

eNEWS-4

CryptX Club

Jayshree Periwal High School



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Valorant: What went wrong?

Naman Keswani

Riot Games, the company that gave us League of Legends, recently released a new tactical shooter named Valorant. Its release was very hyped and gamers across the globe were excited about it. The game did fairly good on twitch by breaking the record of most view time. Many streamers had drops enabled for the beta version of the game. Most tactical games like Counter-Strike and Rainbow Six Siege have a system of customization for gun and character skins. These cosmetics have nothing to do with anyone's gameplay but it makes the player feel good. Valorant also followed the same battle pass system for the players to earn gun skins, gun buddies, and attractive sprays.

But the problem started here because the battle pass costs 90 USD. And the problem with a battle pass was that even if you completed it, you would still have to pay to the buy it in the next season. As players started with the game, they realized that it was much easier than Counter-Strike and was more pleasing to the eyes. Many twitch streamers like Shroud and Tfue also said that it would beat Counter-Strike. But Valorant lacked a major thing when compared to Counter-Strike and it was the map design. The map has too many corners which results in the game type being more of camping. Getting defeated by campers is quite frustrating which resulted in more rage quits and increased hate towards the game. Looking at the abilities of each agent in Valorant, we can clearly state that it is not balanced at all. Some agents are good for attack, some for defense, and others for scouting and watching flanks. This led to using only one particular type of agent which resulted in overpowered gameplay in 1v1 fights and certain clutches in higher competitive matches. The ranked system doesn't make any sense at all. You cannot do anything after u have reached the top rank (Radiant).

In the end, all these things made Valorant a frustrating game and the anti-cheat system is very strict. You get banned for longer hours if you go AFK or even if u disconnect which is just too strict for players who just want to have a great time online. Riot games can surely change some things here and there in future updates, but for now, all the hype has disappeared for Valorant.



HONOR MagicBook 15

Subham Jalan

We are all surrounded by gadgets, and the number is ever-increasing in these difficult times. Many people might have been looking for a decent laptop at a decent price. HONOR MagicBook 15 is just the one they need.

HONOR launched its new laptop on the 31st of July and its craze has been increasing since that very day. It packs an AMD Ryzen 5 3500U processor, with 8GB DDR4 dual-channel 8GB RAM, and Radeon Vega 8 graphics card. It comes with an ultra-fast PCIe NVMe SSD storage drive that has up to five times faster read speed than a standard SATA SSD drive. Multitasking is a breeze with good SSDs. It supports 65W Fast Charging through the Type-C port and charges up to 53% in just 30 minutes. It has an IPS panel, with a resolution of 1920x1080, 87% screen to body ratio, and 178 degrees viewing angle. It even reduces glare and blocks blue light for prolonged use. It comes with an aluminum chassis and weighs just 1.53kgs and runs Windows 10. Extra features include a fingerprint scanner and a pop-up camera. It is priced at ₹42990 with an introductory price of ₹39990. It is a beast for that price with premium features. However, we still have to see how it is received by the consumers considering that honor is a Chinese brand and is making laptops for the first time.

TikTok takes another hit

Jasraj Johal

The US president has certainly made TikTok an offer it can't refuse. If the video app doesn't break away from its Chinese owner, ByteDance, and sell its US operation to Microsoft, Mr. Trump will simply ban it - putting TikTok's access to its 80 million active American users in jeopardy. Mr. Trump has already flexed his muscles against other Chinese firms, such as Huawei. But what makes the situation with TikTok unprecedented is the demand for a cut of the sale price. The US Treasury has not explained how this extraordinary demand for a cut of a private transaction would work. Mr. Trump reckons the government should get a big slice of the pie because "we're making it possible". Beneath the president's bombast, perhaps this is simply payback for the US and its companies, [some of whom claim China has stolen intellectual property from them](#). TikTok's US operations will close down on September 15 unless Microsoft or somebody else can buy it and work out a deal, an appropriate deal so the Treasury of the United States gets a lot of money.

