



The power to do more

BYTES

The Daily Star

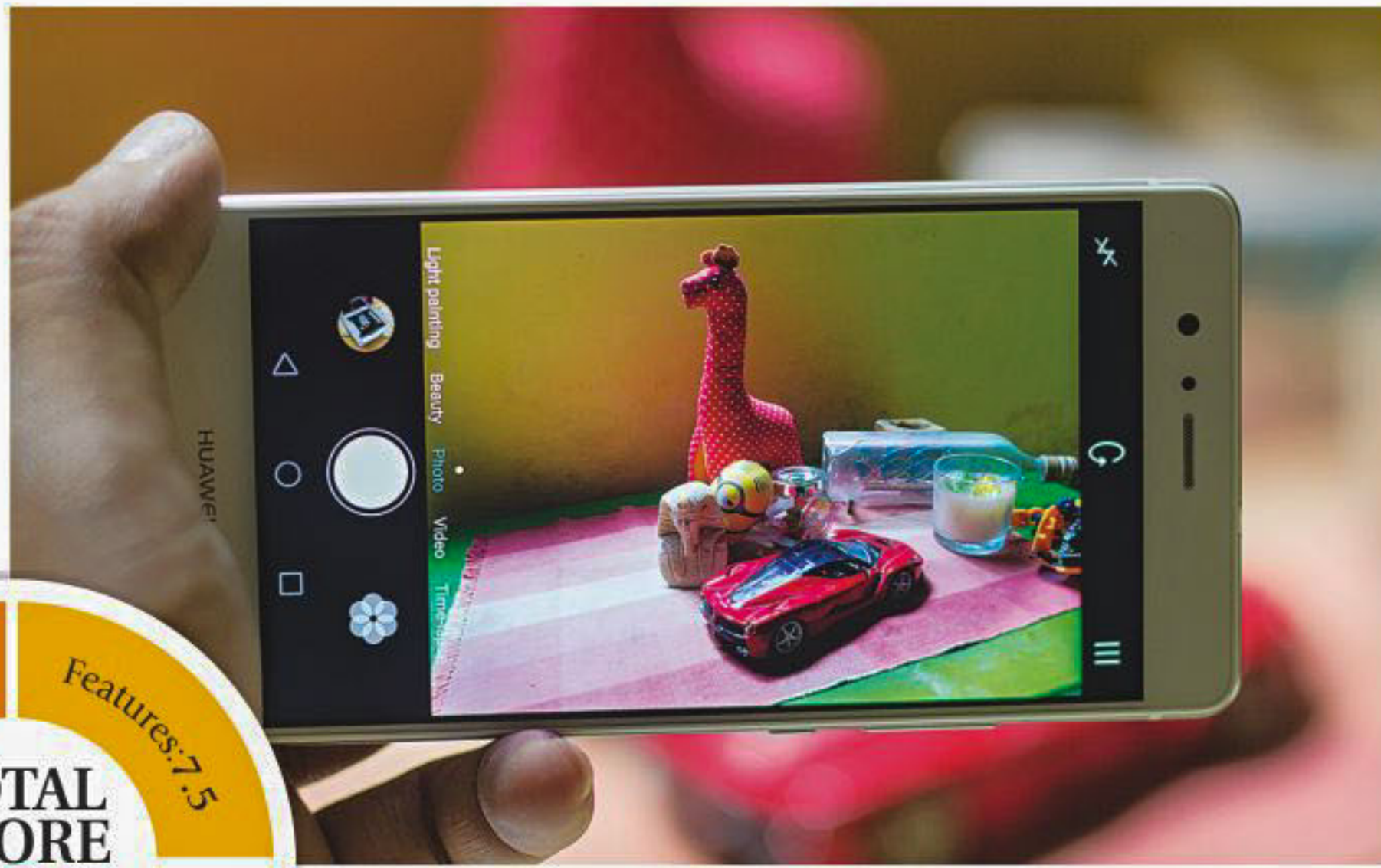
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HANDS ON REVIEW HUAWEI P9 LITE

First impressions: Adding the word Lite often indicates a flagship having put through a severe diet. And as extreme diets go, the figure that comes out may be unrecognisable from the original. In case of phones, that may not be a good thing since you are counting on the original phones specialties to sell the lighter version. How far is the Lite from the stellar P9? Is it a powerful minion or a forgettable sidekick?

Design: There is glass on the front, metal on the sides and a satin-finish polycarbonate back providing the premium tactile feel of Huawei phones as of late. It has a 5.2" LCD screen of 1080p resolution. While the P9 had an IPS-NEO screen this one just has an IPS but colors and viewing angles still remain excellent and good respectively. What IPS-NEO does is ensure no image quality loss even when viewed at extreme angles.

