



The power to do more

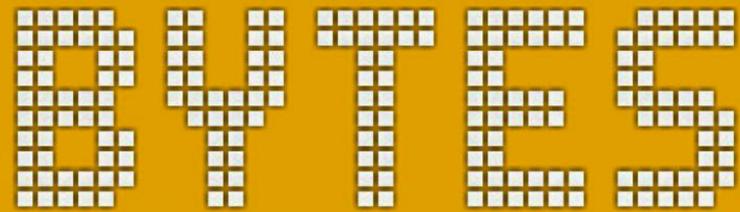
INFORMATION

GADGETS

TECHNOLOGY

The Daily Star

DHAKA, MONDAY, MAY 28, 2018, JAISHTHA 14, 1425 BS  
e-mail: bytes@thedailystar.net



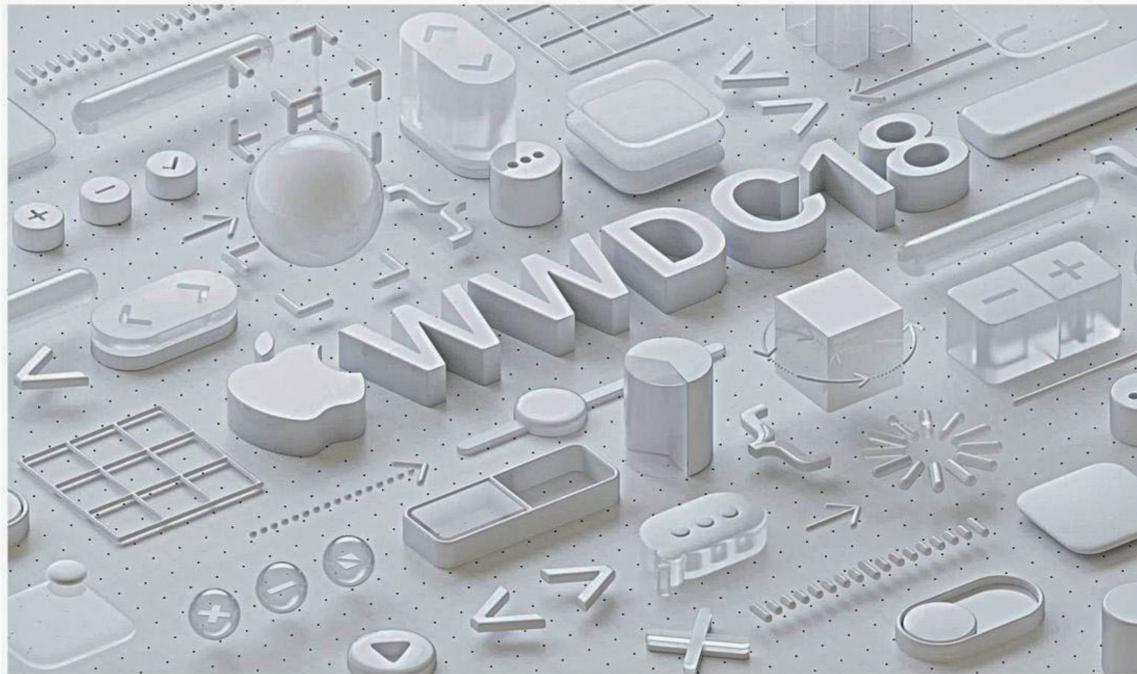
# APPLE WWDC 2018: WHAT'S NEW

One of the biggest events of the year in tech world is Apple's WWDC 2018 event, where Apple reveals brand new products for the consumers and reveals plans, services and softwares to accompany its product line. Here are our predictions for upcoming tech for 2018.

## COMPUTERS:

Computers have been a forte for Apple. The Macbooks and Macs have always been excellent machines for productivity and work. Apple has already confirmed that the Mac Pro isn't coming out anytime soon; at least not until 2019. It's been way too long since companies like Xiaomi has taken the lead in Asian markets, and that's solely because of their commitment towards low-range to ultra-low-range smart devices. Apple understood this long ago, and the iPhone 5C and the iPhone SE are proof of how iPhone is clearly trying to enter other market segments. Not much room is left for improvement now for the iPhones, but the Macbooks still have a long way to go. From unsatisfying butterfly keyboard switches to finicky Touch Bar integration, there is still a lot of ways the Macbook can improve. As an icing on the cake, an eighth generation Intel isn't half bad. Another possibility is an implementation of Ryzen and Vega on their top-tier models, considering how the iMac Pro's gotten a Pro Vega 64 treatment from Apple. Or better yet, an Intel-Vega chipset is also an awesome way to revamp the Macbook Pro.

