



The Huawei debacle

A week ago, US President Donald Trump announced that US companies will be allowed to work with Chinese tech company Huawei again. And what felt like the most controversial tech story in recent memory ultimately turned into a spat of anti-climactic proportions. But it's not that simple though, is it?

For Huawei, this is nothing short of a great victory. They had been stockpiling on key smartphone components from as early as mid-May and by time the ban had hit, they were already ready with their very own Hongmeng OS. The company was getting ready to change the smartphone game and their unflinching attitude is a great example of how to weather unforeseen storms. And weather it they did as all the company really needed to do was wait until a favourable round of trade talks between the US and China. As of right now, the US has postponed any plans for additional tariffs on Chinese goods in exchange of China buying large quantities of American farm products making it a win-win for both parties. This negates the fear of taxation of video games, consoles and other Chinese tech goods and it's given Americans the control over its precious soybeans.

Huawei are however not in the clear as they are still blacklisted on the Commerce Department's Entities List. Being on the Commerce Department's Entities List makes things unclear for Huawei as it



prevents them from doing business with US companies until an explicit government approval is mandated. And while Trump has already stated that the US will sit to decide on removing Huawei from the list, he has also stated that Huawei remain a security

threat to his country. For Huawei this needs to happen sooner rather than later for it to have any positive short-term implications. Huawei have already reported that the trade ban will leave them \$30 billion below their estimated 2019 revenues. Huawei had also

scaled back productions when the trade ban was first enacted so to pull a complete 180 on its own production plans is going to incur some further losses for the company. And while Huawei had announced that some of their high-end smartphones would be getting Android Q updates, if the company is to remain blacklisted then there would be no way for them to ensure continuing partnership with Google. This could mean that many Huawei devices would not be getting the Android updates. And that ultimately is the main kicker for Huawei.

Huawei, as of still, are not in clear waters but the signs indicate towards a positive outcome for both the company and the owners of its devices. Trump had stated that there will be talks regarding the Huawei matter on July 2, 2019 but no further news has been reported regarding the outcome of the meeting yet.

If everything plays out accordingly then Huawei should be back in the fray in as little as a month's time and we'll forget

about all of this. Before the trade wars and the subsequent ban of the conglomerate, Huawei were expected to outsell Samsung and become the highest selling smartphone brand in the world. But while the ban has definitely pushed Huawei back quite a bit, the company has been able to hold on to its popularity in Asia and Europe. So irrespective of whether the ban is lifted or not, Huawei are going to have to play some major catch up if they want to dominate the smartphone market.

While some of the pressure has been lifted from Huawei, the company is still being considered a security threat in the US. And so perhaps the move to take them off the blacklist is taking as long as it is taking. But the storm that Huawei has had to weather had been birth as a gross ramification of the US-China trade war, so if there is a positive ending to the Huawei debacle then that would be a sign of positive things to come regarding the trade war as a whole.

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First look at iPadOS



Simply put, iPadOS is the best thing to happen to tablets and the iPad since its inception. For the longest time Apple had been using beefed up iOS updates for the iPad and it was holding back the new line up of iPads. The new iPad and iPad Pro have stellar hardware and features but the same cookie cutter software wasn't to most people's liking until now. And along came iPadOS, changing all of that.

The first major change is the new home screen on the iPad. Moving away from the general iPhone layout, the app grid is tighter and aligned to the right of the screen. This will leave users with much more screen estate to view activities, weather, photos and other widgets of your choosing. Simply swiping up from the left of the screen will take you to a list of widgets which you can keep aligned to the left side of your screen.

Another welcome addition would be to multi-tasking features, which have seen some major overhauls. You can use two apps on one window now using Split View, and iPadOS's

drag and drop feature makes jumping between apps easier. Another welcome gesture based feature is Slide Over and it will allow you to slide between open apps while having another one open on one corner of the screen. You can quickly check for new messages or emails and updates with this while you keep watching your YouTube videos.

But the features that really strengthen the iPad as a laptop argument have been possible because of iPadOS,

