

BDO FINANCIAL SERVICES

TECH TRENDS REPORT

FEBRUARY 2021

VODACOM LAUNCHES A GPS TRACKER FOR YOUR VALUABLES

- ▶ Vodacom has announced the release of a GPS tracker called the Curve, a nifty and small device the size of a R5 coin that packs the tracking power of a normal GPS.
- ▶ The device can be placed on any item you'd like to track such as a set of keys, a backpack or dog collar. The locations tracked by the devices can be monitored using a smartphone.
- ▶ This is revolutionary technology that can be used to ensure the safety of loved ones. In a bid to protect children, parents can put this nifty device in their toddlers' bags and monitor their locations.
- ▶ Link: [Vodacom now sells small device that can track keys, bags and dogs. Here's what you will pay \(businessinsider.co.za\)](https://www.businessinsider.co.za)

JACK DORSEY AUCTIONS HIS FIRST TWEET FOR CHARITY

- ▶ Twitter Founder, Jack Dorsey has caused an uproar when he announced that he's putting his very first Tweet up for auction
- ▶ This is unique in that the tweet was put up for auction as a Non-fungible token which can be tracked using blockchain
- ▶ Now standing at \$2.5 M, the bitcoin proceeds will be donated to Give Directly, an African covid-19 relief fund.
- ▶ Link: [Jack Dorsey's first tweet may sell for \\$2.5 million as an NFT, and now the proceeds will go to charity - The Verge](https://www.theverge.com)

JACK DORSEY ACQUIRES MAJOR STAKE TO EXCLUSIVE MUSIC PLATFORM TIDAL

- ▶ Twitter Founder, Jack Dorsey has recently bought a major stake in Jay-Z owned platform Tidal
- ▶ Link : [Jack Dorsey's Square, Inc. is buying a majority stake in Jay-Z's streaming service Tidal - The Verge](https://www.theverge.com)

FACEBOOK ORDERED TO PAY \$650 M SETTLEMENT OVER PRIVACY BREACH

- ▶ A judge presiding over the claims made in Illinois has ordered Facebook to pay over half a million dollars in funds for saving biometric information, which is against the laws in the state of Illinois.
- ▶ [Judge approves \\$650 million Facebook privacy settlement over facial recognition feature - The Verge](https://www.theverge.com)

AMAZON OWNED PLATFORM, TWITCH HAS REMOVED AMAZON'S ANTI-UNION PROPAGANDA ADS

- ▶ Amazon is known for its controversial minimum wage payments to it's users and the general disregard of employee safety.
- ▶ [Twitch, owned by Amazon, pulls Amazon's anti-union ads - The Verge](https://www.theverge.com)

AMAZON BOSS, JEFF BEZOS STEPS DOWN AS CEO

APPLE NOW HAS A FEATURE THAT ALERTS A USER IF THEY'RE BEING TRACKED

- ▶ Link: [Apple's new Find My feature could let you know if you're the one being tracked - The Verge](#)

AMAZON INVEST €1 BILLION TO SET UP SILICON DESIGN CENTRE IN GERMANY

- ▶ Apple said on Wednesday it would establish a European silicon design centre in Munich, Germany, and invest more than EUR 1 billion (roughly Rs. 8,680 crores) over the next three years in expanding its team there and in research and development.
- ▶ The new facility will be home to Apple's growing cellular unit, and Europe's largest R&D site for mobile wireless semiconductors and software, Apple said in a statement, adding that the team would focus on 5G and other wireless technologies.
- ▶ Link: <https://gadgets.ndtv.com/mobiles/news/apple-germany-munich-silicon-design-centre-m1-chip-processor-eur-1-billion-investment-2387888>

INSTAGRAM LITE LAUNCHED BY FACEBOOK IN 170 COUNTRIES WITH LOWER BANDWIDTH

- ▶ Instagram Lite will be available exclusively to Android phones.
- ▶ The app itself requires just 2MB - versus 30MB for Instagram - and runs even on slower 2G networks, allowing customers in parts of India, Africa, Asia, and Latin America with older Internet infrastructure to access the service.
- ▶ Link: <https://gadgets.ndtv.com/apps/news/instagram-lite-launch-facebook-170-countries-low-bandwidth-slow-internet-android-only-2387873>

