

TOP STORIES #47

We are back to a more measured pace on the news front, but news the news does not stop when it comes to AI, but it is essential to try and separate the hype from what is actually meaningful, which I'll continue to do.

On the hardware front the news about the leaps in performance that we will see will be nothing short of mindblowing. It now makes sense that the Microsoft minimum spec. of 40 TOPS for AI performance looked a little high, given what we can buy from AMD and Intel Today. On the news front for Technology Shows, we have [ISE](#) (starting Tuesday) and [NAMM](#) (Open now). A really big show will be the [Mobile World Congress](#) at the end of February. We have representatives attending these shows so we will have quite a bit of news!

Hardware

Intel to deliver a 5X increase in AI compute performance in 2 years

This makes a mockery of the traditional Moores Law, but of course this is AI compute which is a bit different. What it does mean is that our computers will be capable of doing mind-blowing things compared with what they can do on the current generations (noting that actually there is very little that uses these NPU's just yet). It also makes sense that the "TOPS" specification announced by Microsoft appeared quite high - well clearly, it's not.

Still, Intel insists that Panther Lake for 2025/6 is on track.

This means whatever notebook you buy today. you will REALLY want to be replacing it in less than three time!

Read [more about this here](#).

Some notebooks to expect for 2024

In addition to the [ASUS Dual screen laptop](#) released at CES, [here are some more laptops to expect for 2024](#). This list will keep getting bigger as manufacturers get close to being able to ship in volume. Of course for corporate buyers, the DELL XPS series is really worth paying some attention to. Of course, the Lenovo Windows/Android hybrid looks really interesting!

Microsoft

Windows Server 2025 Insider Build released

It has a name, but not a release date - and will still be able to be purchased as a perpetual license, which probably speaks to a huge on-premise base that just won't migrate, albeit having a subscription option as well. You can [read more here](#), and [here is a summary of the features you can expect](#).

Voice Clarity and USB 4 80Gig coming to Windows 11

Microsoft has released a preview of Windows 11 that brings some big features to existing PCs without requiring an NPU. [Read more here](#).

Windows 12 or Windows 11 24H2?

The rumour mill is still grinding away furiously every week, but right now, publications are leaning towards Microsoft sticking with Windows 11 to maintain the 5-year mainstream support cadence. Given the new announcements from Intel about Panther Lake and the massive increases in performance, we may just see Windows 12 as another upgrade in October 2025 on top of [Windows 11 24H2 which is already looking like a major upgrade](#). Then again Microsoft is also rumoured to be moving to a 3-year cadence - so there is a lot we don't know...

Cloud & AI

New AI features for Chrome

Google has released some useful features for Chrome which you can read [more about here](#).

Even Easier to create DeepFakes

There is [now a new method to create a deepfake of somebody with just one image](#). This is going to cause drama in ways we cannot predict. Seems like seeing is NOT believing is going to be something we are going to have to get used to!

Oracle launches AI tools

Oracle cannot afford to be left behind, and has launched it's own set of AI tools, [which you can read more about here](#).

Security

MFA is not bullet-proof, but not having it can hurt!

This is a hard lesson learnt by Microsoft that we should take note of. EVERYTHING needs MFA, and not having it could lead to devastating consequences. [Read more about what happened to Microsoft here](#) and it turns out that **not only Microsoft was attacked**.

AI Will increase Ransomware

It reminds me about a cartoon I once read in the Sunday paper many years ago before the internet - **Spy vs. Spy** - This is a never-ending cycle of bad guy betting the good guy that beats the bad guy - and so on.....It is now getting really interesting (not in a good way) where AI is starting to amplify this cycle. We must be paying more attention to our security than ever before as AI will help threat actors trick you into accepting things you would not normally do. [Read the report here](#). The human element is increasingly the weakest link.

What's up at FTG

With the ability to now buy one CoPilot license at a time, getting ready for CoPilot is very important, as utilising AI in your business will become increasingly relevant - especially when the AI can use your own data to support you.

BUI is offering an **M365 CoPilot Readiness Workshop** to help you get ready. You can [register here](#).

Movies

Again a fairly lean release slate, but Argylle looks refreshingly interesting,

Now Playing: [All of us Strangers](#)

Now Playing: [Beautiful Wedding](#)

Now Playing: [Color Purple](#)

Now Playing: [The Beekeeper](#)

2 Feb: [Dogs at the Opera](#)

2 Feb: [Argylle](#)

2 Feb: [Zone of Interest](#)

First Technology | Midrand, Johannesburg, GAUTENG 2191 South Africa

[Unsubscribe barry@barry.co.za](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by barry@firsttech.co.za powered by



Try email marketing for free today!