It seems the world has forgotten about one of the most famous Macbook models; the Macbook Air. This goes hand-in-hand with Apple's recent focus on covering different market segments, and a Macbook Air will surely stir up the market if released this WWDC. Rumours say the new Air has been in development for many years, even being pushed to coincide with 2018's WWDC. Apparently it also has a Retina display, along with sleeker design and a more tolerable price, seeing how Windows competitors offer tremendous value over the 2017 Macbook Air, while costing almost the same. Retail outlets like Best Buy are phasing out Macbooks with a 350\$ discount, it almost



makes sense as if Apple is making room for a refreshed Macbook.

## TABLETS:

It is known to all how Apple thinks it's product line out properly, and prioritises it's premium lineup more than entry level devices. With pencil support and a faster processor, the new entry level iPad seems the obvious choice over it's more premium siblings. And so, this year we expect a massive performance upgrade for the new iPad Pro over last generation's iPad Pro, at least an A11X under the hood. It has been like this since 2017, revealing a smaller tablet device in March, and a premium refresh in June.

The iPads always have some features similar to it's smartphones. One major change we expect in the iPad is the integration of Face

ID. This would also mean the demise of the iconic Home button, as seen on the brand new iPhone X, with or without the existence of the iconic notch.

This may also mean the demise of the almost obsolete iPad Mini, as it received a minor upgrade in 2017. In hindsight, the 9.7 inch iPad costs less, because the iPad Mini only comes in a 128GB version. In contrast, the 9.7 inch iPad has better performance, bigger screen and pencil support. Why would anyone even consider buying the 7.9 inch Mini?

## OPERATING SYSTEM & ECOSYSTEM:

The iOS 11 has been smeared with a lot of bad rap, and Apple must address and fix the plethora of issues that plague the operating system. It's been enough, Apple. Please focus

on your quality control instead of refreshing the design every year. This may push back the yearly refreshes on homescreen redesign, camera enhancements and AR multiplayer gaming. Other efforts supposedly include an expanded library of Animojis, and improvements brought upon the Face ID and it's security.

MacOS needs some security updates as well. Last year, researchers discovered a bug allowing users to log in to any Mac desktop or laptop without a password.

WatchOS and it's compatibility needs expansion as well. Including support for more useful apps and software optimisations and even more watch faces, apparently it's receiving improvements to the Apple Watch's health and fitness functionalities.

## SMARTPHONES:

And we finally talk about the most anticipated devices in Apple's lineup, the iPhones. Rumours suggest the iPhone is apparently receiving three separate versions. The most premium version is said to be a successor to the iPhone X, apparently with a larger 6.5 inch OLED panel. A smaller version might have a 5.8 inch screen, also an OLED panel. The third device supposedly comes with a 6.1 inch LCD panel, a Full Active LCD display to be precise. All three will probably have edge-to-edge display, and will be equipped with the TrueDepth camera system supporting Face ID, seeing the demise of the Home button across all Apple smartphones.

The LCD iPhone apparently might even cut down Force Touch, a loved feature from iPhones of current and previous generation. Pricing will probably start around 700\$, with the most premium going upto 1100\$. The premium models might support dual sim, but it's still a feature yet to be confirmed. Rumours also point towards the JDi LCD display being used in the more affordable version, an mLCD+ display which draws significantly less power providing a better screen. Don't know what we're talking about? Take a look at the LG G7 using the same tech, and let us tell you that the screen gets as bright as the sun, topping out at 1000 nits.

And finally, the people's champ. The iPhone SE. Will it be getting a revamp? Probably not. But leaks and case makers have suggested that the front might receive a notch treatment inside the same body, which may sound too exciting for Apple tastes, but they did surprise us with the X. A11 Fusion chip from the iPhone 8? Sure, that's be a welcome change. A render from a case-maker also suggests the omission of a headphone jack.

That covers basically all the rumours circulating the WWDC of this year. Hopefully Apple will bring surprises to the table, but concentrating on quality should be the main focus of the tech giant in our opinion.

MOHAMMAD ISHTIAQUE

# GDPR: What is it all about?

Lately, many of you are probably getting your inboxes filled from all the anxious companies that once took you email address and kept on sending you irritating promotional offers or newsletters; seeking explicit permission to continue sending marketing material to and collecting personal data from their customers and contacts. This sudden change of heart is due to the implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

So what is GDPR? The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is a regulation in EU law on data protection and privacy for all individuals within the European Union and the European Economic Area. It also addresses the export of personal data outside the EU and EEA. The GDPR aims primarily to give control to citizens and residents over their personal data and to simplify the regulatory environment for international business by unifying the regulation within the EU. In plain words: this new regulation governs not just the collection and storage but its sale and exploitation for marketing. The regulation is so strict that some companies based in the United States have decided to stop trading in the European Union at least temporarily rather than risk



falling foul of the new law.