Microsoft confirmed on Sunday (2nd August) in a blog post that it would continue discussions on a potential deal with TikTok after a call between its chief executive Satya Nadella and Mr. Trump. (no further details disclosed). "It is extraordinary behavior as well because last week we had lawmakers in the US trying to look at [whether tech companies are too big](#) and now we've got Trump trying to make one of them even bigger so it is a bizarre situation to be in." For its part, TikTok has repeatedly maintained that it doesn't share data from its app with the Chinese government. Its parent company ByteDance runs an equivalent app, Douyin, within China's borders. Whatever happens, this adds to pressure on the social media giant. India recently banned TikTok and more than 59 other apps due to its ongoing dispute with China, and it also cited security as a factor. The video-sharing service is already poised to lose billions of dollars from the India ban, and it could only get worse if the US follows suit.

CIY - Code it yourself

- How do you find the missing number in a given integer array of 1 to 101?
- Write a function that translates a text to Pig Latin and back. English is translated to Pig Latin by taking the first letter of every word, moving it to the end of the word, and adding 'ay'. "The quick brown fox" becomes "Hetay uickqay rownbay oxfay".



Stream it on the big screen

Jasraj Johal

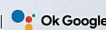
Xiaomi recently launched its new product which competes directly with Amazon Fire Stick. Xiaomi Mi TV Stick comes with a quad-core SoC with Cortex-A53, as well as an ARM Mali-450 GPU. There is 1GB of RAM on board, and 8GB of storage. The highlight of this streaming stick is the fact that it runs Android TV 9.0 and comes with built-in Chromecast as well as Google Assistant. It is bundled with a Bluetooth remote control, which includes dedicated buttons for Netflix and Amazon Prime Video. The streaming stick supports up to 1080p 60fps videos in a wide range of formats, including RM, MOV, VOB, MKV, TS, AVI, and MP4. DTS and Dolby Audio formats are supported as well. The Mi TV Stick itself has a HDMI port and a microUSB port for power, and Bluetooth 4.2 and Wi-Fi 802.11 a/b/g/n/ac 2.4GHz/5GHz for connectivity. These TV Streaming sticks are intended to be used on old TVs which don't have any smart feature. It is priced at ₹2,799 which is really competitive.

Mi TV Stick

Stream anywhere

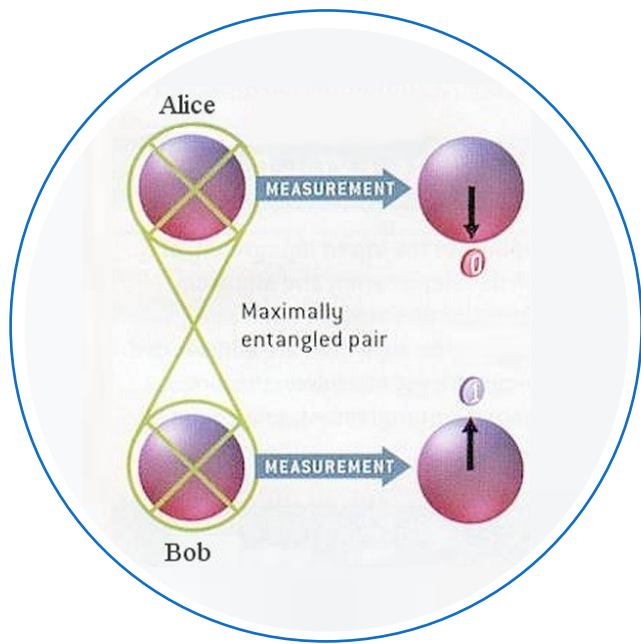


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Ok Google





Spooky Action at a Distance

Jeev Jatin Singh

If quantum mechanics hasn't profoundly shocked you, you haven't understood it yet. - Niels Bohr

