

Microsoft launches their new 'employee experience platform,' Viva

Microsoft has rolled out Viva, their take on the intranet sites meant for internal communication among company employees.

Powered by Microsoft 365, Viva offers access to internal communications built on integrations with SharePoint, Yammer, and other Microsoft tools. In addition, the platform offers team analytics and integration with LinkedIn Learning and other training content providers, as well as what Microsoft calls Viva Topics for knowledge sharing within a company.

Traditionally, most existing intranet systems are largely ignored by employees because of their sub-par quality and performance. However, Microsoft argues that times are changing, as remote work is here to stay. Even if a small percentage of a company's workforce remains remote or opts for a hybrid approach, they will need to have access to the right tools and feel like they are part of the company.

"We have participated in the largest at-scale remote work experiment the world has seen and it has had a dramatic impact on the employee experience," said Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella in a pre-recorded video. "As the world recovers, there is no going back. Flexibility in when, where, and how we work will be key."

Google to offer vital health measurements through smartphone's camera

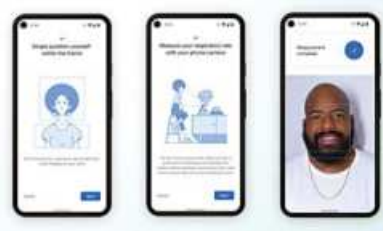
From next month, Google will introduce features that will allow users to take heart and respiratory rate measurements using their device's camera.

The feature will be available via the Google Fit app, initially on Google Pixel phones exclusively. The company plans to later expand the features to different Android devices running Android 6 or higher.

Previously, taking these measurements required specialized hardware. However, Google's Health unit —led by Director of Health Technologies Shwetak Patel— have managed to develop computer vision-based methods that it claims can produce results comparable to clinical-grade measurement hardware.

For respiratory rate, the technology relies on a technique known as "optical flow," which monitors movements in a person's chest as they breathe and uses that to determine their breathing rate. Clinical validation data indicates the method is accurate to within 1 breath per minute across all participants.

As for heart rate, the company is initially using the camera to detect "subtle color changes" in a user's fingertip, which provides an indicator about when oxygenated blood flows



from their heart through to the rest of their body. Validation data have shown accuracy within a 2% margin of error, on average.

In a press briefing, Patel said "My team has been working on ways that we can unlock the potential of everyday smart devices. This would include smart devices in the home, or a mobile phone, and how we leverage the sensors that are starting to become more and more ubiquitous within those devices, to support health and wellness."

"I really think that's going to be a really important area moving forward given that if you think about health care, the journey just doesn't end at the hospital, the four walls of the hospital," he added. "It's really this continuous journey, as you're living your daily life, and being able to give you feedback and be able to measure your general wellness is an important thing."

New bike this week The 'busa has evolved

When Suzuki released the teaser for the new Hayabusa (Means "Peregrine falcon" in Japanese), fans of the supersport were excited, to say the least. Well, the wait is over and the Japanese motorcycle giant has pulled over the cover to reveal the new 2022 Suzuki Hayabusa. The outer shell of the body has been modernised and made sleeker, with the company claiming it now offers "one of the best drag coefficients achieved by any motorcycle". Under the shell, the twin-spar aluminum frame lost 1.5-pounds, giving the bike a 50:50 weight distribution.

Disappointingly, the 1,340cc DOHC inline-four produces 188 Hp and 111 lb-ft of torque, which is a downgrade from the previous generations 194Hp and 114lb-ft of torque. On the other



hand, the 0-100 has dropped from 3.4 to 3.2 seconds, and the six-speed transmission is now equipped with a bi-directional quick shifter and a slipper and assist clutch.

As for tech, the new bike comes standard with the Suzuki Intelligent Ride System suite. Which includes stuff like ride-by-wire throttle, Suzuki's advanced Drive Mode Selector Alpha with three presets, 10-mode motion track control system, anti-lift control system, engine brake control, active



speed limiter, launch control, low RPM assist, cruise control, as well as slope and hill control. All of which can be managed through a new TFT LCD gauge screen.

The price of the motorcycle is set at \$18,599, or about what you would pay to get your hand on a JDM Corolla. Granted, the price is a moot point since that 1.3-liter motor means it is not coming to our country unless the governments decide to do away with the displacement limit.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Virtual history trips, hot hatch, and a disappointing phone

Are you a history nut that happens to love technology? Check out our feature about how Lost Panorama plans to combine both by offering virtual heritage walks showcasing the lost parts of Dhaka's history. For petrolheads, we have a proper hot hatch in the shape of a Toyota RunX T with a 2ZZ-GE heart. And if you're looking to downgrade your new phone, we have a review of the rather substandard Symphony Z30.

All these and many more, in this week's Toggle issue

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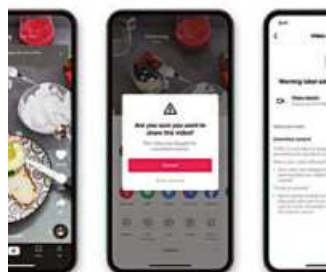
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