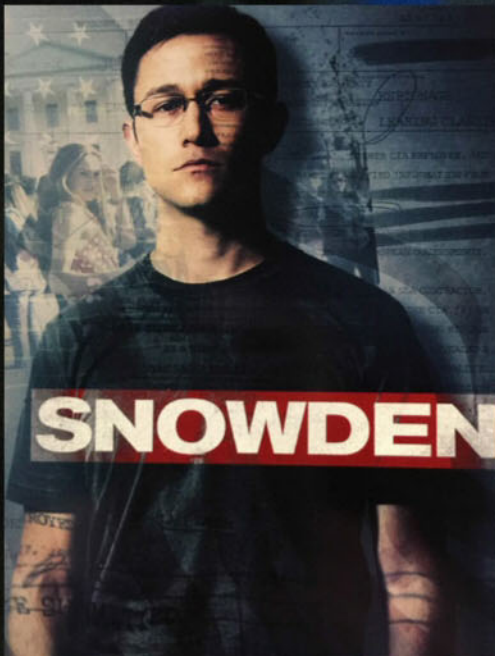
Snowden

Based on the true untold life story of Edward Snowden (Joseph Gordon-Levitt), who exposed illegal surveillance activities by the National Security Agency and became one of the most wanted men in the world. This politically-charged thriller tells the story of what led Snowden to that decision.

FIVE FACTS:

- 1.** Margot Robbie was offered the role of Lindsey Mills but was unable to take it due to scheduling conflict.
- 2.** The film's director, Oliver Stone, had a cameo as an audience member in the last scene.
- 3.** Oliver Stone visited the real Edward Snowden after shooting and showed him a work-in-progress cut of the film.
- 4.** To make sure the screenplay was not hacked or leaked, Oliver Stone wrote the entire script on a single computer with no internet connection.
- 5.** Joseph Gordon-Levitt pledged to donate his entire wage from the film to "help facilitate the conversation" about the relationship between democracy and technology.





iTunes Preview



by Oliver Stone
Genre: Drama
Released: 2016
Price: \$14.99

★★★★★
215 Ratings



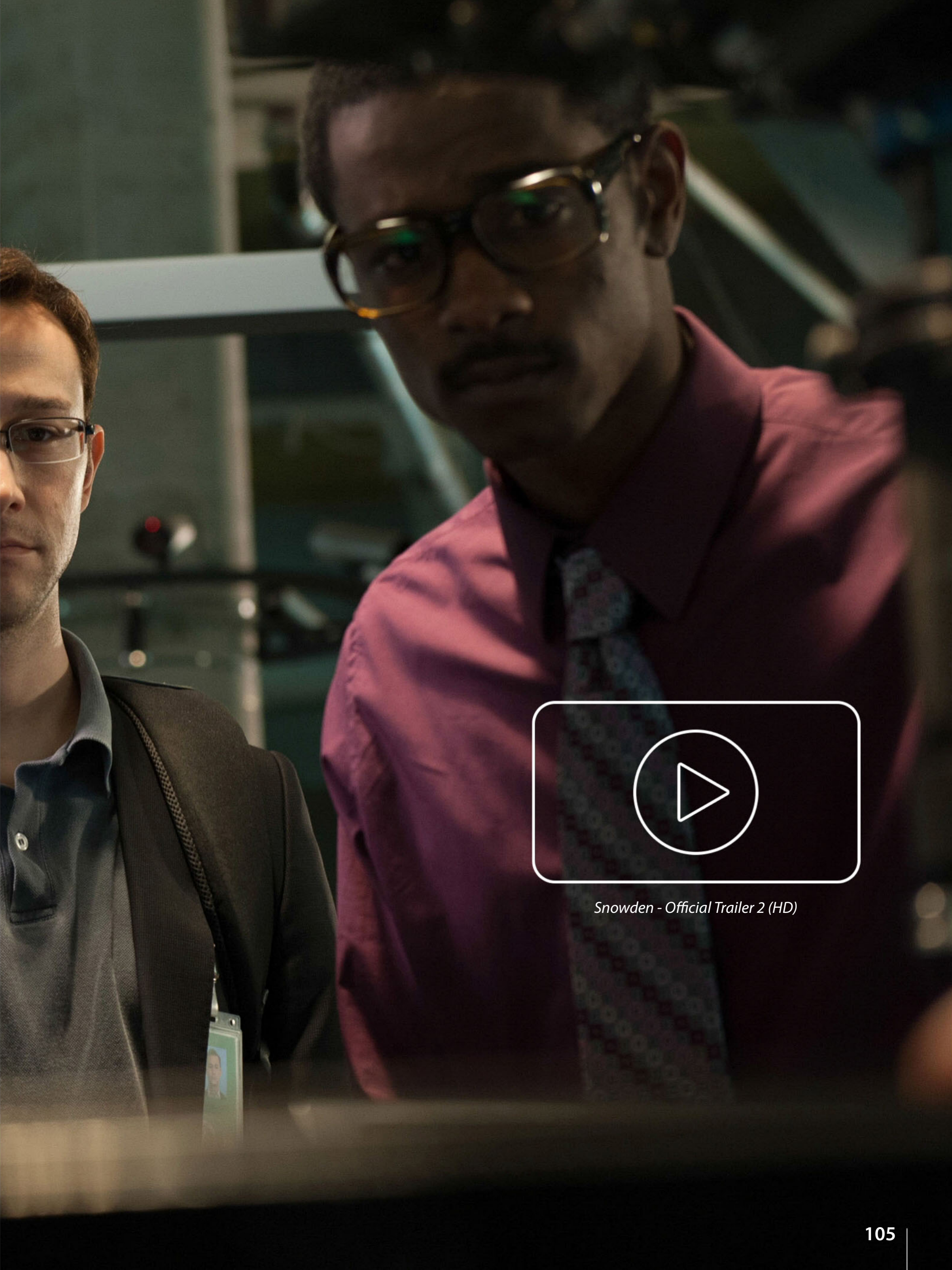
Trailer

Rotten Tomatoes



61%

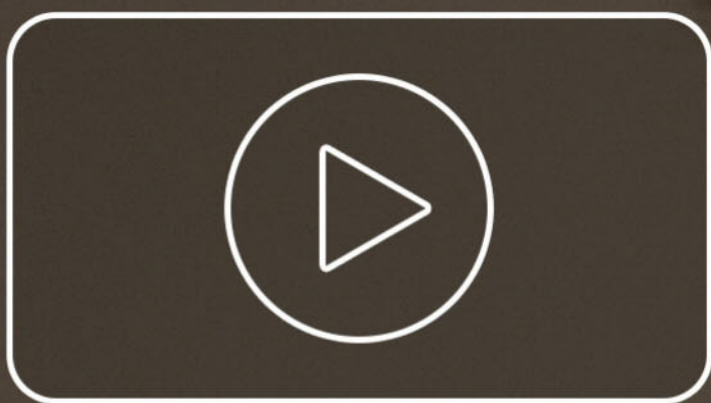




Snowden - Official Trailer 2 (HD)

iTunes

Review



"Shape of You"

Music



iTunes Preview



Genre: Pop
Released: Mar 03, 2017
12 Songs
Price: \$10.99

★★★★★
60 Ratings

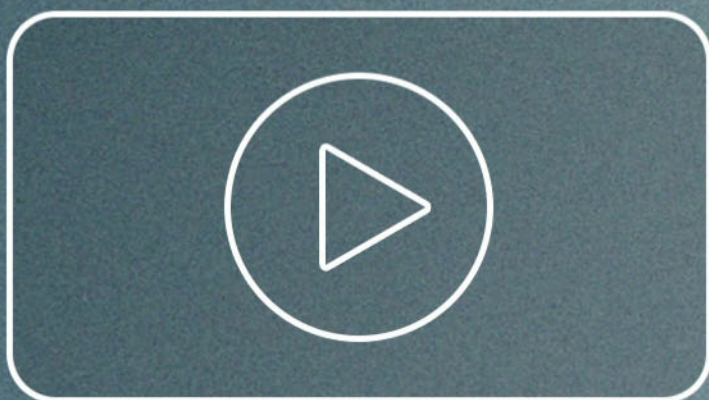


Ed Sheeran

Divide is the highly anticipated third studio album by Ed Sheeran and one that is predicted to be huge in the coming year. This album sees Sheeran delve more into the Timberlake-style R&B that we saw in his previous single Sing, but with lyrics demonstrating nostalgia for childhood (Castle on the Hill) and a ballad (Perfect), that is bound to be the next Thinking Out Loud.