Quantum Entanglement is the one thing even Einstein got wrong. So what is Entanglement? Let's say that we send a left-handed glove to Alice and a right-handed one to Bob. As soon as Alice opens her box and finds a left-handed glove, she knows immediately that Bob has the right-handed glove. This is just common sense, right? Nothing happens to the gloves in transit. Here's a more practical example. All electrons have an inherent property called spin, which is exactly what it sounds like, electrons spinning. Now, the electrons can only spin in two directions, spin up or spin down, i.e. clockwise or counterclockwise. Now let's say the electrons interact with each other such that they are now "entangled". We will now separate the electrons over an enormous distance, say to the opposite ends of the universe. Once the electrons reach their locations, we will now measure one of them. If we measure one electron to be spin up, the other one will always be spin down! Such an entangled state is an example of a Bell state. How is this any different from the gloves we sent out? According to the Copenhagen interpretation of quantum mechanics, which is still the most prevalent, these electrons have both spin up and spin down until we observe it! So the act of measuring determines their spin.

How? We don't know (measurement problem). What is important to note is that any measurement on one particle seems to affect the other particle, billions of kilometres away, instantaneously. This is what Einstein called 'Spukhafte Fernwirkungen' or Spooky Action at a Distance. We call it non-locality. Doesn't this violate Einstein's Theory of relativity? It doesn't because no flow of information can take place in this manner because of the randomness and stochastic nature of quantum mechanics.

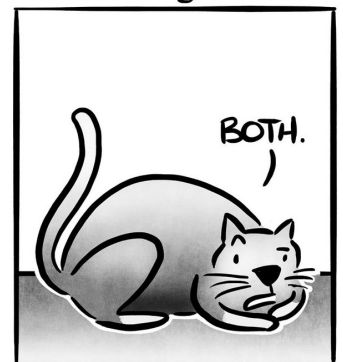
Yet another example: Let's drag the cat back. We will now place the cat back in the dreaded box and place a bomb next to it. If the bomb explodes, the cat dies, and if it doesn't, we use it in another experiment and find some other way to kill it. What is not possible, is that the bomb explodes, and the cat stays alive or vice versa. So the bomb exploding and the cat dying are interdependent. So we could say that the bomb and the cat are "entangled".

Similarly, we can entangle multiple qubits, and measurement on any one qubit will instantaneously affect all other qubits. We can see how this is helpful, as, in classical computing, the computers have to read and write each bit separately before acting on it. However, even the slightest interactions with the external environment can break this correlation. We call this decoherence. Also, we can use this phenomenon to teleport information! This has already been achieved by physicists at the University of Bristol. Entanglement combined with superposition sets quantum computers apart from classical ones. It seems that physics is fundamentally spooky after all.

Shakespeare's Cat



Schrödinger's Cat



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Visualizing the Future

Milind Sharma

Jen-Hsun “Jensen” Huang is a Taiwanese-born American billionaire businessman and electrical engineer born on February 17, 1963 making him 57 years old at the time of writing. His family immigrated to the United States and moved to Oneida, Kentucky, and then to Oregon. He graduated from Aloha High School, outside Portland. He did his bachelor’s in electrical engineering from Oregon State University in 1984 and his master’s in the same field from Stanford in 1992. After college he was the director at LSI Logic and a microprocessor designer at Advanced Micro Devices, Inc (AMD), which will turn out to be the only major competitor of his soon to be founded company Nvidia.

Huang co-founded Nvidia on his 30th birthday in 1993 and is the current CEO and the President of the company. Additionally, Huang is a recipient of the Daniel J. Epstein Engineering Management Award from the University Of Southern California and was named an Alumni Fellow by Oregon State University. Huang was awarded an honorary doctorate from Oregon State University at the June 13, 2009, commencement ceremony. His company completely made the graphical processor industry crazy when he introduced a new line-up of graphic cards made with Turing architecture which allowed the GPUs to do real time ray tracing, which they like to call RTX. This technology empowered game-developers, simulation experts and many others as now they could track the path of rays of light and allow it to interact with objects like it does in the real world which allowed the removal of all false reflections and lighting from “in-game” worlds.