Hardware: Powered by a HiSilicon chipset, the Kirin 650 has eight Cortex-A53 cores. In comparison half the P9s 955 chipset is powered



ered by the more beefy A57. Also, the GPU is a Mali-T830. Our test P9 Lite came with the 3GB RAM option and 16GB internal memory. It also has a 2GB RAM version.

Multitasking and game playing saw no hiccups whatsoever. As usual, I threw a fully loaded grid from Real Racing 3 to see if there is frame rate loss. Nope. None.

Software Running on Android 6.0 Marshmallow skinned with Huawei's Emotion UI v4.1, it offers a bit of familiarity for Apple users with an iOS style menu in the lockscreen that pulls up a shortcut for sound recorder, camera, flashlight and calculator. You don't like iOS then load a launcher.

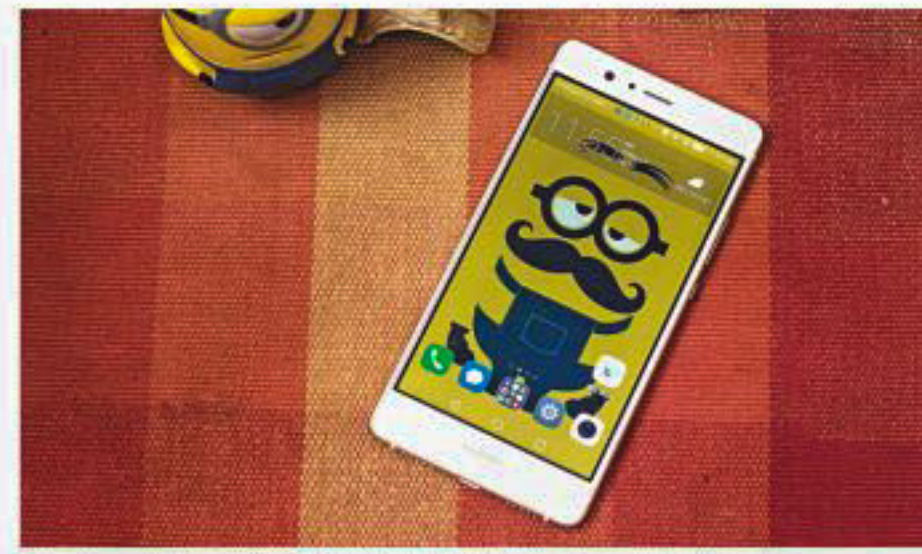
Camera: Here's where the biggest difference comes in. Where the P9 offers two lenses, one capturing only black and white for better dynamic range, the Lite has a single 13MP rear camera and an 8MP front unit. Both have f/2.0 aperture lenses theoretically promising sharp low light photos. In natural light, the photos come out very well. Detail is good with very low noise

and decent albeit slightly saturated color representation.

It's during low-light, indoor shooting that things fall apart a little. Try taking pictures of kids and any movement will be a bit on the blurry side. Turn on HDR mode 0 and things improve especially for still objects like a car parked in a garage.

In low light, noise increases and photos are treated with a softening that leaves sharp details a little muted. Where it shines most is taking panorama photos which result in very high resolution images that are superbly stitched together. The front camera has a neat feature that directs your gaze to a box on the top left corner of the screen so that you appear to be looking properly at the camera while still getting your expression right. Detail is rich but if you zoom in, there is a lot of noise, more than you expect.

Video P9 lite records 1080p videos at 30fps but there is no 1080p @ 60fps like in the flagship. But it does have digital image stabilization and object tracking to capture smoother video of moving objects. The latter feature ensures a moving object stays in focus.



Battery: All that processing power is supported by a 3,000mAh battery averaging 70 hours on a single SIM. It has a very active (occasionally over-bearing) app manager that automatically kills apps that consume too much power. Which throws up a surprise when you come back to load that game you were playing a few hours ago.

