

TOP NEWS

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## A US judge says Google acted illegally to maintain a monopoly in some online advertising tech, the second time in a year a court found Google acted illegally

(David McCabe / New York Times)

✂ @linamkhan: Google's monopolistic tactics squeezed creators & publishers, depriving Americans of a more free and open internet. This ruling is a key win for the public—and for ensuring that antitrust law keeps pace with 21st-century monopolies. Many congrats to the DOJ team & state AGs. [image]

✂ @mikeisaac: Googles potential dismantling by the federal government could bring about the most consequential reshaping the internet in a generation founders tried to unseat the company — which created the perfect internet business model — for nearly 30 years perhaps the US of A has done it [image]

✂ @adamkovac: Initial thoughts on the Google ad tech verdict [4](#) [1](#): 1. Clearly a loss for Google & a win for its ad tech rivals. Some advertisers and publishers backed the case, but I suspect this may turn out negative for them: worse targeting and decreased revenue.

- **In her ruling, Judge Brinkema says Google did not meet the monopoly definition for tools used to buy display ads, but did for ad exchanges and website ad tools** (Bloomberg)
- **The DOJ and 17 US states that brought the antitrust case seek to force Google to sell off its “network” ad business, which is ~12% of Alphabet's total revenue** (Axios)
- **Google says “we won half of this case and we will appeal the other half” of the US antitrust ruling, and “we disagree” with the decision on its publisher tools** (@newsfromgoogle)

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## Netflix reports Q1 revenue up 12.5% YoY to \$10.54B, vs. \$10.51B est., net income of \$2.89B, and stops reporting subscriber numbers on a quarterly basis

(Todd Spangler / Variety)

✂ @tvgrimreaper: Interesting data point from the Netflix earnings announcement. Netflix leads YouTube in Q1 TV time spent in the UK. In the US in March, YouTube (12.0%) lead Netflix (7.9%). [image]

✂ @sherman4949: Some bold words from Netflix co-CEO Greg Peters on the macroeconomic environment, sure to raise some major eyebrows: "Nothing really significant to note."

✂ @loudmouthjulia: Netflix's Greg Peters talking about working to achieve same “level of sophistication” within personalized ad targeting tech that exists for its content discovery. Unrelated, but I love that he said it the same day of Google's advertising verdict. Everything is an ad network.

- **Netflix says co-founder Reed Hastings has left his post as executive chairman to become chairman and non-executive director of the company** (Dade Hayes / Deadline)

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## Sources: the CFPB terminated more than 1,400 workers, leaving about 200 employees and effectively gutting the agency that Elon Musk previously said to “delete”

(Makena Kelly / Wired)

✂ @schwartzbwsj: NEW: Take a look at the CFPB's new direction in a memo sent to staff this evening. Some key changes worth reading with the agency being run by acting CFPB director @russvought. Trump's nominee to run the CFPB, Jonathan McKernan, has yet to receive a full Senate vote. [image]

✂ @senwarren: President Trump just fired almost the entire staff of the CFPB, who protect you from getting scammed by Wall Street. This is another assault on consumers and our democracy by Trump's lawless Administration. We will fight back with everything we've got.

✂ @brendanpedersen: News: CFPB reduction in force is underway at the agency, per several sources who have seen the notice sent out from acting Director Russ Vought Here's one notice sent today: [image]

- **Leaked email: the US CFPB plans a 50% reduction in supervisory activities and a shift in focus from fintech companies back to traditional banks** (Paige Smith / Bloomberg)
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**Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang arrived in China on April 16 and visited Beijing on April 17, a source says to meet officials to discuss Trump's new chip export rules** (Financial Times)

- **Sources: Nvidia has privately pushed back against new US export rules, arguing China can already make some H20-level chips; Nvidia sold ~\$12B of H20s in FY 2024** (Wall Street Journal)

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**Global Payments agrees to acquire Worldpay from FIS and PE firm GTCR for \$24.3B and to sell Issuer Solutions to FIS for \$13.5B in deals set to close in H1 2026** (Steve Dickson / Bloomberg)

- **Global Payments shares plunge 15%+ and FIS shares jump 9%+ after Global Payments said it's buying Worldpay from FIS and GTCR and selling Issuer Solutions to FIS** (MacKenzie Sigalos / CNBC)

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**New Jersey's AG sues Discord, alleging the platform's features to keep children under 13 safe from sexual predators and harmful content are inadequate** (Justin Ling / Wired)

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**Google rolls out Gemini 2.5 Flash in preview, with support for Canvas for working on text or code; developers can disable thinking or set a token limit for it** (Ryan Whitwam / Ars Technica)

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**TSMC reports Q1 net income up 60.3% YoY to \$11.1B, beating estimates, as customers stockpiled chips anticipating global trade disruptions spurred by US tariffs** (Jane Lanhee Lee / Bloomberg)

- **TSMC CEO C. C. Wei says “TSMC is not engaged in any discussion with other companies regarding any joint venture”, after a recent report of a tie-up with Intel** (Bloomberg)

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**Sources: Tim Cook spoke to the US Commerce Secretary last week about how tariffs could affect iPhone prices before Trump exempted products from Apple and others** (Washington Post)