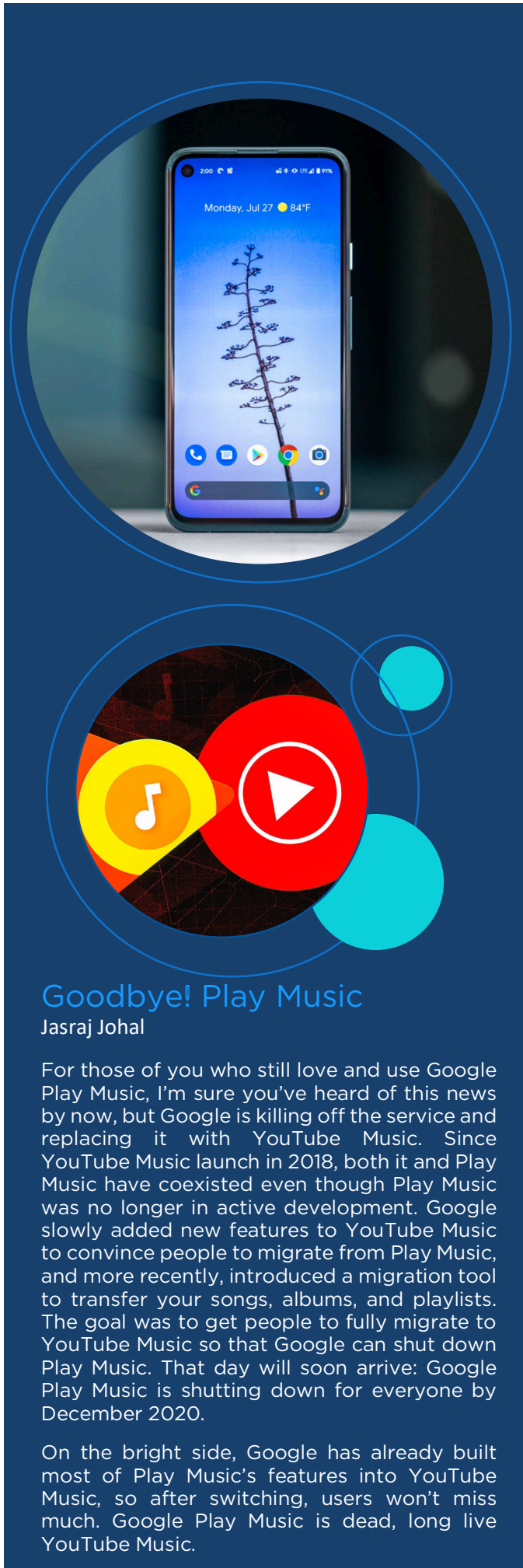
In 2003, Huang received the Dr. Morris Chang Exemplary Leadership Award, which recognizes a leader who has made exceptional contributions to driving the development, innovation, growth, and long-term opportunities of the fabless semiconductor industry, from the Fabless Semiconductor Association. Huang gave his alma mater Stanford University US\$30 million to build the Jen-Hsun Huang School of Engineering Center. The building is the second of four that make up Stanford’s Science and Engineering Quad. Huang’s funny and philanthropic nature combined with his passion for technology has allowed him to be one of the most recognizable faces in the industry allowing him to make tech better for the generations to come.



“Smart people focus on the right things.”

“I think that’s what’s thrilling about leadership - when you’re holding onto literally the worst possible hand on the planet and you know you’re still going to win. How are you still going to win? Because that’s when the character of the company really comes out.”

“I believe that the future is about having a whole bunch of A.I., not one A.I. We’re all going to have our own personal A.I. We’ll have A.I. for many fields of medicine, for many fields of manufacturing.”



Goodbye! Play Music

Jasraj Johal

For those of you who still love and use Google Play Music, I'm sure you've heard of this news by now, but Google is killing off the service and replacing it with YouTube Music. Since YouTube Music launch in 2018, both it and Play Music have coexisted even though Play Music was no longer in active development. Google slowly added new features to YouTube Music to convince people to migrate from Play Music, and more recently, introduced a migration tool to transfer your songs, albums, and playlists. The goal was to get people to fully migrate to YouTube Music so that Google can shut down Play Music. That day will soon arrive: Google Play Music is shutting down for everyone by December 2020.

