

BDO FINANCIAL SERVICES

TECH TRENDS REPORT

APRIL 2021

APPLE'S 'SPRING LOADED' EVENT LEAVES FANS IN AWE

- ▶ Apple has made leaps and bounds of progress since the introduction of the first Macbook.
- ▶ The Tech giant has amassed a large following all over the world, with millions of individuals fully adopting the Apple ecosystem, from the iPhone to iPad to iWatch to the latest MacBook Pro.
- ▶ The Tech Giant's latest event came with some interesting new devices:
- ▶ Apple now introduces Airtags, nifty devices that will help you track your non-smart possessions through your iPhone. All you need to do is clip the tag to your bag and let the tag use its Precision Finding functionality to track your possessions.
- ▶ The powerful M1 chip has opened more opportunities for Apple to expand their offering and making powerful devices, as demonstrated by the new Apple iPad Pro and the revamped, slimmer, iMac
- ▶ [Apple event: All the highs and lows of the 'Spring Loaded' event \(iol.co.za\)](#)
- ▶ [Apple Event: From AirTags to purple iPhones, here's everything announced \(thesouthafrican.com\)](#)

APPLE IN HOT WATER, SET TO APPEAR IN EU ANTI-TRUST TRIAL

- ▶ However not all is smooth sailing. The tech giant was among some of the tech companies that were in the hot seat at 2020's anti-trust trial held by the United States Department of Justice.
- ▶ It seems like the worst is far from over as the EU announces antitrust charges against Apple in relation to its AppStore and ApplePay policies.
- ▶ [Apple will reportedly face EU antitrust charges this week - The Verge](#)
- ▶ [Here's who Apple and Epic are calling to testify in next month's trial - The Verge](#)
- ▶ [EU set to hit Apple with anti-trust charges | News | DW | 27.04.2021](#)
- ▶ [EU to charge Apple with anti-competitive behaviour this week | Financial Times \(ft.com\)](#)

TESLA UNDER SCRUTINY AFTER FATAL CAR CRASH:

- ▶ Tesla, known as the pioneer of self-driving vehicles, has gained popularity over the years with many individuals opting to use their smart vehicles over traditional vehicles.
- ▶ The vehicle's systems have been known to still have some faults while also potentially putting lives in danger if unsupervised.
- ▶ This was the case after a Tesla vehicle crashed and killed two passengers as the result.
- ▶ Investigations are underway to determine the extent of the fault that should be placed on Tesla.
- ▶ [Feds investigating fatal Tesla crash where no one was in the driver seat - The Verge](#)
- ▶ [Two people killed in fiery Tesla crash with no one driving - The Verge](#)

MINNESOTA UNIVERSITY TAKES IT TOO FAR:

- ▶ The university of Minnesota has worked with Linux contributing to the Linux kernel, the open source platform.
- ▶ One recent incident has put the relationship between the university and Linux management in dispute.
- ▶ A student has reportedly submitted patches to the kernel which have had numerous issues, thus posing significant security risks for the platform.
- ▶ The student's actions were justified as a form of WhiteHat work, to expose the kernel's vulnerabilities. Experts have however disagreed with this notion and have dismissed all the claims, calling the experiments Unethical.
- ▶ [University of Minnesota banned from contributing to Linux kernel - The Verge](#)
- ▶ [Linux Foundation Bans University After It Intentionally Submitted Buggy Patches | Tom's Hardware \(tomshardware.com\)](#)
- ▶ [Linus Torvalds Responds to Linux Banning University of Minnesota | Tom's Hardware \(tomshardware.com\)](#)
- ▶ [Minnesota University Apologizes for Contributing Malicious Code to the Linux Project \(thehackernews.com\)](#)

TIKTOK TO LAUNCH A TRANSPARENCY CENTRE:

- ▶ TikTok has provided the opportunity for ordinary individuals to share their stories and content to a wide audience around the world.
- ▶ The notable functionality "For You" page shows a user randomized content that they might like.
- ▶ Unfortunately, there has been some content that landed on the "For You page", that should not even have been uploaded to begin with. The details of this tragic video will not be shared here given the nature of the content.
- ▶ Another instance of a lack of regulation in TikTok can be exhibited by the TikTok that made the rounds a few weeks before, where a TikTok Page that used the Stellenbosch University name shared discriminatory content that aimed to incite hate and misplaced rage.
- ▶ TikTok's move to have a transparency center that will have experts moderating and monitoring online content, will help mitigate issues, such as the ones noted above.
- ▶ [TikTok to open a 'Transparency' Center in Europe to take content and security questions | TechCrunch](#)

GOOGLE TAKES A STAND FOR FORMERLY INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS

- ▶ Google is no stranger to striving for accessible education for individuals from different backgrounds.
- ▶ Over the years, Google has taken great strides to provide training courses and certifications for ordinary individuals wanting to improve their skills at affordable prices, sometimes with free access.
- ▶ Google has announced the launch of the "Grow with Google Readiness for Reentry", which aims to offer job readiness and digital training for the formerly incarcerated.
- ▶ There is a great need for better rehabilitation efforts to avoid repeat offences that are often due to poverty and unemployment. This is one step towards decreasing the re-incarceration rate.
- ▶ [Google announces career and digital training initiative for formerly incarcerated individuals | TechCrunch](#)

SPACE-X LAUNCHES SATELLITES

- ▶ Tesla has taken the meaning of “Taking up space” to a new level.
- ▶ It was not long ago that Tesla released the PowerWall, an innovative solution to storing and providing energy in a sustainable manner. This solution uses solar energy, thus making the energy generated more affordable in comparison to fossil fuel energy.
- ▶ Seeing the increased need for internet access, especially in remote areas, Tesla initiated the Starlink project which aims to bring satellite internet services to those areas that cannot access fibre connectivity.
- ▶ Some African countries, including South Africa, should expect to be able to access Starlink’s internet service in 2022.
- ▶ [SpaceX launches 60 more Starlink satellites | TechCrunch](#)
- ▶ [Elon Musk’s Starlink will be in SA in 2022 – here’s how it will work \(businessinsider.co.za\)](#)

CHILDREN TO BECOME MORE FINANCIALLY EDUCATED:

- ▶ Many parents have adopted a reward system where younger children are encouraged to help around with small chores, in exchange for a cash reward.
- ▶ This is in an effort to help children understand finances better and also learn real life lessons.
- ▶ Greenlight has taken this a step further raising funding to provide a kid-friendly bank account that will help facilitate chore payments, depositing allowances and overall allowing children to get more comfortable taking responsibility for their small finances.
- ▶ The innovative company has recently been valued at \$2.3B.
- ▶ [Kids-focused fintech Greenlight raises \\$260M in a16z-led Series D, nearly doubles valuation to \\$2.3B | TechCrunch](#)

NEW VOTING MACHINES WILL BE USED FOR S.A 2021 ELECTIONS

- ▶ South Africa’s 2019 elections have been stained by instances of double voters, where individuals dubiously cast their votes at two different stations.
- ▶ In a bid to mitigate this for the next elections, the IEC will be introducing new voting management devices for the municipal elections.
- ▶ In addition to the technology, there will be a public reporting app for social media disinformation.
- ▶ New voting technology will hopefully lead to better voting transparency.
- ▶ [South Africa to get new voting machines for 2021 elections \(businesstech.co.za\)](#)

STARTUP INTRODUCES A NEW WORK-ABROAD POLICY FOR ITS STAFF

- ▶ The Covid-19 pandemic has forced a lot of corporations to think outside the box to keep operations going without putting staff members at risk.
- ▶ Many people have had to downsize and even move around to make ends meet while being closer to loved ones.
- ▶ Europe startup, Revolut has launched a new initiative that will allow its employees to work overseas for a maximum of 2 months per year.
- ▶ What is even better? Employees can go overseas for personal or business reasons, all up to their discretion. Employees can take advantage of this opportunity as soon as travel restrictions are eased.
- ▶ [This startup will allow staff to work overseas for two months per year \(businesstech.co.za\)](#)

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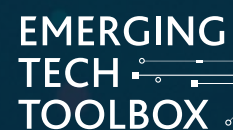
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