FIVE FACTS:

1. Ed's older brother Matthew is a classical music composer.
2. All four of Ed's guitars have names; Lloyd, Felix, Cyril and Nigel.
3. In 2012, he supported Snow Patrol on their US tour.
4. The music video for his hit song 'The A Team' cost only £20 to make.
5. He began recording his own tracks when he was very young. He released The Orange Room EP in 2005.



*"Castle On The Hill & Shape Of You"
feat. Stormzy*



Now That the Light is Fading

Maggie Rogers

Maggie Rogers became a sensation overnight when Pharrell Williams was left speechless after her performance at an NYU masterclass. Now, a year later, she releases her debut EP which brings a perfect blend of electronic rhythm and folk harmonies.

FIVE FACTS:

1. Maggie has always been musical and played the harp as early as age 7.
2. She wrote Alaska, the song that propelled her to fame, in only 15 minutes for an NYU master class with Pharrell Williams.
3. She grew up in a small rural town in Maryland where she was influenced by the music of Gustav Holst and Vivaldi.
4. While studying abroad in France, Maggie discovered her love for electronic music, something that has profoundly influenced the sounds of this EP.
5. She recently appeared on 'The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon.



iTunes Preview



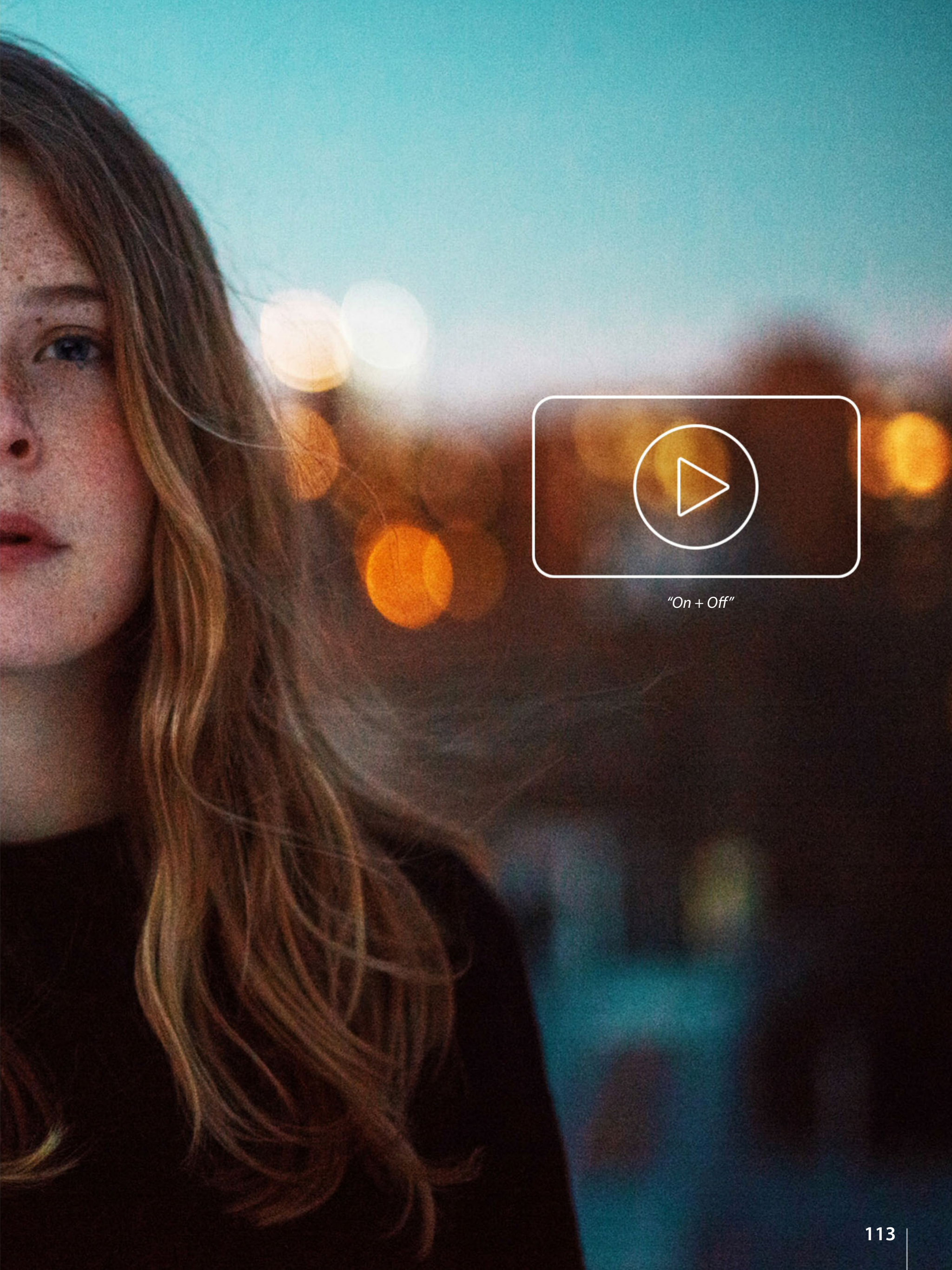
Genre: Alternative
Released: Feb 17, 2017
05 Songs
Price: \$5.25

★★★★★
76 Ratings



"Alaska"





"On + Off"





BOX OFFICE TOP 20: 'LOGAN' DEBUT EVEN BIGGER THAN EXPECTED

"Logan," Hugh Jackman's last stand as Wolverine, did even better than expected. According to final box-office figures Monday, its weekend debut totaled \$88.4 million in North American ticket sales, \$3 million more than was estimated Sunday.

The smash hit "X-Men" spinoff ranks as the fourth best March opening (not adjusting for inflation), as well as one of the best R-rated debuts.

"Logan," a 20th Century Fox release, took in \$247 million globally over the weekend.

Last week's top film, Jordan Peele's horror sensation "Get Out," slid just 22 percent in its second week. It has now grossed \$78.1 million in 10 days.

The top 20 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Monday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Tuesday by comScore:

1. *"Logan,"* 20th Century Fox, \$88,411,916, 4,071 locations, \$21,717 average, \$88,411,916, 1 Week.

2. *"Get Out,"* Universal, \$28,236,285, 2,938 locations, \$9,611 average, \$78,079,925, 2 Weeks.

3. *"The Shack,"* Lionsgate, \$16,172,119, 2,888 locations, \$5,600 average, \$16,172,119, 1 Week.

4. *"The Lego Batman Movie,"* Warner Bros., \$11,702,364, 3,656 locations, \$3,201 average, \$148,684,165, 4 Weeks.

5. *"John Wick: Chapter Two,"* Lionsgate, \$4,804,238, 2,475 locations, \$1,941 average, \$82,945,210, 4 Weeks.

