

Android smartphones to get 'kill switch'

Google and Microsoft have both revealed that they will integrate a 'kill switch' into the next versions of their smartphone operating systems, allowing customers to disable their devices if they are lost or stolen.

Google told Bloomberg that it will add a "factory reset protection solution" to its next version of Android

Meanwhile, Microsoft's vice president for US government affairs, Fred Humphries, said that the company would be adding new anti-theft capabilities to its Find My Phone feature in Windows Phone before July 2015.

"With these additional features, we're hopeful that technology – as part of a broader strategy – can help to further reduce incentives for criminals to steal smartphones in the first place,"



related robberies drop. New York attorney general Eric Schneiderman said the statistics illustrate the "stunning effectiveness of kill switches", and has called for other smartphone companies to add theft-deterrence features to their devices.

Humphries said in a blog post.

The news comes after Apple introduced 'activation lock' and 'delete phone' to its Find My iPhone app in September 2013.

As a result, robberies involving the company's products reportedly decreased by 19 per cent in New York in the first five months of this year. San Francisco and London have also seen Apple-



ACHIEVERS OF YEAR

USN	NAME	SEMESTER	EVENTS	PLACE	PRIZE
1NH12CS120	Stuti Garg	V	Debate	TJIT,Bangalore	I
1NH12CS063	Megha H Hosur	V	Tech Quiz	GNEC, Secunderabad	II
1NH11CS063	Naren G R	V	Quiz	MVJCE,Bangalore	II



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P1 / MOBILE COLLABORATION

The app synchronized his contributions with everyone else's

P2 / NANOSTRUCTURED CARBON COMPOSITES

New techniques to nanostructure carbon fibres for novel composites

P3 / SCREENLESS DISPLAY

Holographic colour video display with the resolution of a standard TV.

P4 / THE REAL 4G

Such breakthroughs could give networks some 30 times as much capacity as LTE-Advanced.

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ACE / Q2 / DEC 2014



One afternoon last fall, David Levine took the subway from his office in lower Manhattan to a meeting at Rockefeller Center in midtown. The 35-year-old CIO of the startup investment firm Artivist was working on a blog post with colleagues and with freelancers in Boston and Crete.

Levine used a new app called Quip to type the post on his iPhone, his wireless connection waxing and waning as the F train clattered through the tunnels. Quip let the team make changes, add comments,

and chat via text, all presented in a Facebook-style news feed. Whenever Levine's connection returned, the app synchronized his contributions with everyone else's, so they all were working on the same version.

“

and by the time I got out of the meeting, it was on the website.

”

Had they been working with a traditional word-processing program, the process would probably have been a drawn-out round-robin of e-mail messages, proliferating attachments, and manual collation of disparate contributions.

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Mobile Technology

>> CONT. FROM PAGE ONE

Instead, “by the time I got out of the subway, the post was done,” Levine recalls, “and by the time I got out of the meeting, it was on the website.”

It has taken a while for the software that helps people get work done to catch up with the fact that many people are increasingly working on tablets and phones. Now new apps are making it easier to create and edit documents on the go. Meanwhile, cloud-based file storage services, including Box, Dropbox, Google Drive, and Microsoft’s -OneDrive—which have plunged in cost and soared in usage—help keep the results in sync even as multiple users work on the same file simultaneously. Some cloud services do this by separating what look to users like unified files into separate entries—paragraphs, words, even individual characters—in easily manipulated databases. That lets them smoothly track and merge changes made by different people at different times.

But the most interesting new mobile



“ Most younger people rely on short-form mobile messaging and use e-mail only for more formal communications ”

collaboration services don’t just replicate the software we’re accustomed to using on desktop computers. They also highlight an aspect of group work that received scant attention in the days when coworkers gathered together in offices: the communication that is part and parcel of collaboration. That back-and-forth can have as much value as the content itself. It can keep the team on track, inform participants who

join the process late, and spark new ideas.

Most younger people rely on short-form mobile messaging and use e-mail only for more formal communications



Nanostructured Carbon Composites

Emissions from the world’s rapidly-growing fleet of vehicles are an environmental concern, and raising the operating efficiency of transport is a promising way to reduce its overall impact. New techniques to nanostructure carbon fibres for novel composites are showing the potential in vehicle manufacture to reduce the weight of cars by 10% or more. Lighter cars need less fuel to operate, increasing the efficiency of moving people and goods and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

However, efficiency is only one concern – another of equal importance is improving passenger safety. To increase the strength and toughness of new composites, the interface between carbon fibres and the surrounding polymer matrix is engineered at the nanoscale to improve anchoring – using carbon nanotubes, for example. In the event of an accident, these surfaces are designed to absorb impact without tearing, distributing the force and protecting passengers inside the vehicle.

A third challenge, which may now be closer to a solution, is that of recycling carbon fibre composites – something which has held back the widespread deployment of the technology. New techniques involve engineering cleavable “release points” into the material at the interface between the polymer and the fibre so that the bonds can be broken in a controlled fashion and the components that make up the composite can be recovered separately and reused.



ITECH UPDATE

GOOGLE STREET VIEW GOES BACK IN TIME
A new feature on Google Street View lets you turn back time. This digital time capsule feature, announced this week, is only available on the desktop version of Google Maps at the moment and lets you browse through Google’s huge Street View photo collection from as far back as 2007. Google told reporters for Techcrunch that the new feature is meant to be part of the company’s effort to “create a digital mirror and true record of the world.”



Screenless Display

One of the more frustrating aspects of modern communications technology is that, as devices have miniaturized, they have become more difficult to interact with – no one would type out a novel on a smartphone, for example. The lack of space on screen-based displays provides a clear opportunity for screenless displays to fill the gap. Full-sized keyboards can already be projected onto a surface for users to interact with, without concern over whether it will fit into their pocket. Perhaps evoking memories of the early Star Wars films, holographic images can now be generated in three dimensions: in 2013,

MIT’s Media Lab reported a prototype inexpensive holographic colour video display with the resolution of a standard TV.

Screenless display may also be achieved by projecting images directly onto a person’s retina, not only avoiding the need for weighty hardware, but also promising to safeguard privacy by allowing people to interact with computers without others sharing the same view.

MICROSOFT SHOWCASES APPLE CAR PLAY RIVAL

With Apple’s Car Play making waves around the world, Microsoft is ready to rival it with “Windows in the car”. Currently, in its prototype stage, the Microsoft’s dashboard system lets you access maps, make telephone calls, send messages, listen to music and even view the vehicle’s diagnostic information.