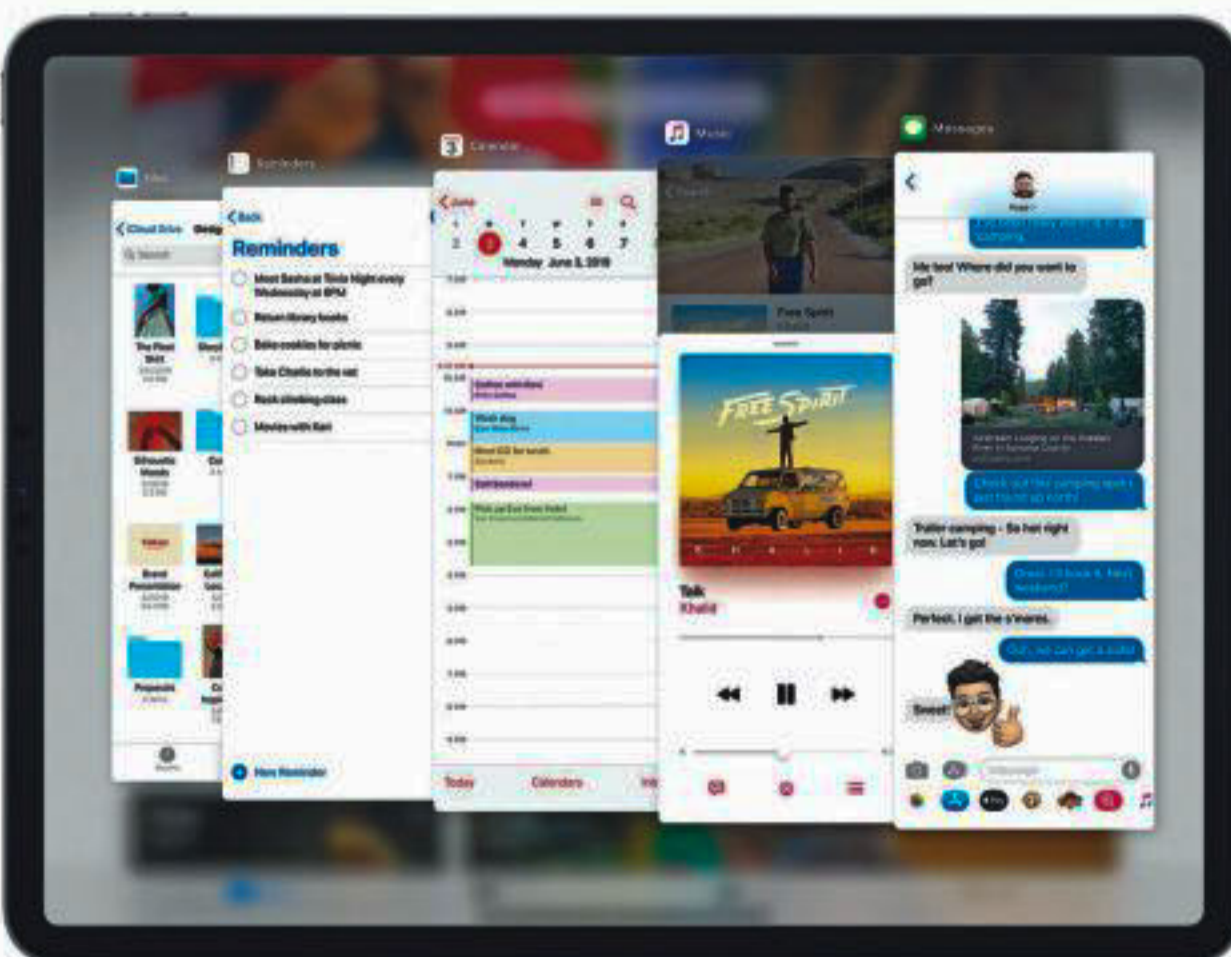
the first of which is USB drive and SD card support. This will finally allow the iPad to access external media without having to connect to a computer like a regular old phone. Using the iPads USB-C port, users can connect external HDDs and other Medias, and view and transfer content from it.

Another great addition to the desktop oriented features is the addition of desktop-quality websites and overall improvements to web browsing on Safari. Safari has been

updated with the iPad experience in mind and it has vastly improved touch based browsing for the tablet. iPadOS also brings new gesture based control for more customisability over the size of your keyboard and for switching over between apps. iPadOS also has an impact on performance as Face ID unlocks are 30% faster while apps load twice as fast as they did on iOS 12.

iPadOS will be officially available on the iPad Pro 12.9 (2018), iPad Pro 12.9 (2017), iPad Pro 12.9

(2015), iPad Pro 11 (2018), iPad Pro 10.5 (2017), iPad Pro 9.7 (2016), iPad Air (2019), iPad Air 2, iPad (2018), iPad (2017), iPad Mini (2019) and the iPad Mini 4. The public beta which released on June 24, 2019, gave users a taste of what's possible on the iPad. But it has helped to solidify the iPad's potential as a standalone desktop PC and laptop. iPadOS will be releasing very soon for the aforementioned range of devices.



What makes Opera browser the best browser

Most people will go through their lives using Google Chrome as their browser without ever batting an eye. But I decided to give Opera a chance and I have been pleasantly surprised with its smooth performance, wealth of features and timely updates. So much so that I am willing to claim that Opera is the best browser currently and here's why.

Firstly, Opera does support all available Chrome extensions and Google account syncing so all ecosystem hiccups can be put to rest. On the performance side of things, Opera uses less battery and less CPU, something which Chrome is notorious for eating through.

Chrome is also infamous for chugging on middling PCs and laptops, something which Opera does not struggle with. Opera not only uses fewer resources which results in better battery and CPU usage but with Opera's Turbo Mode turned on, it will use less bandwidth.

Opera's UI is another big selling factor. The side bar to the left houses a Messenger and Whatsapp icon for quick access to your IMs. Opera's browser

customisation options sit in the top left of the screen, which is where Chrome's usual settings button is located. You can select themes, switch to Dark Mode and even block ads without needing Ad Blocker.

The list of Opera's features go on and on honestly. The left side bar which not only houses your IMs also has a quick search option so you can search Google while you're on a different page, a Speed Dial option for quick access to sites, and a Personal News option for getting your news on the fly.

Opera is a much better experience than using Chrome and with different versions of Opera coming out every so often, the browser will cater to any and all needs.



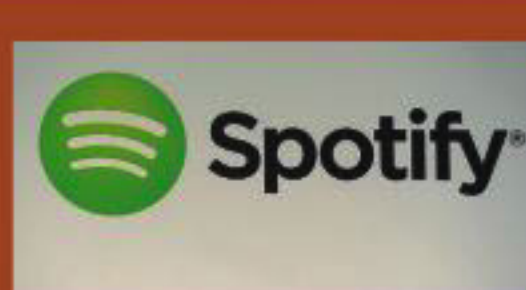
Samsung launched an app store for Bixby



App revenue tops \$39 billion in first half of 2019, up 15% from first half of last year



Spotify will no longer let artists upload music directly



TikTok being investigated in the United Kingdom for how it handles children's data and safety



AMD brings prices down for Radeon 5700 GPUs two days before their release