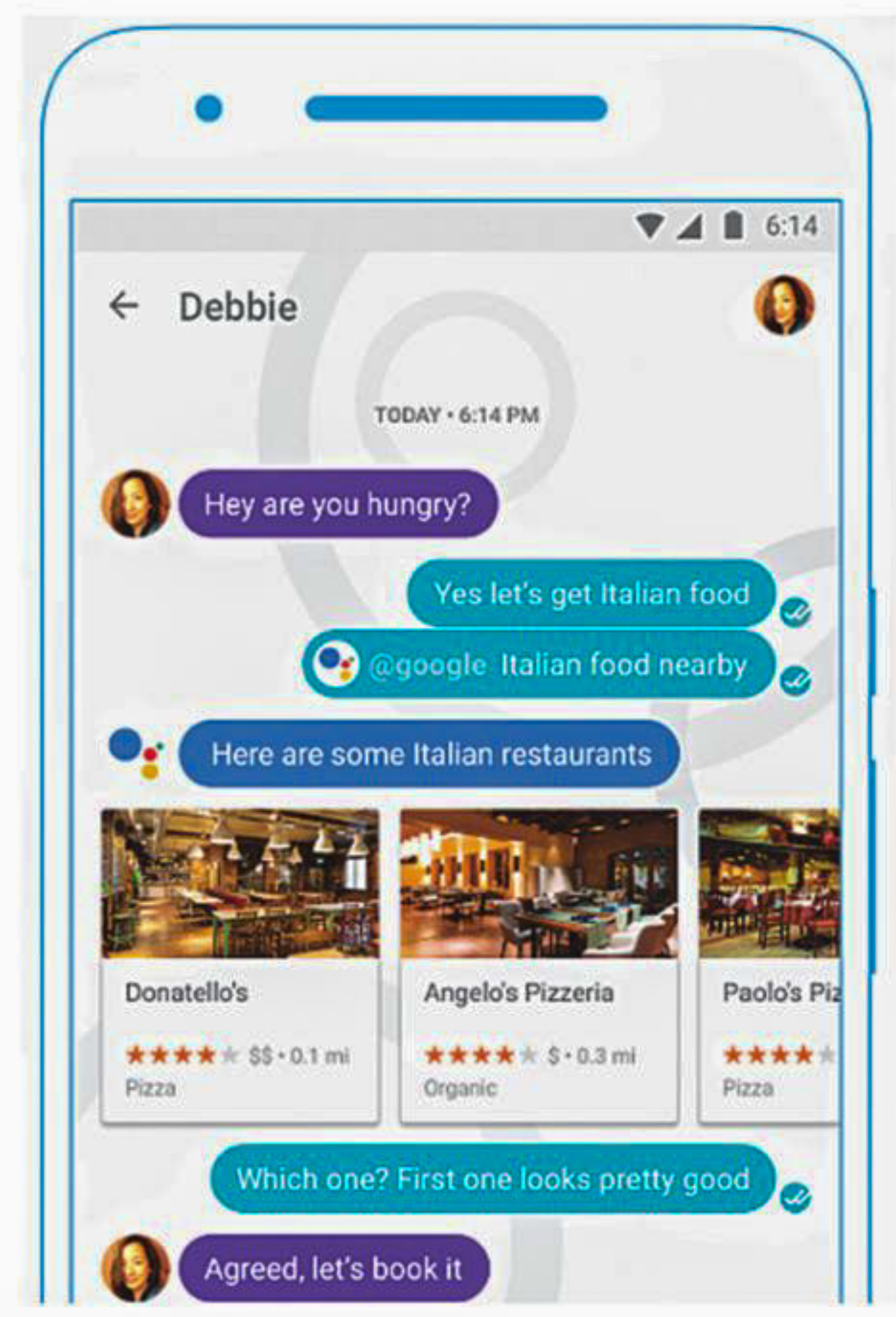
WORDS & PHOTOS: EHSANUR RAZA RONNY

VERDICT: So how far away has the diet taken the Lite from the flagship P9? It's a very quick and responsive device. Case in point is the fingerprint sensor unlocking with the slightest touch. The bottom mounted loudspeaker is, well, loud and it slips comfortably into formal trouser pockets. The camera is quite good but I wish it would be great because the flagship was mainly about the photos; something I feel the diet ate up more than it should have. Aside from that the P9 offers a premium build, excellent display and a terrific battery life making it a very winning mid-ranger. Definitely not just a sidekick.

APPS ON THE FLOOR

Name of App: Google Allo
Developer: Google Inc
Platforms: Android
Installs: 50,000 - 100,000
Genre: Communication
Our Rating: 8/10

With WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, Snapchat, Telegram, Hike, WeChat, Line hogging your data to keep in touch with your loved ones; Google now has a brand new app to chat and get recommendations in real time with the much hyped ALLO. Google did have their 'Hang-out' and 'Google Now' but this is different. Different how? This version of Google Assistant combines search and a sweet touch of AI. The best part is you can call it up middle of a chat, check for recommendations or restaurants or even play games. The part that impressed us most: auto-suggestions for replies. There are some concerns about privacy particularly because this app does not have end-to-end encryption. Plus Google stores these data and file sharing isn't that easy as in Whatsapp or FB.



SPECS
Display: LCD 5.2 inches 1080 x 1920 pixels (~424 ppi)
CPU: Octa-core (4x2.0 GHz Cortex-A53 & 4x1.7 GHz Cortex-A53)
GPU: Mali-T830MP2
OS: Android OS, v6.0
ROM: 16 GB
RAM: 3 GB
Camera: 13MP Rear + 8MP (Front)
Battery: 3000 mAh
Sensors: G-Sensor, Gyroscope sensor, Ambient Light Sensor etc.
Price: Tk. 24,990/-



Forza Horizon 3 – thoughts on demo

Turn 10 studio's seminal work with the Forza series of racing games has been missing from Windows platforms for a while now. Recently, the series saw its first entry to the PC platform with a condensed Forza Motorsport 6 game available on Windows 10.