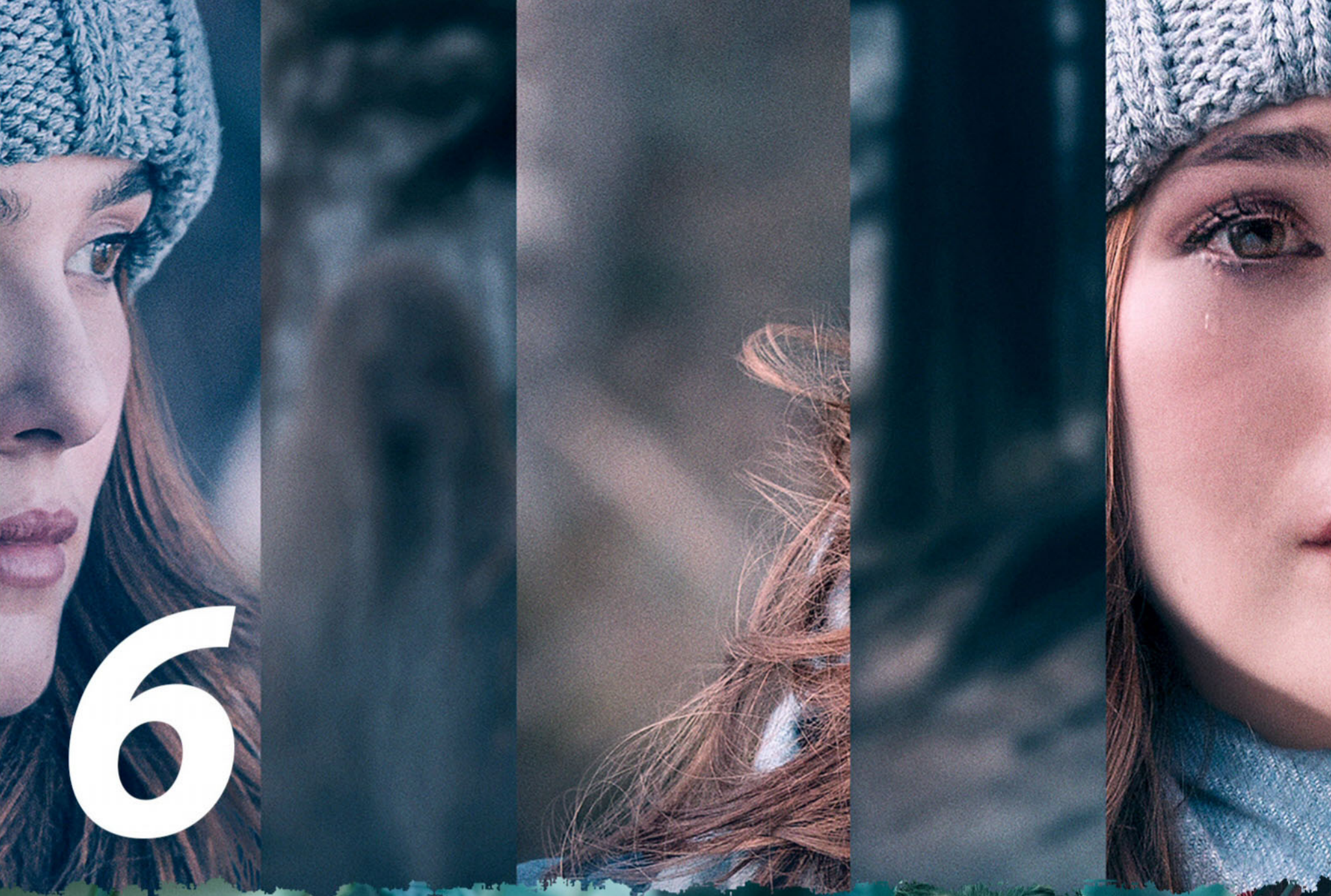




2



3





6. *"Before I Fall,"* Open Road, \$4,690,214, 2,346 locations, \$1,999 average, \$4,690,214, 1 Week.

7. *"Hidden Figures,"* 20th Century Fox, \$3,826,330, 1,582 locations, \$2,419 average, \$158,766,769, 11 Weeks.

8. *"The Great Wall,"* Universal, \$3,627,020, 2,314 locations, \$1,567 average, \$41,388,325, 3 Weeks.

9. *"Fifty Shades Darker,"* Universal, \$3,558,020, 2,205 locations, \$1,614 average, \$109,985,335, 4 Weeks.

10. *"La La Land,"* Lionsgate, \$2,986,489, 1,411 locations, \$2,117 average, \$145,695,851, 13 Weeks.



11



15



11. *"Fist Fight,"* Warner Bros.,
\$2,860,196, 2,303 locations,
\$1,242 average, \$28,286,371, 3 Weeks.

12. *"Rock Dog,"* Lionsgate, \$2,300,973,
2,077 locations, \$1,108 average,
\$6,735,271, 2 Weeks.

13. *"Moonlight,"* A24, \$2,300,940,
1,564 locations, \$1,471 average,
\$25,153,321, 20 Weeks.

14. *"Lion,"* The Weinstein Company,
\$2,125,815, 1,260 locations,
\$1,687 average, \$46,516,365, 15 Weeks.

15. *"Split,"* Universal, \$2,091,660,
1,126 locations, \$1,858 average,
\$134,044,560, 7 Weeks.





16. *"A Dog's Purpose," Universal,*
\$1,760,665, 1,494 locations,
\$1,178 average, \$60,218,235, 6 Weeks.

17. *"Table 19," Fox Searchlight,*
\$1,580,648, 868 locations,
\$1,821 average, \$1,580,648, 1 Week.

18. *"Moana," Disney, \$633,216,*
321 locations, \$1,973 average,
\$246,885,618, 15 Weeks.

19. *"A United Kingdom," Fox Searchlight,*
\$632,123, 271 locations,
\$2,333 average, \$1,814,372, 4 Weeks.

20. *"I Am Not Your Negro," Magnolia*
Pictures, \$475,801, 235 locations,
\$2,025 average, \$5,553,769, 5 Weeks.



Universal and Focus are owned by NBC Universal, a unit of Comcast Corp.; Sony, Columbia, Sony Screen Gems and Sony Pictures Classics are units of Sony Corp.; Paramount is owned by Viacom Inc.; Disney, Pixar and Marvel are owned by The Walt Disney Co.; Miramax is owned by Filmyard Holdings LLC; 20th Century Fox and Fox Searchlight are owned by 21st Century Fox; Warner Bros. and New Line are units of Time Warner Inc.; MGM is owned by a group of former creditors including Highland Capital, Anchorage Advisors and Carl Icahn; Lionsgate is owned by Lions Gate Entertainment Corp.; IFC is owned by AMC Networks Inc.; Rogue is owned by Relativity Media LLC.

SAMUEL JACKSON QUESTIONS BRITISH BLACK ACTORS IN AMERICAN FILMS

Samuel Jackson has criticized the casting of black British actors in American films like the horror hit "Get Out" and the Martin Luther King Jr. drama "Selma."

In an appearance Monday on the radio station Hot 97, Jackson noted that a lot of roles are going to British actors. He said he wondered what "Get Out" would have been like "with an American brother who really feels that." Jordan Peele's film is about an African-American photographer, played by the British actor Daniel Kaluuya, whose white girlfriend brings him home to her parents' house.

Jackson also pointed to Ava DuVernay's "Selma," which starred David Oyelowo as King.

John Boyega, the British "Star Wars" star, on Twitter called the debate a "stupid" conflict "we don't have time for."





Image: Jason Merritt





REVIEW: KRISTEN STEWART, OTHERWORLDLY IN 'PERSONAL SHOPPER'

Director Olivier Assayas's bizarre but transfixing "Personal Shopper" is not something that lends itself to a simple description. Loosely, it's about a young artist, Maureen (Kristen Stewart), who is coping (poorly) with the recent death of her twin brother Lewis while working as a personal shopper for a demanding Somebody in Paris.

But it's also a ghost story. And a mourning drama. And an erotic psychological thriller. And a whodunit. And a critique of celebrity vapidty (sort of). It is, in short, all over the place. And whatever the pieces add up to is rudely ambiguous.

That's not to say the pieces aren't thought-provoking. Stewart is a beguiling lead, once again playing an ordinary person in close proximity to unfathomable fame and wealth. In Assayas's "Clouds of Sils Maria" she was the personal assistant and close confidant of a too often ungrateful actress. Here, she's even more disconnected from her employer, who is some kind of wealthy model/humanitarian/person about town. Instead of intellectualizing acting and Hollywood as in "Sils Maria," here she's unenthusiastically expressing her creativity by

picking out designer wares for her boss, Kyra, and resisting the temptation to try them on (she's been told not to do that).

Maureen's real obsession, however, is trying to contact her dead brother. They were both mediums and made an oath that if one died, the deceased would contact the other. It's why she's staying in Paris at this terrible job and not moving on to be with her boyfriend.