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**Sources: OpenAI and SoftBank are considering investing in the UK for Stargate as part of an international expansion, if the project proves successful in the US** (Financial Times)

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**China bans automakers from using “smart driving” or “autonomous driving” in ads for driver-assist tech and tightens scrutiny after a fatal Xiaomi EV crash** (Reuters)

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## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

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**Google is offering its Google One AI Premium plan for free to US college students until spring 2026; students have until June 30, 2025, to sign up** (Jess Weatherbed / The Verge)

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**Google is making Gemini Live camera and screen sharing features free for all Android users in the coming weeks after launching them for Advanced users last week** (Abner Li / 9to5Google)

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**The Wikimedia Foundation partners with Kaggle to release a dataset of “structured Wikipedia content in English and French” optimized for AI model training** (Jess Weatherbed / The Verge)

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**OpenAI launches Flex processing in beta, an API option halving o3 and o4-mini prices in exchange for slower responses and “occasional resource unavailability”** (Kyle Wiggers / TechCrunch)

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**xAI announces a memory feature for Grok in beta that enables the AI chatbot to remember details from past conversations and give more personalized responses** (Kyle Wiggers / TechCrunch)

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**Docusign unveils AI contract agents, which can analyze agreements and surface issues that usually require human intervention, available by the end of 2025** (Larry Dignan / Constellation Research)

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**Apple Intelligence features, such as Writing Tools, are no longer available in Meta's iOS apps including Facebook, WhatsApp, and Threads** (Filipe Espósito / 9to5Mac)

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**LMarena says it's starting a company, whose corporate name will be Arena Intelligence, with plans to raise money, and releases a new beta version of its website** (Rachel Metz / Bloomberg)

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**Sources: Perplexity is in discussions to integrate its AI assistant on Samsung's devices and has reached an agreement to preload Perplexity on Motorola's phones** (Bloomberg)

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**Smashing, an AI-powered news and social media posts aggregation app by Goodreads co-founder Otis Chandler, shuts down, citing its inability to grow quickly** (Ivan Mehta / TechCrunch)

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**Workers and researchers say data annotation jobs that many Venezuelans relied on have become scarce and poorly paid with the rise of generative AI** (Laura Rodríguez Salamanca / Rest of World)

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## SOCIAL NETWORKS

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**Instagram launches Blend, an invite-only, personalized Reels feed for users and their friends in a group chat with new content every day** (Aisha Malik / TechCrunch)

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**Discord requires some UK and Australian users to verify their age by scanning their face or ID to access sensitive material; Discord says it's "an experiment"** (Chris Scullion / Video Games Chronicle)

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**A US judge grants a permanent injunction against an Ohio law that required platforms to verify users are at least 16 and seek parental consent for younger users** (Bloomberg Law)

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## VENTURE CAPITAL

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**In Q1 2025, AI startups raised \$73.1B, accounting for 57.9% of global VC funding, with OpenAI's recent round led by SoftBank contributing \$40B** (Jacob Robbins / PitchBook)

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**Former YC President Geoff Ralston launches Safe AI Fund, or SAIF, providing initial funding of \$100K with a \$10M cap to startups that "enhance AI safety"** (Julie Bort / TechCrunch)

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**Konvoy: the gaming industry saw 43 M&A transactions and 77 VC deals in Q1 2025, and the sector is projected to be worth \$186B in 2026, a 4.7% YoY jump** (Rachel Kaser / VentureBeat)

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## FUNDING DEALS

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**Goodfire, which works on decoding the inner workings of AI models, raised \$50M led by Menlo; source: Anthropic invested \$1M, its first startup investment** (Rocket Drew / The Information)

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**Auradine, which manufactures Bitcoin miners and offers AI infrastructure, raised a \$153M Series C, with \$138M in equity and \$15M in debt, led by StepStone Group** (Yogita Khatri / The Block)

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**Santiago, Chile-based Toku, which helps businesses accept consumer payments, send payment reminders, and more, raised a \$39M Series A led by Oak HC/FT** (Jeff Kauflin / Forbes)

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## MORE NEWS

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**Framework Laptop 13 review: it's modular and customizable, has a great keyboard and improved thermals, but it's pricey and the screen's brightness can be better** (Kyle Barr / Gizmodo)

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**Polish parcel locker operator InPost acquires UK delivery service Yodel, boosting its UK market share from 2% to ~8% and delivering 300M+ UK parcels annually** (Konrad Krasuski / Bloomberg)

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**The US FDA cleared Neuralink rival Precision Neuroscience in late March 2025 to offer a less invasive brain implant; the device contains 1,024 metal electrodes** (Ike Swetlitz / Bloomberg)

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**Sources: Amazon plans to release its first TV streaming device with its Vega OS, used in some Echo devices, in 2025 and is courting publishers to add their apps** (Janko Roettgers / Lowpass)

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**US community colleges are battling a flood of fake, or bot, students who bilk financial aid by enrolling in online classes and submitting AI-generated work** (Jakob McWhinney / Voice of San Diego)

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**Study: in South Korea, active YouTube users spent 210 minutes per day on the service in Q4, while Netflix subscribers spent 96 minutes per day on the streamer** (Max Goldbart / Deadline)

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