In the ongoing uphill battle by the member countries of European Union, this regulation is certainly going to

reduce the power of giant internet technology companies and restore a degree of control to citizens and their elected representatives.

So how much will be an internet company be penalised for being loosey goosey about the users data? Well if you misuse, exploit, market without consent or even handle with caution any user data, then you can be slapped with a fine of 20 Million Euros to 4% of the company's global turn-over. Everyone under the jurisdiction of GDPR has the right to see what the internet companies have on them and can request to delete that information. The regulation also states that, internet companies need to actively and willfully take the consent of users than just getting a tick sign on the 'I understand and agree with the terms and condition'. During an occasion of data breach, the companies need to the user and the concerned authority within 72 hours.

# Keeping your portable Wi-Fi hotspots safe

Now a day, it seems, an average user generally places ease and convenience far above than being safe and secure. All we care about is streaming videos or visiting unsecured websites that are malicious in nature despite our ISPs are blocking. Jokes apart, this is the sad reality of techno-sphere these days. Out of all the portable access points that we use, pocket Wi-Fi routers are very much prone to such nefarious attacks though 'backdoor'. Sometimes we mistake hardcoded passwords as a safety measure whereas it is nothing but a way in for hackers.

For starters, most of the portable Wi-Fi routers can send user data (user name, SSID, admin password) in plaintext — all an attacker would have to do is send an SMS message to the portable router and wait for the info to be sent back. Others included LAN port vulnerabilities, easily manipulated settings, and

also the ability to inject malicious, unauthenticated commands. To summarise, these are things that you probably wouldn't want anyone to be snooping around.

Now, the question remains: What can you do to protect yourself?

Do your study before buying a portable Wi-Fi router. This does not mean simply reading going online and read-

ing reviews. That simply that does not help as most buyers, to begin with, aren't techie enough to explain the security issues associated with the portable routers. Rather, go to technology sites and try to understand the underlying technology behind it and then Google for the device and its security flaws.

Check if you can change the default admin password. In some cases you can, in some cases you can't. Before buying portable routers, make sure you are researching whether the password is hardcoded or not.

Lastly, determine your risk level. This will be different for each user: depending on whether you are noob or pro. Having installed an anti-virus too helps in your connected devices. However, if you using simple and unsophisticated password, then you may want to reassess you portable router or modem connection.



## TECH HAPPENING

### Online pre-booking starts for Samsung Galaxy J6



You can pre-book the brand new Galaxy J6 on Pickaboo.com from 22nd May to 30th May 2018. J6 features a 5.6-inch Super AMOLED screen, 13-megapixel camera and 8-megapixel selfie camera, both f/1.9 aperture. Powered by an Exynos 7870 chipset with 1.6GHz octa-core CPU and Mali-T830 MP1 GPU, has 3GB of RAM and will cost BDT 21,900. Delivery begins 1<sup>st</sup> week of June.

### Huawei's First Android Go Smartphone: Huawei Y3 2018

Here is Huawei's first Android Go Smartphone Y3 2018, updated from last year's version. It runs Go version of Android Oreo (8.1). The entry level smartphone features 5-inch display and 8-megapixel camera at the back, 2-megapixel up front. 1.1 GHz Quad-Core Processor, 1 GB of RAM and 8 GB of inbuilt storage puts the price at BDT 8,890 with 1-year warranty, expandable for 1 year more by adding BDT 300 with the original price.



### Shohoz.com emerges with a new logo and branding



Honorable State Minister for Information and Communication Technology, Zunaid Ahmed Palak, launched the new logo of Shohoz. Ms. Maliha M Quadir, Founding Managing Director of Shohoz along with the newly appointed Brand Ambassador Taskin Ahmed, sensational right-hand fast bowler of Bangladesh Cricket team, was also present at the event. The new logo with its wheel signifies speed, progress, trust and equal respect for all.

TECH BITS

The national security implications of Chinese venture capitalists are overblown



Go-Jek officially announces Southeast Asia expansion to fill void left by Uber's exit



Facebook is updating how you can authenticate your account logins



Uber's raising up to \$600M in a secondary round at \$62B valuation, Q1 sales grew to \$2.5B



Google and Coursera launch a new machine learning specialization