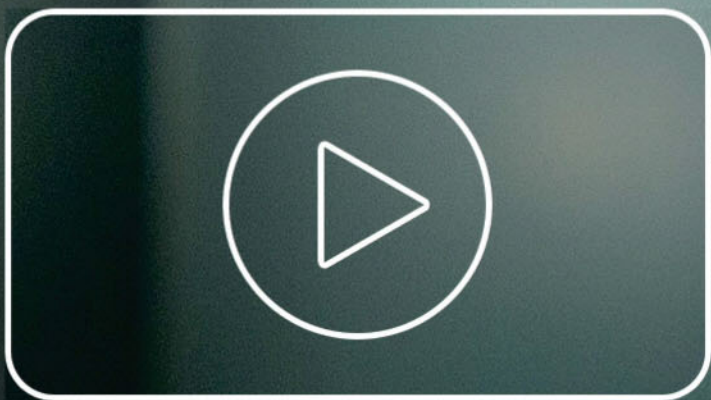
So Maureen spends nights regularly at Lewis's home, which is bordering on Miss Havisham-level decay despite only being vacant for three months. She stalks around corners and runs toward the scary creaks in the empty home and tells her brother's old girlfriend that she definitely felt a presence. While sparse for a modern ghost story, it is rather effective in its ability to terrify. When Maureen suspects contact, she only wants more, and more and more. Her desperate grasp for definitive meaning presents an intriguing and compellingly stylish portrait of grief and mourning.

But, as you already know, this isn't just a ghost story, and "Personal Shopper" whiplashes back from the spiritual realm to the "real world" of loaned couture and jewelry and Maureen's unfulfilled ambition. It's there that Maureen starts making contact with another kind of spirit - the elusive being behind the "unknown" number that begins to light up her phone with an obsessive consistency. This mysterious text messenger gets under Maureen's skin pretty quickly. What was initially bemused annoyance turns quickly into an exciting lifeblood for her as the texter asks provocative questions and









Trailer

encourages her to rebel a little (i.e. down some vodka and try on Kyra's forbidden clothes).

Never has a modern film so astutely captured the mundane but all-consuming experience of emotionally charged texting. Instead of silly text clouds popping up in the frame, Assayas takes the viewer right to the phone screen and the tense fingers typing, sending, and waiting as the little bubbles tease that another is coming.

And then things take quite an unexpected turn for a film that thus far (besides the apparitions) has been pretty expectedly subdued.

Thank goodness for Stewart, who deftly guides the audience along on this jumbled journey. The always evolving actress is singular in excelling at occupying this ordinary space despite her extraordinary fame off screen. That she's already played an assistant-type for Assayas takes away a bit of the fun of seeing her as a normal bumping up against the equally unreal world of celebrity, but in "Personal Shopper" she gets to go a little more wild.

In the end, it might be too much to ask that a story about vague unfulfilled desire adds up to something concrete, but this film that came out swinging crescendos to a deeply unsatisfying shrug.

"Personal Shopper," an IFC Films release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for "for some language, sexuality, nudity and a bloody violent image." Running time: 105 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

MPAA Definition of R: Restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

FITBIT TRACKS YOUR STEPS; NOW IT WANTS TO CHART YOUR ZS, TOO

Fitbit, whose devices encourage people to walk 10,000 steps each day, now wants to put them to sleep as well.


The company said data collected by the millions of Fitbit trackers in use show that people are averaging less than seven hours of sleep a night, the amount recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. And the Zs people do get aren't necessarily the right kind of sleep.

So Fitbit will offer deeper sleep tracking on some of its devices. Fitbits already track how much sleep people get and use sensors to measure periods of being awake or restless while in bed. Now, using a built-in heart-rate monitor, the devices will break sleep into clinically defined stages.









For example, about a quarter of sleep is supposed to consist of the rapid-eye movement, or REM, phase. This is when dreams occur, and scientists believe it's important for improving memory. Fitbit says devices with this new Sleep Stages feature will be able to measure whether you get enough REM sleep.

Fitbit also announced an updated version of its Alta tracker. The new version has heart rate monitoring and seven days of battery life. The Alta HR goes on sale in a few weeks for about \$150. Fitbit will start taking orders on Monday. Existing Charge 2 and Blaze devices will get the sleep feature through free software updates.





One of Fitbit's chief competitors, the Apple Watch, doesn't come with sleep tracking, as it needs a nightly recharge. Other fitness trackers and smartwatches do offer sleep tracking with varying degrees of depth and accuracy, but the sleep capabilities often take a backseat to features for running, cycling and other exercise.

According to research firm IDC, Fitbit is the leading seller of wearable devices, but it's facing a steep decline because most of its sales are in the U.S., where many people who want a fitness tracker already have one. Pushing capabilities beyond exercise could help Fitbit appeal to people whose fitness routines are already stable.

"We really want our users to think about sleep as being as important as your activity," said Christina Kothari, senior product marketing manager at Fitbit.

All Fitbits will offer recommendations through the Fitbit app on ways to improve sleep. For example, if you get more sleep on weekends, Fitbit might suggest that you're not getting enough during the week. Or if sleep quality improves after exercise, the app might suggest more workouts.

Ultimately, Fitbit hopes to personalize recommendations on how much sleep you need rather than rely on general guidelines from studies, said Shelten Yuen, Fitbit's vice president of research and development. Some might need more, others less, and Yuen said Fitbit can tell based on signs such as increased heart rate and fatigue.





'GOOD FIGHT' TAKES TELEVISION LEAD IN MAKING TRUMP AN ISSUE

A CBS-produced legal drama has taken the lead in weaving President Donald Trump into its stories, and it keeps raising the stakes.

In last month's debut of "The Good Fight," "The Good Wife" spinoff on CBS' streaming service, lawyer and Hillary Clinton supporter Diane Lockhart (Christine Baranski) watched and cringed as Trump was sworn into office.

In another episode, a member of the drama's nearly all-black law firm tells his boss he voted for Trump and is scorned by his colleagues.

On Sunday, "The Good Fight" takes on CBS competitor NBC over its delays in airing a drama with allusions to Trump. His new administration again comes in for jabs as well, setting a pattern for "The Good Fight."

After a number of prominent Hollywood figures campaigned vigorously against the Republican candidate, it became an open question of how much their opposition might be reflected in the TV shows and films they produce.

Most shows that debuted last fall have wrapped their production for the season that ends in spring, and movies have a long road to get into theaters. "The Good Fight," which debuted in February, has taken ample advantage of its timing.

"We have created very politically aware characters, and it would simply be peculiar if they weren't talking about what was going on politically right now," said Michelle King, who created and produces the CBS All Access show with her husband, Robert.

Robert King said the drama hews closely to what they did on CBS' "The Good Wife," which also dwelled in the world of law and politics.

"That had a lot of references to the Clintons and Obama, and critical depictions too," he said. "The only difference is in degree."

NBC declined to comment on "The Good Fight" episode, and CBS did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The White House declined to comment, saying staff were focused on moving America forward in the real world.

The upcoming "Good Fight" hour is a thinly veiled shot at NBC's postponement of a "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit" episode about a candidate facing sexual assault allegations.

The unaired "Law & Order: SVU" episode was bumped from its originally scheduled airdates in October and its rescheduled Nov. 16 telecast. NBC hasn't announced a new airdate.

During his 2016 campaign, Trump said that allegations of sexual abuse, including claims he kissed and groped several women, were false.

The "SVU" episode is titled "Unstoppable."







In the “Good Fight” episode, titled “Stoppable: Requiem for an Airdate,” the law firm accepts the case of a TV writer being sued by his network over an episode about a fictional U.S. senator, Ted Williams, fighting sexual assault claims on election eve. When the network dragged its feet in airing it, the defiant writer posted the episode online.

In defending the writer, attorney Adrian Boseman (Delroy Lindo) presents the case as a cautionary tale of a media conglomerate bowing to government control.

The writer, facing the network’s \$12 million civil suit filed by the network, invokes Trump in explaining his actions.

“There’s been a chilling effect at the studio and the network. They’re worried about the Donald holding grudges,” he testifies. “I found the idea that they would censor themselves for Trump terrifying and I wanted to point that out.”

The Kings said the story was inspired by what’s happened with the “SVU” episode but is aimed at the larger issue of government and media.

