

Google rolls out important updates for Pixel 6

On 14 January, Google released a critical update for Pixel 6 and Pixel 6 Pro. Included in the January 2022 patch, this update includes fixes to the camera, the fingerprint sensor, newly added support for the 23W wireless charging Pixel Stand, and as always, bug fixes.

According to media outlets, because of the update, Google Pixel 6 Pro users can now use digital car key functions for compatible BMWs, thanks to the ultra-wideband chip embedded in Pixel 6 Pro. Additionally, the new Quick Tap to Snap feature will integrate Google and Snapchat together for better social connectivity. For both Pixel 6 and Pro users, the update will include support for the Pixel Buds A-Series, adding new bass controls.

Google initially announced these new tweaks for the December patch but delayed the release after users reported several problems with the new updates, including connectivity problems and issues installing the patch. The new updates are expected to be available by this week, so it's too soon to tell if these updates will receive similar backlash.



Apple might launch its new affordable smartphones in April: Here's what we know so far

The latest addition to the iPhone SE lineup, iPhone SE3, has yet to receive any official confirmation, but the rumour mill has been ripe with expectations.

According to leaks, iPhone SE3 has dimensions exactly the same as iPhone SE 2020, measuring

at 138.4 x 67.3 x 7.3 mm. It looks quite similar in design to its previous model as well, featuring the signature stylish look, but the front side shows a bit of a change, looking similar to iPhone XR.

While previous rumours suggested the display size to be 6 inches, the latest leaks state that the screen is slightly under that, measured at 131.3 x 60.2 mm, or 5.69 inches. Previous rumours also suggested that this phone will come equipped with a Hexa Core processor, 3 GB RAM and 64 GB storage, though this information hasn't been contested yet.

The latest leaks further state that the iPhone SE3 will not feature the big forehead,

chin and touch ID buttons as the older models. Similar to iPhone SE 2020, the single-lens camera and the flashlight function will still be on the backside. However, the leaked images show that the Apple logo isn't to be found on the centre-backside, moving slightly towards the top in this upcoming model. The notch is expected to be positioned on the top side as well.

This lightweight phone should prove to be a worthwhile addition to those looking for more affordable iPhone options. iPhone SE3 is expected to be released around April this year, and will likely be priced at about US\$399. However, like most other currently available information regarding the next-generation iPhone SE, nothing is confirmed as of yet.

Netflix increases pricing in the US

From 14 January, Netflix raised prices for all plans in the US. The standard plan increased from US\$14 to \$15.50, 4K plan from US\$18 to US\$20 and the basic non-HD plan from US\$9 to US\$10.

The last time Netflix increased its pricing was around October 2020, where the standard plan increased from US\$13 to US\$14. Before that, in 2019, the price for the same plan went from US\$11 to US\$13.

The increased prices will be applicable to new users as soon as they subscribe to the streaming service. Existing users will receive



this price increase after an email has been sent to them regarding the updated pricing information. This email should be sent at least 30 days before the price change takes effect. According to Netflix, this price increase is to ensure "a wide variety of entertainment options", so existing users can get the most value out of their chosen plans.

Price rises have been reported in Canada, Australia and India as well. It is not currently confirmed if this price increase will happen in Bangladesh as well, but since this price change is reported to be global, local Netflix subscribers should expect the increase in pricing as well.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Man's new best friend

Long gone are the days of carrier pigeons, telegraphs and faxes. Nowadays, if we want to get a job done, we can do so in mere seconds thanks to smart technology existing in the palm of our hands. Smartphones have revolutionized the way we perform professional tasks and has certainly redefined how we view everyday lives. To truly exist as a modern being, perhaps it isn't farfetched to say that you need adequate tech literacy, or risk drowning in the merciless tides of time.

Check out this week's Cover Story to learn the art of mastering man's new best friend, smartphones, for your career-oriented lifestyle. To ensure your devices and accounts remain safe and secure, have a look at our recommended password manager apps on Tech Tips. Jot down some key pointers to optimise your LinkedIn profile, to be found on Next Step. Like always, we focus on some entertainment as well, and our latest recommendations on Netflix comedy stand-ups is sure to put a smile on your face!

Have a great weekend everyone. Please maintain proper protocols so the ongoing pandemic remains under control. Be safe. Until then.

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