

TOP STORIES #42

In the spirit of what has transpired in 2023, here is my AI-assisted Christmas message for tomorrow.....

I hope you all get some well-deserved downtime and enjoy every bit of the festive cheer. Here's to a day filled with good tech, better company, and some great memories. Wishing you all the best – relax, recharge, and have a blast!

Don't forget, if you want to track Santa's progress, [NORAD can show you](#).

As is usual at this time of year, most publications are looking back on what were the big stories of 2023 (AI - go figure), and what we can be looking forward to in 2024 (more AI), but in between all these ponderings of what was and what will be, there is more news leaking out about what we will see at [CES 2024 which is expected to be very big](#), with a huge emphasis on AI which everybody is hoping to drive a new surge in consumer spend.

[There are 6 trends](#) to watch for at CES - with a LOT of hype of course!

The biggest news of the show will be all the notebook manufacturers releasing their versions of notebooks with Intel's Meteor Lake CPU's.

Still, the most exciting part of CES is Eureka Park - where you can meet thousands of new startups looking for opportunities. It is incredible to see so much youthful innovation packed into one place. Competition is fierce to be allowed to attend. For example, [look at what the Swiss have put together](#). Unfortunately, I could not find a South African presence - maybe I have just missed it.

If colleagues would like to join the newsletter, they can [click here to subscribe](#).

Hardware

Notebooks with Intel's Meteor Lake released

News about new laptops with Intel's Meteor Lake CPU's are everywhere, and I would say we are pretty much on track to be able to start ordering them for delivery in South Africa by March (earlier if you are special or prepared to pay "early adopter" tax!). [Here is a review of a new Acer Laptop](#) as an example. Here is a [YouTube review](#) of MSI and ASUS laptops. Remember, it is early days.

Of course, AMD is not far behind, and the competition is fierce, so if you are interested [here is a very detailed benchmark review](#) of Intel's Meteor Lake compared with AMD Ryzen 7840U. It's very early days, but we are starting to get a hint of what "endpoint AI" potential could be like in a few year's time.

Intel on track for the Angstrom Era

Intel claims that it is still on track, which means that we are really going to see incredible performance gains in the next 2 years over everything that we see today - ie Meteor Lake. [You can read more here](#).

Microsoft

Windows 11 Moment 5 preview Arrives in Feb.

This [update comes with some tweaks and minor additions](#) plus a whole lot of changes for compliance in the EU.

240 Million PC's working just fine, but can't be upgraded

[A report by Canalys](#) claims that a huge amount of perfectly working PC's is headed for the scrap heap just because they do not comply with the minimum requirements for Windows 11. Although these requirements can be bypassed with [Rufus](#).

You can further use [TINY11](#) (23H2) to install Windows 11 on machines with very limited memory and performs just fine ([read more here](#)), though clearly this is discouraged by Microsoft and most certainly not supported in any way AND you use it at your own risk. In all cases, you still need a valid Windows license.

Cloud & AI

Microsoft CoPilot promises much, but are you really ready?

What is clear is that AI is upon us and Microsoft is in the process of infusing it's entire M365

offering with generative AI capabilities. It means a LOT of strategic forethought and planning, where running into a very expensive trial without planning could lead to a lot of disappointment and frustration.

Done properly, implementing Copilot promises to be transformative for your organization, driving innovation, drastically increasing efficiency, and making your organization even more competitive.

ChatGPT derives its output data from three sources: information freely available on the Internet, data licensed from third-party providers, and information provided by its users.

By contrast, Copilot uses your organization's SharePoint, OneDrive, Teams data, and more to provide real-time assistance. Copilot can even consume data from other non-Microsoft data sources and applications to build a true cross-application AI productivity tool.

TechRadar has published a really good overview of CoPilot, what to expect and most importantly, the importance of being prepared.

To this end, our Cloud and Security Division, BUI has a CoPilot workshop that can possibly be funded by Microsoft to help you prepare for getting real value from CoPilot. You can [read about the workshop here](#).

Security

IBM predicts that AI will be the DNA of Cyberattacks

[This is a sobering warning for 2024](#) where we are going to have to double-down on our security. We cannot let up, not for a moment.

Attackers will strengthen their arsenals with generative AI and take their attack tradecraft to a new, more lethal level in 2024. The new year signals the start of a new era of deception and identity abuse, IBM's predictions warn, with attackers compromising networks with counterfeit and stolen privileged access credentials.

Hackers exploiting Old versions of Excel

Attackers are taking advantage of an old vulnerability in old versions of Excel which is quite sophisticated. [Read more about the attack here](#).

Movies

Now Playing: [Next Goal Wins](#)

Now Playing: [Migration](#)

Now Playing: [Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom](#)

29 December: [Anyone but you](#)

29 December: [The end we start from](#)

29 December: [Ferrari](#)

First Technology | Midrand, Johannesburg, GAUTENG 2191 South Africa

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