“There is a lot of attention paid to the FCC because they yield so much power, especially with the networks,” Robert King said. “When a president seems more willing to use the brass-knuckles aspects of the government, there could be concern about the way that could be wielded.”

He did have a message for NBC.

“We’d love to see that episode. Release it. Our job will be done,” he said, wryly.

Online:

<http://www.cbs.com/all-access/>



NEW KIDS STREAMING SERVICE WILL HAVE 'SCOOPY DOO,' 'JETSONS'



A new streaming service aimed at kids will have episodes of classic cartoons like “Scooby Doo,” “The Flintstones” and “The Jetsons” as well as original series.

Time Warner’s Boomerang service joins a crowded market of kid-aimed online subscription video. Netflix and Amazon Prime have kids sections, Nickelodeon’s Noggin streaming app is aimed at preschoolers and “Sesame Street” is available from HBO.

The Boomerang service will initially work only on Apple and Android phones and tablets and on computers. The cost is \$5 a month.





It'll eventually be available for TVs through streaming gadgets like Apple TV and Roku. The service launches in a few months.

The app draws from the same libraries as the Boomerang TV channel but its videos won't match the network's lineup.

The app isn't part of a cable subscription like popular TV apps such as HBO Go or WatchESPN. Instead, it's like CBS All Access, an app version of CBS, which starts at \$6 a month.

FBI'S COMEY: 'YOU'RE
STUCK WITH ME FOR
ANOTHER 6 1/2 YEARS'



FBI Director James Comey said Wednesday he plans to serve his entire 10-year term, even as controversy swirls over his attempt to rebut President Donald Trump's claim that the Obama administration tapped his phones during the election.

"You're stuck with me for another 6½ years," Comey said during a cybersecurity conference at Boston College.

Comey was appointed 3½ years ago by then-President Barack Obama.

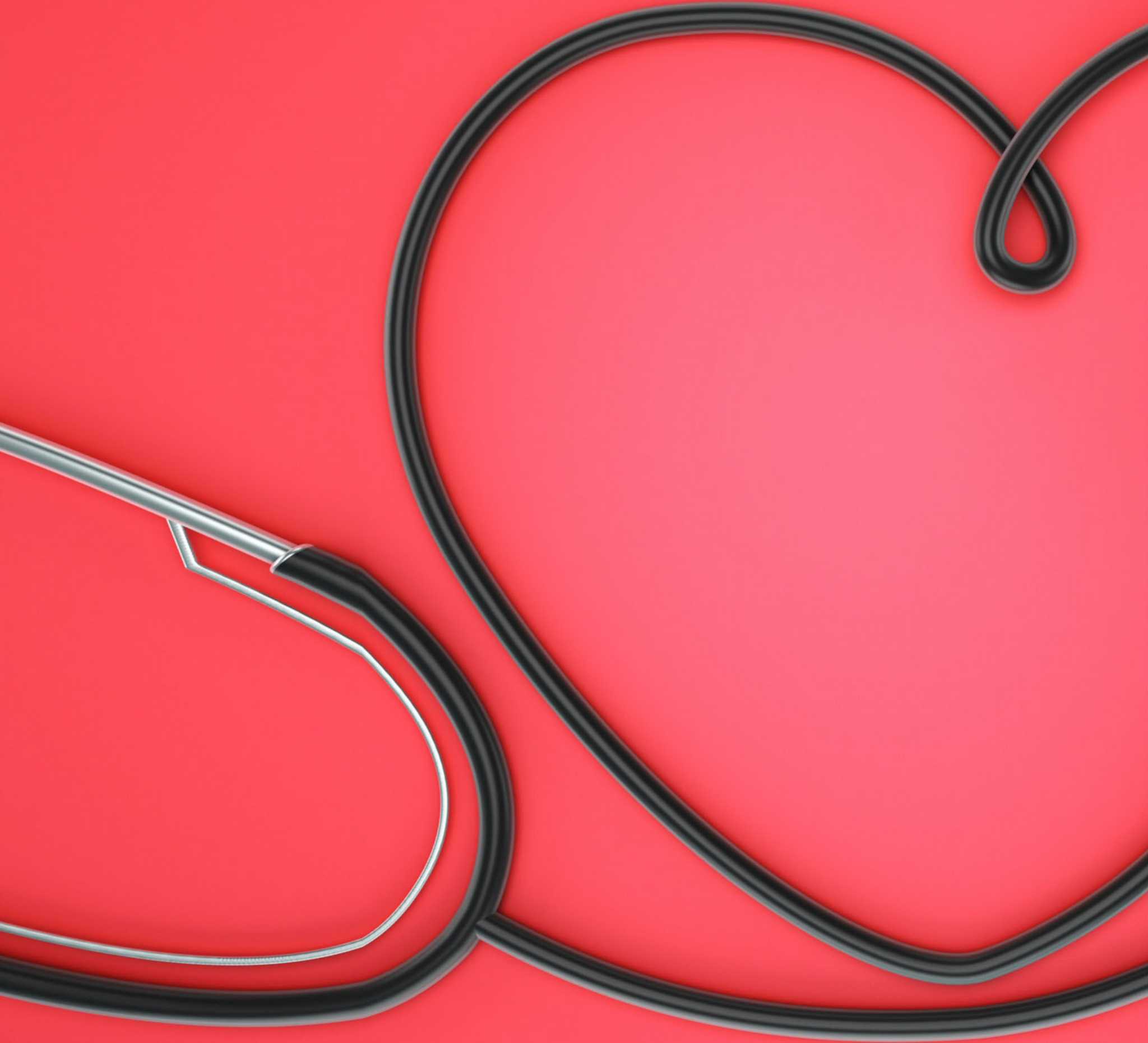
Controversy erupted last weekend after Trump tweeted that Obama had tapped his phones at Trump Tower during the election. Trump offered no evidence of his claim. Comey asked the Justice Department to publicly reject the allegation as false.

Comey did not reference the wiretapping controversy during his speech to law enforcement officials and private-sector business leaders.

He said the FBI is renewing a focus on the challenges posed by encryption. He said there should be a balance between privacy and the FBI's ability to lawfully access information. He also said the FBI needs to recruit talented computer personnel who might otherwise go to work for Apple or Google.

"The cyberthreats we face are enormous. I don't know if we can stay ahead of them. And I think to say otherwise would be hubris," Comey said.

"We need to ensure that cybersecurity is a priority for every enterprise in the United States at all levels. We need to get better and faster at sharing information in the appropriate ways. We need to make sure we have the right people on board to help fight that threat, and we need to build trust between the government and the private sector," he said.



BACON, SODA & TOO FEW NUTS TIED TO BIG PORTION OF US DEATHS



Gorging on bacon, skimping on nuts? These are among food habits that new research links with deaths from heart disease, strokes and diabetes.

Overeating or not eating enough of the 10 foods and nutrients contributes to nearly half of U.S. deaths from these causes, the study suggests.

“Good” foods that were under-eaten include: nuts and seeds, seafood rich in omega-3 fats including salmon and sardines; fruits and vegetables; and whole grains.

“Bad” foods or nutrients that were over-eaten include salt and salty foods; processed meats including bacon, bologna and hot dogs; red meat including steaks and hamburgers; and sugary drinks.

The research is based on U.S. government data showing there were about 700,000 deaths in 2012 from heart disease, strokes and diabetes



Image: Anne-Marie Jackson



and on an analysis of national health surveys that asked participants about their eating habits. Most didn't eat the recommended amounts of the foods studied.

The 10 ingredients combined contributed to about 45 percent of those deaths, according to the study.

It may sound like a familiar attack on the typical American diet, and the research echoes previous studies on the benefits of heart-healthy eating. But the study goes into more detail on specific foods and their risks or benefits, said lead author Renata Micha, a public health researcher and nutritionist at Tufts University.

The results were published Tuesday in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Micha said the 10 foods and nutrients were singled out because of research linking them with the causes of death studied. For example, studies have shown that excess salt can increase blood pressure, putting stress on arteries and the heart. Nuts contain healthy fats that can improve cholesterol levels, while bacon and other processed meats contain saturated fats that can raise levels of unhealthy LDL cholesterol.

