

Apple officially discontinuing the iPod after 20 years

Apple is discontinuing the iPod, more than 20 years after the device became the face of portable music, Apple said in a blog post recently.

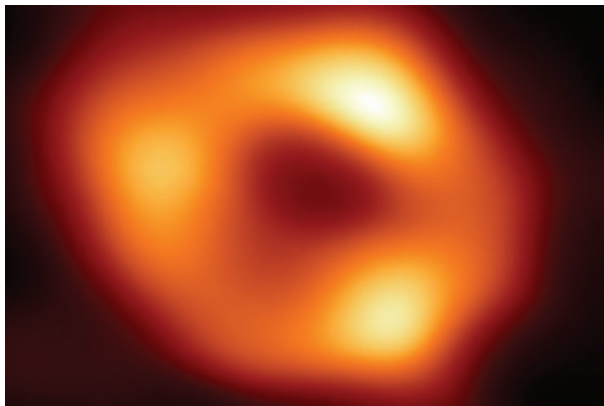
The iPod had kickstarted Apple's meteoric rise into one of the world's biggest companies.

Since its launch in 2001, the iPod took on a storm of competing music players before being eclipsed by smartphones, online music streaming and within the Apple pantheon, by the rise of the iPhone.

The iPod has undergone several iterations since its inception featuring a scroll wheel, the capacity to store 1,000 songs and 10-hour battery life. The version that has been carried to date - the iPod Touch - was launched in 2007, the same year as the iPhone.

Apple stopped reporting iPod sales in 2015.

The iPod Touch, the only version of the portable music player still being sold, will be available till supplies last.



There's black hole at the centre of our galaxy, here's its first image

An international team of astronomers recently unveiled the first image of a cosmic body known as Sagittarius A*, a supermassive black hole at the centre of our own Milky Way galaxy.

The image, produced by a global team of scientists known as the Event Horizon Telescope (EHT) Collaboration, is the first, direct visual confirmation of the presence of this invisible object, and comes three years after the very first image of a black hole from a distant galaxy.

Black holes are regions of space where the pull of gravity is so intense that nothing can escape, including light. The image depicts not the black hole itself because it is completely dark, but the glowing gas that encircles the phenomenon, which is

four million times more massive than our Sun, in a bright ring of bending light.

Sagittarius A*, abbreviated to Sgr A*, which is pronounced "sadge-ay-star", owes its name to its detection in the direction of the constellation Sagittarius. Its existence has been assumed since 1974, with the detection of an unusual radio source at the centre of the galaxy.

In the 1990s, astronomers mapped the orbits of the brightest stars near the centre of the Milky Way, confirming the presence of a supermassive compact object there, work that led to the 2020 Nobel Prize in Physics.

Though the presence of a black hole was thought to be the only

plausible explanation, the new image provides the first direct visual proof. Because it is 27,000 light-years from Earth, it appears the same size in the sky as a donut on the moon.

Capturing images of such a faraway object required linking eight giant radio observatories across the planet to form a single "Earth-sized" virtual telescope called the EHT. These included the Institute for Millimetre Radio Astronomy (IRAM) 30-metre telescope in Spain, the most sensitive single antenna in the EHT network.

The EHT gazed at Sgr A* across multiple nights for many hours in a row, a similar idea to long-exposure photography and the same process used to produce the first image of a black hole, released in 2019.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Don't believe everything you read on the internet

In today's edition of Toggle, we bring you a host of ways in which you should NOT consume fake news. That's right. While content is king, it is essential to verify the real ones from the imposters.

You can find an off-roader's checklist on Shift to get you started on your off-roading experience.

Get a summary of all the officially revealed products and software updates Google announced in its I/O 2022 event on Bytes.

For Spotlight, we feature a Bangladeshi team that made it to the top 5 of the European Robotics League. We also continue our buying guide within a budget, focusing on Tablets this time. Find out more on Tech Tips.

As for the rest, read along to find out.

Godspeed.

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EA breaks up with FIFA, new games will be called EA Sports FC FIFA 23 will be the last of its series

After a nearly 30-years run, Electronic Arts, EA, announced Tuesday that FIFA 23 will be the final title to bear the branding of world football's governing body. EA Sports FC will be the company's flagship football video game starting in July 2023.

"Everything you love about our games will be part of EA SPORTS FC – the same great experiences, modes, leagues, tournaments, clubs and athletes will be there. Ultimate Team, Career Mode, Pro Clubs and VOLTA Football will all be there. Our unique licensing portfolio of more than 19,000+ players, 700+ teams, 100+ stadiums and 30 leagues that we've continued to invest in for decades will still be there, uniquely in EA SPORTS FC," said Cam Weber, EA Sports' General

Manager, in a statement published on the EA news blog.

Cam Weber said last year that the company was reevaluating its licencing agreement with FIFA, citing the game's massive patchwork of licences from individual soccer leagues and teams, as well as what the FIFA brand added to the product. The same day, EA filed trademarks in the United Kingdom for a game called "EA Sports FC."

Even though the World Cup and other FIFA-controlled events will no longer be included, most of the world's famous clubs and stars will still be playable thanks to separate licencing deals with their teams and leagues.