For now, the game is available as a free download demo on XBOX One. We've played it, and we have to admit, this is probably the best balance of accurate vehicle physics, arcade gameplay and open world dynamics we've ever seen in an open world racing game.

There modification options are much wider than before – along with insane engine swaps, millions of paint and decal combinations and licensed aftermarket products, you get widebody conversions – Liberty Walk, Rocket Bunny, the works – a feature that wasn't there in the last two games. The handling physics are much improved, the cars are not as twitchy as before, and the sense of speed is much better.

The setting is Australia – beautiful vistas, dense jungle, desolate outback and coastlines. The graphics is mind blowing, and should be an awesome experience on PC with 4K graphics. Till the full game comes out this week, we'll be watering at the mouth for some high octane street racing.



No Man's Sky update released

Hello Games, developer of No Man's Sky, has released a patch for No Man's Sky. Update 1.09 fixed a whole bunch of bugs and resolved compatibility issues. Corrupted save games are easier to recover, galaxy generation is much faster and glitch-free, improved frame rates when near massive, detailed objects such as space stations or outposts, fix for un-mineable terrain, and more fixes regarding resource stacking and inventory. The PC version is also better optimised for lower core and AMD processors. Does the new update make No Man's Sky a better prospect? Not really, but it does make it a lot more playable than the initial release.



TECH HAPPENING

UDOY, Bangladesh's first ever mobile assistant

UDOY, Bangladesh's first ever mobile assistant, is coming soon to change how the people of Bangladesh get their daily needs. Everything that you need, a product or any service available in Bangladesh, is now just a chat message away. UDOY is an app powered by an Artificial Intelligence (AI) that responds to queries using Natural Language processing and is supervised by an army of customer service experts who are to ensure that the best suited product/service is delivered to the customer. Whether you'd like to find a plumber for repairs, pay your bills, book a hotel, order some food or shop without the hassle of going out, you can now sit back, relax and get it all done at the comfort of your home. All you need to do is simply send a message on what you want and



UDOY will take care of the rest. There are no limits to what you can do with the app; all your daily needs and wants can be fulfilled from the convenience of your smartphone. UDOY will be available on both Android and iOS platforms for all smartphone users of Bangladesh soon.

Samsung introduces SUHD, SMART TV and MUSIC TVs in Bangladesh market

Samsung Electronics has launched its new 2016 lineup of TV last week. The new lineup of TV features is in three separate categories: SUHD, Smart TV and Music TV. The new line up of TV is launched in the presence of media journalists, top officials of distributors, dealers and other stakeholders in the press conference. Mr. Seungwon Youn, Managing Director, Samsung Electronics Bangladesh, Mr. Young Woo Lee, General Manager, Samsung Electronics Bangladesh Mr. Firoyz

Mohammad, Head of Consumer Electronics and Mohammad Rashedul Islam, TV Manager, Samsung Electronics Bangladesh unveiled the new TV line up 2016 in the event.



Rafsan and Ramim to go to Telenor Youth Forum 2016 at Oslo

The Fourth episode of the Telenor Youth Forum (TYF) in Bangladesh sees Rafsan Sabab Khan and Ramim Ahmed both students of IBA, University of Dhaka selected for the global event in Norway. The Telenor Youth Forum, in partnership with the Nobel Peace Center, offers an opportunity for young people, aged 18 to 28, from 13 countries to step up and present impactful ideas that can alter lives. The theme for this year's TYF is 'Digitalization for Peace'.

Bangladeshi selection round was arranged by Grameenphone with Grand Finale held on September 21, 2016. This year's winning ideas are 'One Young World,' a site encourages the creation of reach out networks for the youth to bridge towards meaningful connectivity and "We are 1" a crowd-funding platform that helps communities across the world connect for a united cause to help disadvantaged or distressed communities in need of support.



BASIS and FITIS to work towards the development of IT in South Asia

Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS) and Federation of Information Technology Industry Sri Lanka (FITIS) will jointly work towards the development of IT industries in South Asian countries. A meeting was held between the two associa-

tions regarding the same on Tuesday in BASIS office. Mustafa Jabbar, BASIS President; Farhana A Rahman, BASIS Vice President, Mustafizur Rahaman Soheli, BASIS Director, Sonia Bashir Kabir, BASIS Director and Wasantha Weerakoon, Chairman, FITIS were present in the meeting.

TECH BITS Facebook miscalculation significantly inflated average video view times for years

Samsung says half of recalled Note 7s in the US have been exchanged – mostly for new Note 7s

Yahoo confirms state-sponsored attacker stole personal data of at least 500 million users

Google launches its Daydream VR development tools out of beta

Apple acquires first iina machine learning startup Tuplejump