On the bright side, Google has already built most of Play Music's features into YouTube Music, so after switching, users won't miss much. Google Play Music is dead, long live YouTube Music.

Keeping. It. Simple.

Subham Jalan

Google has launched its most anticipated phone this year, Pixel 4a. It has to be said, this is the simplest phone that you can find on the market. It comes with a 5.81-inch touchscreen display with a resolution of 1080x2340 pixels. Google Pixel 4a is powered by a 1.8GHz octa-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 730G processor that features 6 cores clocked at 1.8GHz and 2 cores clocked at 2GHz. It comes with 6GB of RAM and 128GB of storage. It runs Android 10 and packs a 3140mAh battery.

The Pixel lineup is known for its cameras, and this one does not disappoint. On the rear, it packs a 12.2-megapixel camera with an f/1.7 aperture. It sports an 8-megapixel camera on the front for selfies, with an f/2.0 aperture. The best part is, it comes in only one color, Just Black and only one variant, the default one. It has been priced at \$349 and is directly competing with iPhone SE and OnePlus Nord. It has not been launched in India for now. Needless to say, it is as great as Pixel 3a and deserves an investment if you are looking for decent specs with a fantastic camera at a fantastic price.

Weekly dose of news

Subham Jalan

- Google's new In-App Review API lets developers ask for Play Store reviews without leaving the app.
- Xiaomi India confirms next MIUI update will remove banned Chinese apps.
- Toshiba has quit the laptop market after selling the remaining stake to Sharp.
- Apple's supplier is considering the transfer of six production lines to India.
- OnePlus' HydrogenOS 11 to debut on August 10. (Only for China)
- Microsoft Cortana support for Android and iOS will end early next year.
- Asus ZenBook 13, ZenBook 14, VivoBook S14, VivoBook Ultra K14 with 10th Gen Intel CPUs launched in India.
- Casio G-Shock G-Squad GBD-H1000 Smartwatch with a heart-rate sensor, 200m water resistance launched in India
- TikTok to open the first European Data Centre in Ireland.
- Google has discontinued Pixel 4, Pixel 4 XL.



Crossword Puzzle

Down

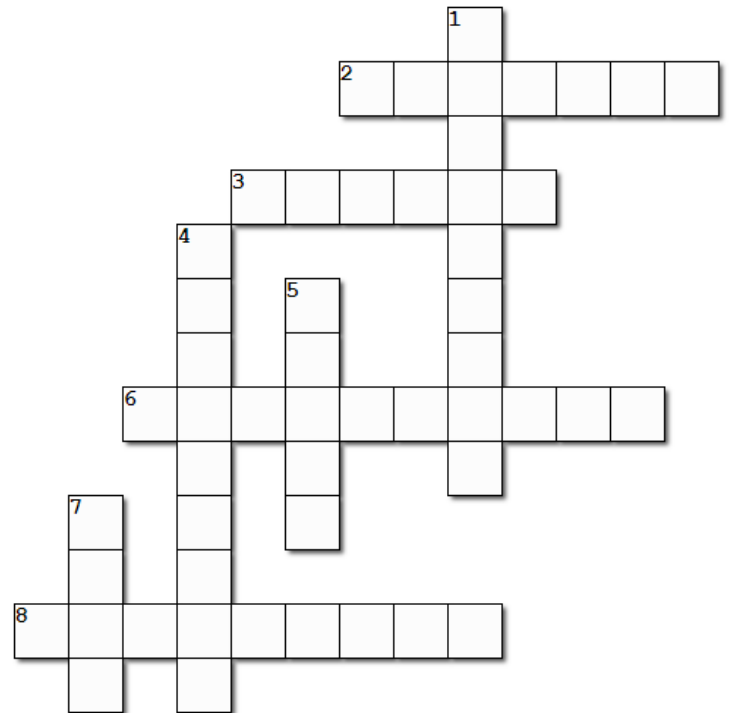
1. Which program turns assembly language into machine code?
4. What wireless connection pairs a smartphone to a smartwatch?
5. Which programming language was developed by Apple?
7. What type of screen is comprised of diodes that light up individually?

