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The Rizz News

Yesterday's Top Tech Stories — Curated by RizzBot

Some things just take time

▲ 776 · 249 comments · pocoo.org

TL;DR: This article argues that the tech industry's obsession with speed overlooks the value of time, tenacity, and deliberate friction, which are essential for true quality and maturity.

A recent article argues against the tech industry's obsession with speed, positing that, like trees, some things of value simply take time to grow. The author contends that while AI can accelerate development, the real determinants of a successful company or open-source project are tenacity and the ability to work through problems over many years. The piece defends "good friction," arguing that processes like SOC2 compliance and review cycles exist to enforce deliberation and should not be hastily automated away. Ultimately, it warns that the drive for instant gratification and removing human oversight risks shipping low-quality "vibe slop at inference speeds."

WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAYS

The comments highlight that the speed of AI coding tools is only beneficial when applied in the right "direction," otherwise it's counterproductive. The key perspectives debate the source of this direction: one view is to use AI for initial course-plotting (e.g., prototypes), another suggests managing fast output with controlled user feedback, while a third argues the best direction comes from developers being their own users. A central controversy is whether to rely on external user feedback or the developers' own intrinsic understanding of the product.

Do Not Turn Child Protection into Internet Access Control

▲ 769 · 401 comments · dyne.org

TL;DR: Widespread age verification, implemented for child safety, is fundamentally transforming the open internet into a permission-based system that requires users to prove their identity before accessing content.

A recent analysis argues that the global push for age verification on social media, gaming, and messaging services is transforming the internet from an open-access network to a permissioned one. These systems are moving beyond simple website checks and are being integrated into operating systems, creating a persistent identity layer for devices. The author contends that policymakers are confusing technical content moderation with the relational responsibility of guardianship, which belongs to parents and trusted adults. The piece concludes that this approach weakens privacy for everyone while shifting responsibility away from families and schools, rather than effectively protecting children.

WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAYS

The central theme of the discussion is the erosion of online anonymity, with participants viewing "age verification" as a Trojan horse for complete, mandatory user identification. The key debate pits those who fear a "slippery slope" towards a controlled internet—where access to technology like AI is gated by identity—against those who see verification as a prudent security measure, akin to KYC laws. A significant insight raised is the role of local, user-owned AI models as a potential countermeasure to this centralized control, ensuring freedom and access to technology.

Tinybox – A powerful computer for deep learning

▲ 542 · 312 comments · tinygrad.org

TL;DR: Tiny corp's new Tinybox is a powerful, cost-effective deep learning computer now shipping, offering superior performance per dollar compared to significantly more expensive alternatives.

Tiny Corp is now shipping its "tinybox," a line of powerful, cost-effective computers designed for deep learning and running the company's "tinygrad" neural network framework. The company claims its machines offer the best performance-per-dollar, noting they were benchmarked in MLPerf Training 4.0 against computers costing ten times as much. The currently available "green v2" model provides 3086 TFLOPS of performance and 384 GB of GPU RAM for $65,000, while a massively-scaled "exabox" is slated for 2027 with a target price of around $10 million. The systems are shipping now and are available for worldwide delivery.

WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAYS

The discussion revolves around the skepticism for a new, expensive AI hardware server, with commentators questioning its value proposition and technical claims. The central debate is whether the machine can effectively run a 120-billion parameter model on its stated VRAM, with some users calling it impossible without heavy, quality-degrading quantization, while others share their own experiences running large models on similar setups using techniques like 4-bit quantization and splitting the model across GPU and system RAM. A key controversy is the perceived inefficiency and high cost, with many arguing one could build a more powerful and compact system for less money.

Ubuntu 26.04 Ends 46 Years of Silent sudo Passwords

▲ 385 · 382 comments · pbxscience.com

TL;DR: Ubuntu 26.04 LTS will now display asterisks for sudo password input, ending a 46-year silent tradition to improve user experience, despite minor security concerns regarding password length.

Ubuntu 26.04 LTS, "Resolute Raccoon," launching on April 23, 2026, will end a 46-year tradition by displaying asterisks during sudo password entry. This change, driven by the `sudo-rs` rewrite in Rust, introduces visual feedback that has sparked debate within the Linux community. While theoretically exposing password length to "shoulder surfing," the developers prioritize user experience over an "infinitesimal" security benefit. This marks a significant shift from the silent prompt originally designed in 1980 to deter keystroke counting in shared terminal environments.

WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAYS

Based on the comments, the central theme is the tension between the user experience and the historical security reasons for not displaying feedback (like asterisks) for password entry in Unix-like systems. Key perspectives include frustration from users dealing with high-latency connections or those new to the convention, contrasted with the view that it's a deliberate, long-standing security feature from the early days of Unix to prevent shoulder-surfing and password length analysis. An interesting point raised is the historical context of 8-character password limits, which made length obfuscation more critical than it might be today, and whether the practice is still justified.

The worst volume control UI in the world (2017)

▲ 230 · 112 comments · uxdesign.cc

TL;DR: A Reddit competition to design the world's worst volume control has gone viral, humorously exposing the tech industry's misguided obsession with needlessly reinventing simple and effective designs.

A Reddit thread started in 2017 has become a viral phenomenon, challenging developers and designers to create the "worst volume control UI in the world." The initiative, which has garnered hundreds of absurd examples, serves as a fun creative exercise while also

sparking a deeper conversation. It prompts reflection on the design industry's constant pressure to innovate and redesign, even for universally functional elements like a simple volume slider. The project playfully questions the actual "need" versus the "want" for innovation in user interface design.

WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAYS

The main theme is a critique of Hacker News's user experience, specifically regarding the voting buttons, which users find difficult to press accurately and confusing in their feedback. Key perspectives suggest the poor UX is almost an intentional feature, while others appreciate the site's overall minimalist design. A secondary point is raised about the lowest volume setting on iOS being too loud for quiet environments.

Blocking Internet Archive Won't Stop AI, but Will Erase Web's Historical Record

▲ 536 · 150 comments · eff.org

TL;DR: Publishers blocking the Internet Archive over AI scraping fears inadvertently destroy the web's historical record, harming researchers and journalists who rely on digital archives.

The Internet Archive, which preserves over a trillion web pages through its Wayback Machine, faces increasing blocks from major publishers like The New York Times, ostensibly due to concerns about AI scraping. This action, however, risks erasing decades of digital historical records relied upon by journalists, researchers, and courts to track changes in online content. Critics argue that blocking the nonprofit Archive is a misdirected effort to control commercial AI, as the Archive's work constitutes fair use for preservation, akin to traditional libraries. The move could inadvertently destroy valuable documentation over a dispute the Archive did not initiate.

WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAYS

The comments discuss the conflict faced by site operators battling aggressive AI crawlers while trying not to block legitimate services like the Internet Archive. A central debate is the relevance and observance of `robots.txt`; site owners rely on it, but major archiving organizations increasingly disregard it, arguing its original purpose is being misused to prevent the preservation of static web content. Key perspectives revolve around the technical arms race for bot detection (JA3/TCP fingerprinting) versus the philosophical debate on whether web content should be freely archivable for posterity, regardless of a site owner's immediate preferences.

Ghostling

▲ 326 · 66 comments · github.com/ghostty-org

TL;DR: Ghostling is a new demo project showcasing a minimal yet functional terminal built entirely in C, leveraging the powerful libghostty API for robust and accurate terminal emulation.

Ghostling is a new demo project showcasing `libghostty`, an embeddable C and Zig API for terminal emulation extracted from the popular `Ghostty` GUI. This single-threaded C example, built with Raylib for rendering, highlights `libghostty-vt`'s flexibility by providing a minimal terminal with features like 24-bit color, Unicode support, and Kitty keyboard protocol. `libghostty-vt` handles VT sequence parsing and terminal state management, leveraging `Ghostty`'s robust, fuzzed, and tested codebase, proven by millions of daily users. While not a full-featured terminal, Ghostling effectively demonstrates how `libghostty` can embed accurate and fast terminal emulation into various applications.

WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAYS

The comments praise `Trolley` and its underlying library `libghostty` as a clever and effective way to package command-line applications (TUIs) into standalone desktop apps, similar to what Electron achieves for web apps. The main debate is a UX discussion on whether a screenshot is needed in the project's README to show what the resulting app looks like. A key insight is the strong desire to see this capability extended to mobile (Android/iOS), which one commenter suggests is a "million dollar problem" that could bring powerful CLI tools to a wider audience.