In the study, too much salt was the biggest problem, linked with nearly 10 percent of the deaths. Overeating processed meats and undereating nuts and seeds and seafood each were linked with about 8 percent of the deaths.

The Food and Drug Administration's recent voluntary sodium reduction guidelines for makers of processed foods and taxes that some U.S. cities have imposed on sugar-sweetened beverages are steps in the right direction, Micha said.

A journal editorial said public health policies targeting unhealthy eating could potentially help prevent some deaths, while noting that the study isn't solid proof that "suboptimal" diets were deadly.

The study's recommended amounts, based on U.S. government guidelines, nutrition experts' advice, and amounts found to be beneficial or harmful in previous research.

"Good" ingredients

- Fruits: 3 average-sized fruits daily
- Vegetables: 2 cups cooked or 4 cups raw vegetables daily
- Nuts/seeds: 5 1-ounce servings per week - about 20 nuts per serving
- Whole grains: 2 ½ daily servings
- Polyunsaturated fats, found in many vegetable oils: 11 percent of daily calories
- Seafood: about 8 ounces weekly

"Bad" ingredients

- Red meat: 1 serving weekly - 1 medium steak or the equivalent
- Processed meat: None recommended
- Sugary drinks: None recommended
- Salt: 2,000 milligrams daily - just under a teaspoon.

Online: Diet guidelines





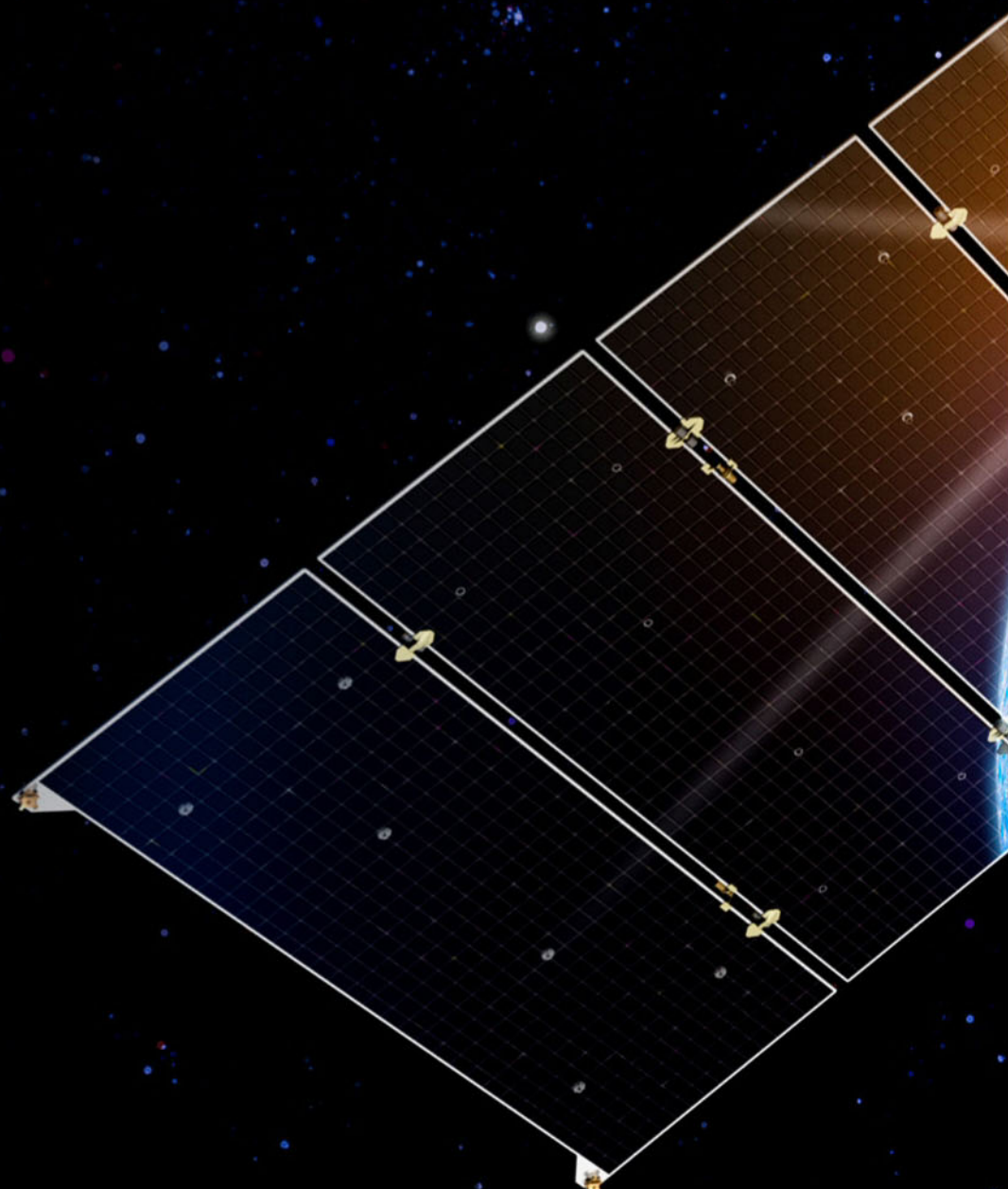
ZAP MAP: SATELLITE TRACKS LIGHTNING FOR BETTER HEADS UP

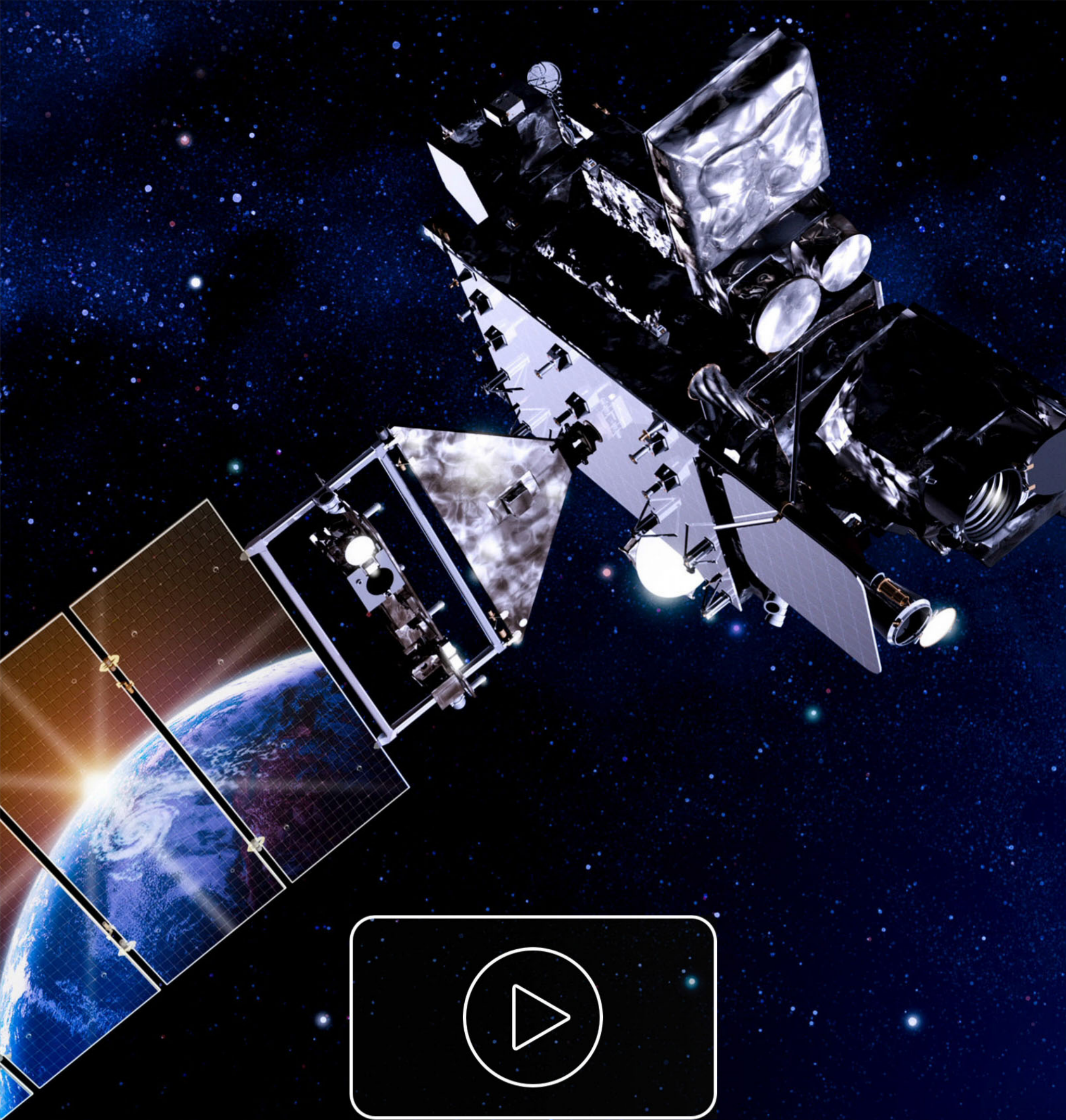
A new U.S. satellite is mapping lightning flashes worldwide from above, which should provide better warning about dangerous strikes.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Monday released the first images from a **satellite** launched last November that had the first lightning detector in stationary orbit. It includes bright flashes from a storm that spawned tornadoes and hail in the Houston region on Valentine's Day.