AMAZON'S SECRET HOME ROBOT VESTA REPORTEDLY IN 'LATE-PROTOTYPE STAGE' OF DEVELOPMENT

- ▶ Amazon appears to have reached the "late-prototype stage" in the creation of its secretive home robot codenamed Vesta, claims a new report from Insider. The device has been under development for around four years and now has more than 800 employees working on it, says the publication. If the robot launches, it will be one of Amazon's biggest and most ambitious new products, in the mold of the Echo, Kindle, and Fire Phone.
- ▶ As with any unannounced device of this scale, there is an abundance of unanswered questions and uncertain details. The basic premise, though, is that Vesta will be an Amazon Echo on wheels: a voice-activated assistant that can navigate your home, respond to your commands, and interface with other smart home devices.
- ▶ Link: <https://www.theverge.com/2021/3/10/22322813/amazon-home-robot-vesta-alexa-project-rumors-specs-report>

JOHN LEGERE BOUGHT AN \$888,888.88 NFT FROM STEVE AOKI

- ▶ The NFT in question is called "hairy." It's a 36 second-long video, featuring music — which Rolling Stone describes as "sound scapes in harmony with digital animations" and I would describe as "if Darude were making music from inside a Game Boy"
- ▶ Link: <https://www.theverge.com/2021/3/9/22322218/john-legere-buys-steve-aoki-nft>

SECURITY STARTUP VERKADA HACK EXPOSES 150,000 SECURITY CAMERAS IN TESLA FACTORIES, JAILS, AND MORE

- ▶ Verkada, a Silicon Valley security startup that provides cloud-based security camera services, has suffered a major security breach. Hackers gained access to over 150,000 of the company's cameras, including cameras in Tesla factories and warehouses, Cloudflare offices, Equinox gyms, hospitals, jails, schools, police stations, and Verkada's own offices, Bloomberg reports.
- ▶ The hack was apparently relatively simple: the group managed to gain "Super Admin"-level access to Verkada's system using a username and password they found publicly on the internet. From there, they were able to access the entire company's network, including root access to the cameras themselves, which, in turn, allowed the group to access the internal networks of some of Verkada's customers.
- ▶ Link: <https://www.theverge.com/2021/3/9/22322122/verkada-hack-150000-security-cameras-tesla-factory-cloud-flare-jails-hospitals>

DEMOCRATS ARE GEARING UP TO FIGHT FOR NET NEUTRALITY

- ▶ A new bill to bring back net neutrality is on its way, supported by one of the open internet's most fervent advocates. At an advocacy event last month, Sen. Ed Markey (D-MA) announced that he would be introducing a measure in the next few "weeks" that would engrave the no throttling, block, or paid fast lanes rules into law.
- ▶ Reached by The Verge on Monday, Markey reaffirmed his commitment to introducing a bill soon. "The coronavirus pandemic has proven that broadband is as essential as electricity and other utilities. We need to restore net neutrality protections to ensure that our internet remains open and free and that consumers can continue to benefit from this critical infrastructure," Markey told The Verge.
- ▶ Link: <https://www.theverge.com/2021/3/9/22321995/net-neutrality-ed-markey-save-the-internet-open-ajit-pai-rosenworcel>

BITCOIN SURGES HIGHER IN FRESH RALLY, NARROWS GAP TO RECORD HIGH

- ▶ Bitcoin has risen about 87 percent this year, broadly outperforming conventional asset classes, partly due to broader acceptance as a form of payment.
- ▶ In recent weeks, companies have taken advantage of bitcoin's strength to raise hundreds of millions of dollars in funding, capitalising on improved market sentiment.
- ▶ Bitcoin bank Silvergate Capital on Tuesday launched a \$300 million (roughly Rs. 2,190 crores) programme to sell shares, less than two months since it raised equity, while business intelligence software company MicroStrategy recently issued notes in order to fund more bitcoin purchases.
- ▶ Link: <https://gadgets.ndtv.com/internet/news/bitcoin-price-rally-record-high-usd-58354-cryptocurrency-boom-payment-mode-2387501>

FOR A CLEAR PERSPECTIVE, PLEASE CONTACT US:

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