

Apple partners up with Google to work on tools to trace coronavirus

Apple and Google announced they are working on a Bluetooth-based contact tracing system for Covid-19, which will allow users to share data through approved apps from health organisations. In a series of documents and white papers, the companies explained the system would use short-range Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) transmissions to establish a voluntary contact-tracing network, keeping extensive data on phones that have been in close proximity with each other.

Users who download the app can report if they've been diagnosed with Covid-19, allowing the system to alert other users whether they were in close contact with an infected person. To preserve privacy, the system will broadcast an anonymous key rather than a static identity, and those keys



cycle every 15 minutes. Once a person shares that they've been infected, the app will only share keys from the specific period in which they were contagious. Apple and Google plan to introduce a pair of iOS and Android APIs in mid-May and make sure the health authorities' apps can implement

them. During this phase, users will still have to download an app to participate. But in the months after it is complete, the companies will work on building tracing functionality into the underlying operating system, as an available option to everyone with an iOS or Android phone.



Apple's new iOS might let user test apps without installing them

According to code reviewed by the website 9to5Mac, Apple's new iOS 14 may let users try out parts of third-party iOS apps without installing.

The functionality is reportedly part of a new API referred to in iOS 14 as "Clips", and will function through QR code. When a user scans a QR code, a card will apparently appear that lets them interact with the parts of an app. The card may also allow users to download a full version of the app from the App Store or, if they already have the app the QR code is previewing.

This new feature is somewhat similar to the Slices feature on Android, which surfaces parts of an app in search results and loads a tiny version of an app when you tap on a link. However, the reviewed code only mentions integration with QR codes, so it's unclear if Apple plans to integrate the new feature with other parts of iOS.

New concept cars this week

With its sleek profile, pixel lamp lights and dual joystick control surface, the Hyundai Prophecy Concept is a beautiful throwback to the golden era of cool-yet-somewhat-impractical concept cars.



Although Polestar Precept Concept is less crazy than the Prophecy, it shares its suicide doors and the interior is outfitted with recycled bio-materials that are 50% lighter than normal plastic.



Xiaomi stands with Bangladesh in the fight against COVID-19

Xiaomi distributes masks, food and donates in the Prime Minister's Relief Fund

Xiaomi Bangladesh has pledged to donate 4 million BDT to the Government of Bangladesh to combat the corona outbreak. As a part of the promise, Xiaomi is donating 2 million BDT to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. The brand is also helping in distributing masks to the hospitals and food to the helpless people.

The partners of Xiaomi have also extended their help in the process. Officials from Xiaomi Bangladesh told the press, "In these unusual hours, it is extremely important to stay in lockdown and maintain self-isolation to keep yourself and others safe. At the advent

of such a crisis, it is also essential that we remain united. We from Xiaomi Bangladesh are trying our level best and provided aids to combat this emergency. Everyone needs to be united for the sake of everyone's safety. Our combined effort and hospitality are crucial to stop this global crisis"

Xiaomi expects everyone to stay positive and consider these tough times the best time to learn and proceed in life. They welcome everyone to come forward to help and express their gratitude to the superheroes who are staying outdoors to keep us safe.

EDITOR'S NOTE

EXTENDED SHUTDOWN BUT THE WORK MUST GO ON

We've finally taken some good steps. Government has imposed even stricter restrictions to curb community transmission of the virus. The police and military are making the rounds to ensure people stay in. Curfew after 6PM has been imposed. Some community leaders have resorted to low tech methods of using a stick to disperse loitering groups of people. Sometimes, low tech is the only tech people respect.

While we stay put, we really don't stay put. The work must go on for many. This week we have stories on how tech firms are growing because we are staying home, needing their services either to get things done. And for parents, we have excellent apps to keep the little ones busy. It does not need to be a stick for everyone.

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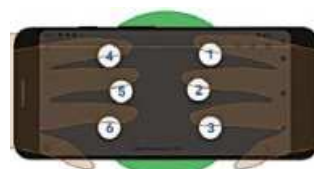
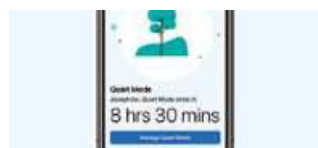
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Google began highlighting virtual care options in Search and Maps

Facebook's new 'Quiet Mode' lets users turn off the app's push notifications



Android receives a built-in Braille keyboard

TikTok pledges \$250 million in COVID-19 relief efforts



3D-printed 'bionic corals' mimic a reef's powers of photosynthesis