Across

2. What is software that generates program code from a visual design called?
3. A single system that distributes data to multiple clients is called what?
6. What is another name for an external device you connect to your computer?
8. 1,000 exabytes equals one what?

The more you know

- Over 6,000 new computer viruses are created and released every month.
- The founder of Facebook purposely chose a blue color scheme because he has red-green color blindness!
- Music content makes up only 5% of YouTube.
- Over 90% of the world's currency is digital.
- Until 2010, carrier pigeons were faster than the internet.
- Every advertisement for iPhones has 9:41 set as the time. This is because in 2007, Steve Jobs first announced the iPhone at that time. The 41-minute presentation leading up to the reveal of the first iPhone was planned perfectly and the first photo of the iPhone showed the time 9:41, at exactly 9:41am.



Brush your coding skills!

<http://www.pythonchallenge.com/>

Bored? Or don't have ideas for your next big project? Check this website out where you are treated with a number of puzzles and you have to solve those using your wit and some coding skills. It can be attempted by everyone but is specifically meant for python coders. It's a great platform to discover new things in Python in an interactive way. Jump in and have fun!

Unpacking the Samsung event

Milind Sharma

On August 5, Samsung held its “Unpacked” event, officially unveiling 5 products. Most of the products were leaked long before the event, some accurate leaks being even 2 months old! The main stars of the show were the Galaxy Note 20 starting at 999\$ and the Note 20 Ultra starting at 1299\$ which both come with a Snapdragon 865 Plus, 5G capabilities as well as an IP68 rating for waterproofing and support for wireless charging, but they differ in a few minor ways. Samsung put a 64MP telephoto lens in the Note 20 (versus the Ultra’s 12MP telephoto lens), but the Ultra has a 108MP wide-angle lens (compared to the Note 20’s 12MP offering) along with 5x optical zoom. The pricier Note 20 Ultra has a 120Hz refresh rate OLED screen, along with more RAM and microSD support. The Note 20 comes with a plastic back and people are not liking it because if you are paying a premium price, you expect to get a premium feel with it. In the folding phone section, they released the “Z Fold 2” offering a 6.2” outer screen and a 7.6” screen when unfolded. It also has 5G capabilities and Samsung will release more info and pricing on September 1st. To compete with Apple’s iPad, Samsung released the Galaxy Tab S7 in two sizes, one with an 11” LCD screen and another with a 12.4” OLED screen, both of them having a 120 Hz refresh rate. Combined with the Snapdragon 865 Plus and the smooth One UI and Android 10, it is said that it can be a serious competitor of the iPad Pro. The Galaxy Buds Live sitting at \$169 look like little jelly beans as they’re smaller in size compared to the Galaxy Buds Plus, but they pack in even more tech, like active noise cancellation. Samsung also showed off how easily can these be connected wirelessly to different devices. The Galaxy Watch 3 is thinner than Samsung’s previous models, and it features a bigger 1.4” display. It’s also more expensive than the last gen of the Galaxy Watch, priced at \$399 for the 41mm and at \$429 for the 45mm variant.

The Team

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Milind Sharma (Chief editor)

Subham Jalan (Design editor)

Jeev Jatin Singh (Writer)

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App of the week

Android Authority

Amoni Launcher makes your phone look like iOS 14. You get similar widget placement and styling, similar icon styling, and similar icon folder styling. Additionally, the launcher comes with some extra goodies like an iOS style battery widget, a light and dark mode, wallpaper blur, and some other neat iOS 14 style effects. There are some bugs and issues here and there, like a lack of gesture support on some devices, but it’s otherwise surprisingly solid for a new app. It runs for ₹10 up front but features no additional in-app purchases or ads.