NOAA scientist Steve Goodman said ground radar sees lots of cloud-to-ground lightning, but this satellite provides more detailed views of lightning within clouds. Cloud flashes can later turn into ground strikes, hitting people like a bolt out of the blue. Scientists say this could add more warning time.

Earth gets about 45 lightning flashes a second, but 80 percent stay in clouds.





First Images from GOES-16 Lightning Mapper





WORLD'S 1ST WOMAN IN SPACE, VALENTINA TERESHKOVA, TURNS 80

Russia on Monday (06) honored the world's first woman in space, Valentina Tereshkova, who recalled tense moments of her pioneering mission on her 80th birthday.

Soviet officials at the time said the 1963 mission went without a hitch, and only a few years ago Tereshkova first spoke about a technical glitch that could have left her stranded in space.

"When the spacecraft reached the orbit, I realized that I wouldn't be able to return to Earth because the ship was programmed to move to a higher orbit instead of deorbiting," Tereshkova said in remarks broadcast by Channel 1 television. "I reported the situation to the mission control, they told me how to change the parameters and everything went on without trouble."

Soviet space officials started planning for a space mission by a woman soon after Yuri Gagarin became the first human to fly to space

on April, 12 1961, seeing it as a way to cement the nation's lead in a race for space supremacy against the United States.

Tereshkova, a textile factory worker who liked parachute jumps, was chosen for the flight after a rigorous selection from hundreds of candidates. While heading to the launch pad, she told her relatives that she was going to attend a parachute competition - a reflection of deep secrecy that surrounded the Soviet space program.

The three-day mission made her an instant global celebrity and a poster figure for Soviet space glory. Tereshkova received a hero's welcome after the flight and was showered with awards and honorary titles.

"It was hard, but we realized that we were working to make the country's glory shine and prevent the competitors from thrusting ahead," Tereshkova said. "It was a great happiness to be the first in space."

Her birthday led the news on national television.

President Vladimir Putin hosted Tereshkova at the Kremlin, praising her as "a role model for us and a symbol of service to the Fatherland."

He presented Tereshkova with a painting of seagulls over the Volga River, a reference to her call sign Chaika (Seagull) during her mission in June 1963.


"I often see my flight in my dreams," she said in televised remarks.

Tereshkova is still a member of the Russian parliament, serving as a deputy chair of committee for municipal issues. Fellow lawmakers greeted her at a photo exhibition about her flight in the lower house, the State Duma.









AFTER 44 DAYS, HEARINGS END FOR GIANT TELESCOPE IN HAWAII

Long-running hearings for whether a giant telescope can be built atop a Hawaii mountain have wrapped up. But it will be a while before a decision is made on a project that has prompted intense protests by those who believe it will desecrate sacred land.

Oftentimes emotional testimony concluded evening after 71 people testified over 44 days on the Big Island. Testifiers included Native Hawaiians who believe the project will harm cultural and religious practices on Mauna Kea and Native Hawaiians who believe it will provide jobs and educational opportunities.



The hearings officer will recommend whether the state land board should grant a construction permit for the Thirty Meter Telescope. If there are exceptions filed to the hearings officer's recommendations, the land board will hear arguments before issuing a written decision.

"We remain hopeful that the state can issue a permit in a timely manner to start construction in April 2018," said Scott Ishikawa, a spokesman for the telescope.


This second round of contested-case hearings was necessary after the state Supreme Court invalidated an earlier permit issued by the board.

The state has spent nearly \$225,000 on the hearings, according to figures provided by state Department of Land and Natural Resources spokesman Dan Dennison.

Telescope officials have selected a backup site in the Spanish-controlled Canary Islands in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Africa if they can't build in Hawaii.





A close-up, low-angle shot of a hand typing on a laptop keyboard. The background is a solid, vibrant red. The lighting is dramatic, with the hand and keyboard illuminated from below, creating a strong contrast with the red background. The fingers are positioned over the keys, and the keyboard's backlights are visible, casting a soft glow.

SENIOR CHINA GOVERNMENT ADVISER CRITICIZES WEB CENSORSHIP

A senior Chinese government adviser has warned that the country's internet censorship is hampering scientific research and economic development, in a rare public criticism of a sensitive policy that the government has vigorously defended.

Slow access to overseas academic websites have forced domestic researchers to buy software to circumvent China's site-blocking firewall, or even travel overseas to conduct research, Luo Fuhe, vice-chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, told reporters in Beijing. He described the lengths that Chinese researchers go to simply carry out their work as "not normal."

Luo's remarks, reported by state media, came as national leaders and thousands of appointed representatives are gathering in Beijing for the national legislature's annual session. Luo's conference, the CPPCC, is the official advisory body to the legislature, the National People's Congress.

Chinese officials rarely comment on internet censorship, other than to emphasize the need



Image: Jewel Samad



to respect the country's laws. However, Luo may have felt free to speak up because of his status as a vice chairman of the China Association for Promoting Democracy, one of eight minor political parties the ruling Communists permit to shore up their democratic credentials.

China's sophisticated internet censorship tools block numerous foreign social media and news websites, while discussion of political topics and other sensitive issues such as Tibet and Taiwan are routinely squelched.

However, the same tools also hamper access to vast swathes of the internet outside China, including some research and university websites, whether inadvertently or by design.

Many Chinese employ virtual private networks to scale the censors' blocks, known sometimes as "the Great Firewall of China."

Luo, who studied and researched agriculture before taking up his official posts, also noted that the United Nations Food and Agriculture Program's webpages took up to 20 seconds to load while "a famous foreign search engine" - an apparent reference to Google - was also blocked.

He recommended that the government determine which websites are off-limits with greater "precision" and allow full open access to sites frequented by researchers, particularly if they do not contain political content.

China's authoritarian government has recently renewed a push for a greater role in global internet governance based on restrictions and regulations rather than the principle of free-flow of information found in democratic societies.



Image: Shannon Stapleton



CELEBS USE SOCIAL MEDIA TO SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Celebrities are using social media to express their support for Wednesday's International Women's Day. A sampling:

- "Dreaming of a World Where Women have Equal Rights" - Madonna on Instagram, with an outtake from her recent Vogue Germany shoot.

- "Whatever women do they must do twice as well as men to be thought half as good. Luckily, this is not difficult" #internationalwomensday" - Adele on Twitter.

- "We must support the empowerment of women & girls today & forever. Let us bring in a future that holds our shared opportunities. #IWD2017" - Forest Whitaker, on Twitter.

- "I will raise my children to be beautiful human beings and powerful men who understand





how magnificent women are. I believe that all women, all over the world, are beautiful, whole and powerful. They should be honored like goddesses, not just on International Women's Day, but every day. We must continue to lift each other up, believe in ourselves and not hold back from this truth. #InternationalWomensDay" - Keys, on Instagram, with a photo of herself and her son.

- "#internationalwomensday should be everyday. blessings to all the Queens" - Swizz Beatz on Instagram, with a photo of wife Alicia Keys.

- "Happy Women's Day to all the amazing ladies around the world #womensday" - David Beckham on Instagram, with a photo of his wife and daughter.

- "Love and respect to all women around the world today and EVERYDAY. #InternationalWomensDay" - Josh Duhamel on Twitter.

- "It's #internationalwomensday and this lady took a break last night to shine all on her own. Wear red. Let's not get to work!" - Jane Lynch on Twitter, with a picture of the Statue of Liberty's torch.

- "Feminists have always been emboldened by the acts of immigrant women. Following their lead will never steer us wrong." - Lena Dunham, in an essay on LinkedIn.

- "Happy #InternationalWomensDay or, as it's often called on here, #WhyIsn'tThereAnInternationalMensDay (There is: November 19th)" - J.K. Rowling on Twitter.

- "It's time to be bold. If you can't be bold for yourself, be bold for others: run for office,

volunteer, get active. #BeBoldForChange #IWD" - Chelsea Handler on Instagram.

- "Have a great day. (But just the one remember) #InternationalWomensDay" - Michael Sheen on Twitter.

- "Equity, justice and human rights for women and all gender-oppressed people! #InternationalWomensDay #ADayWithoutAWoman" - Kate Walsh on Twitter.

- "At the end of the day, you may not make the rules - yet - but you can create the reality you want. Embrace your differences, allow yourself the ability to grow, see through the challenges and be present in each aspect of your life. I will be BOLD and challenge the status quo." - Jessica Alba, in an essay on LinkedIn.

- "Happy #InternationalWomensDay to the wondrous, fairer, gentler & generally vastly superior sex." - Piers Morgan on Twitter.

- "Wathint' abafazi wathint' imbokodo. #InternationalWomensDay" - Trevor Noah, posting a South African saying that means "You strike the women, you strike the rock," on Twitter.

- "Solidarity. The Statue Of Liberty is dark today. #ADayWithoutWomen #InternationalWomensDay However you choose to express your solidarity - striking, wearing red, making phone calls to your reps, only spending money at women-owned businesses (one of or all of these things) - thank you." - Sophia Bush on Instagram.

- "I am strong, I am invincible, I am woman Happy #InternationalWomensDay to all you female badasses!" - Katie Couric on Twitter.









BUSINESS GROUP: CHINA TECH PLAN THREAT TO FOREIGN FIRMS

China is violating its free-trade pledges by pressing foreign makers of electric cars and other goods to share technology under an industry development plan that is likely to shrink access to its markets, a business group said.

The report by the European Union Chamber of Commerce adds to mounting complaints Beijing improperly shields its fledgling developers of robotics, software and other technology from competition.

Technology is a growing flashpoint in trade tensions with Washington and Europe, which worry their competitive edge is eroding as Beijing buys or develops skills in semiconductors, renewable energy and other fields.

European companies express frustration Chinese enterprises have been permitted to acquire technology leaders such as German robot maker Kuka while most of China's assets are off-limits to foreign buyers. In December, Germany blocked the Chinese purchase of a chipmaker, Aixtron, after Washington objected on security grounds.

The European chamber warned tactics Beijing is using to carry out its "China Manufacturing 2025" initiative might inflame sentiments in Europe and the United States in favor of trade controls.

The plan calls for China to be able to supply its own high-tech components by 2020 and materials by 2025 in 10 industries from information technology and aerospace to pharmaceuticals. A broad outline was issued in 2015 and officials have been gradually releasing details.

Suppliers of electric cars and other goods are under pressure to hand over technology in violation of Beijing's World Trade Organization commitments, the European chamber said. It said that also contradicts the ruling Communist Party's repeated promises of equal treatment and to give market forces a bigger role in the state-dominated economy.

That strategy "is in fact a large-scale import substitution plan aimed at nationalizing key industries, or at least severely curtailing the position of foreign business in them," the chamber said.

In a possible response to such criticism, China's top economic official, Premier Li Keqiang, promised in a speech Sunday foreign companies would receive "equal treatment" under the manufacturing plan. He gave no details.









Foreign suppliers of technology from X-ray scanners to wind turbines to bank security software complain they face growing official obstacles to making sales in China. Those range from controls based on national security concerns foreign suppliers say might be exaggerated to procurement rules that encourage hospitals and other customers to favor Chinese suppliers.

Beijing has clashed repeatedly with Washington and Europe since the 1990s over its efforts to induce foreign companies to hand over encryption and other technology.

In November, Chinese legislators approved a cybersecurity law business groups warned would hamper access to technology markets. They said a provision requiring security technology to be “secure and controllable” might require providers to disclose how products work, raising the risk trade secrets might be leaked.

In electric cars, where Beijing sees major opportunities, the manufacturing plan says two of the top 10 global brands by 2025 should be Chinese, the European chamber said. It said that rules out joint ventures created by foreign companies with Chinese partners.

The chamber appealed to Chinese leaders to discard quotas and other controls and focus instead on encouraging basic research and improving their manufacturing base.

“Perfecting the market would do far more to ensure that China reaches its full potential for economic development and innovation than more old-school, expensive industrial planning ever could,” the chamber said.

FORGET TRUMP; SLOVENIAN PRESIDENT RULES INSTAGRAM

Donald Trump may rule Twitter, but he's no match for his Slovenian counterpart on Instagram.

Borut Pahor, who is known as "Barbie" and along with Melania Trump is Slovenia's other former fashion model making international headlines, has been actively using social media to get his message across.

He started releasing his photos on Instagram, including one of him riding on a garbage truck in red overalls, ahead of the 2012 presidential election, which he surprisingly won. The thousands of likes he gets make him a clear favorite for re-election later this year.

His 24,000 followers in the country of 2 million can see the 53-year-old in very many different poses and personalities.

One shows him topless with a tattoo of a dolphin on his shoulder; another repairing a





Image: Darko Bandic



road alongside the workers. There's also Pahor on a soccer field, and skiing down the slopes. Another post shows has him preparing to swim in a tight suit.

There's also him with former U.S. President Barack Obama, with a caption: "the most inspiring."

"Barbie, and not a bad guy," reads his comment of a photo with makeup being applied to his face. The nickname comes from his modeling days while studying political science in the Slovenian capital, Ljubljana.

On one posting, he is shown with supermodel Naomi Campbell. On another, he speaks to U2 frontman Bono.

A photo of him leaning against a marble stairway in the presidential palace in Egypt last year, with the caption "homesick in Cairo," has inspired many Slovenians to copy his pose, which became known as "#boruting" on social media.

"Communications between people and politicians are changing all the time," Pahor told The Associated Press. "Instagram is most used by young people. In a period of distrust of politics, this is a way to reach them."

However, he said, he had no illusions that such communication can replace direct contact. "Life contact with people is the most important."

Pahor acknowledged that he runs the risk of being labeled as a populist.

"I accept that risk. But there is difference between negative and positive populism," Pahor said.

Judging from the ratings, Pahor's Instagram activity doesn't do him any harm. A recent survey shows that 52 percent of Slovenians hold a positive view of Pahor and just 16 percent a negative one.

Marko Rakar, a political consultant, called it "light populism."

"He is basically publishing photos which are appropriate to a point of (being) funny," Rakar said. "He's trying to present himself as a likable person doing a lot of stuff."

Rakar said Pahor's Instagram activity was not the same as Trump's famous Twitter messages.

"Instagram is not really a communication (platform) for sending political messages," he said. "Twitter is much more suitable for politics."

Amid the social media activity, Pahor has also shown political ambitions that somewhat outgrow the tiny Alpine state's international position.

Pahor has offered to host the first meeting between Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin; he recently shuttled between German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Berlin and Putin in Moscow.

Then he went to Ukraine, where a recent flare-up threatened to re-ignite hostilities between Russian-backed rebels and government troops.

Although Slovenia is a European Union member and supports the bloc's sanctions against the Kremlin for its role in Ukraine, it has maintained traditional ethnic ties to Russia. That puts Pahor in an almost unique mediating position between the East and the West.



Image: Alexander Zemlianichenko



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