

The Rizz News

Yesterday's Top Tech Stories — Curated by RizzBot

Migrating from DigitalOcean to Hetzner

▲ 838 · 415 comments · isayeter.com

TL;DR: A Turkish software company slashed its server costs by \$1,199 per month by migrating a complex production stack from DigitalOcean to Hetzner with zero downtime.

A Turkish software company cut its monthly server bill from \$1,432 to \$233 by migrating from DigitalOcean to a Hetzner AX162-R dedicated server, saving \$14,388 annually while gaining more powerful hardware including 256GB DDR5 RAM and a 1.92TB NVMe Gen4 RAID1 drive compared to DigitalOcean's 192GB RAM and 600GB SSD setup. The production migration was substantial, involving 248GB of MySQL data across 30 databases, 34 Nginx sites, a 42GB GitLab EE instance, a Neo4j graph database, and live mobile app traffic serving hundreds of thousands of users. The team executed the transfer with zero downtime across six structured phases, also using the opportunity to upgrade the operating system from end-of-life CentOS 7 to AlmaLinux 9.7.

WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAYS

Practitioners are rallying around a striking thesis: that the real moat cloud providers enjoyed was never compute pricing but the accumulated decade of messy glue code, obsolete libraries, and interdependencies that made migration too painful to attempt. What the comments reveal is a genuine open question about whether AI agents dissolving that friction will commoditize cloud infrastructure, with the main caveat being that proprietary cloud abstractions, particularly on AWS, may constitute a stickier layer of glue that even capable agents will struggle to cleanly unpeel.

Why Japan has such good railways

▲ 471 · 443 comments · worksinprogress.co

TL;DR: Japan's world-leading railway system succeeds not because of cultural conformity but due to smart public policies around privatization, land use, and regulation that other nations could replicate.

Japan leads the developed world in rail travel, with 28 percent of passenger kilometers traveled by train,

compared to 10 percent in France, 6.4 percent in Germany, and just 0.25 percent in the United States. The country's largest railway operator, JR East, carries four times as many passengers annually as the entire British rail network despite having fewer track kilometers and competing against eight rival companies. According to the article, Japan's rail dominance stems not from cultural conformity but from smart public policy decisions around business structure, land use,

privatization models, and regulation, factors that experts say could be replicated by other governments worldwide.

WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAYS

Commenters are rallying around Donald Shoup's "The High Price of Free Parking" as a kind of sacred text, treating those unfamiliar with it as having missed the foundational argument that parking minimums quietly drive up housing costs, create urban blight, and distort land use in ways most people never connect to their daily frustrations. Japan's requirement that car buyers secure private parking before purchasing a vehicle has emerged as the thread's sharpest counterexample, suggesting that what feels like a personal freedom in the West — parking wherever you like for free — is actually a hidden subsidy that everyone pays for through worse cities.

Commenters are piecing together the fascinating chemistry behind why astronauts described the moon smelling like gunpowder, tracing it to billions of years of unoxidized dust that reacts violently on first contact with air. This leads into a surprisingly candid discussion about how NASA quietly weighed the real risk of moon dust igniting inside the Apollo lunar module, a concern serious enough to warrant testing but apparently not serious enough to produce a clear contingency plan beyond "throw everything out the airlock."

All 12 moonwalkers had "lunar hay fever" from dust smelling like gunpowder (2018)

▲ 449 · 262 comments · esa.int

TL;DR: All 12 Apollo moonwalkers experienced lunar hay fever symptoms from razor-sharp, electrostatically charged Moon dust, and scientists still don't fully understand its potential long-term health risks.

All 12 astronauts who walked on the Moon experienced "lunar hay fever," with symptoms ranging from sneezing to nasal congestion that sometimes lasted days, caused by sharp, abrasive dust that smelled like burnt gunpowder inside spacecraft. The dust, which contains silicate particles 50 times smaller than a human hair, is so abrasive it wore through spacesuit boots and destroyed vacuum seals on sample containers, while research shows lunar soil simulants can destroy lung and brain cells after prolonged exposure. ESA has now launched a research program involving 12 scientists, including pulmonary physiologist Kim Prisk from the University of California, to assess the health risks posed by lunar dust ahead of future human missions, using simulated Moon dust mined from a volcanic region in Germany.

WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAYS

State of Kdenlive

▲ 433 · 132 comments · kdenlive.org

TL;DR: Kdenlive's 2025 development year delivered major improvements including AI-powered object segmentation, a 300% audio waveform boost, and over 300 bug fixes prioritizing stability and polished user experience.

The open-source video editor Kdenlive shipped three major releases in 2025 as part of the KDE Gear cycle, highlighted by an AI-powered object segmentation tool based on the SAM2 model for background removal and a 300% performance boost to audio waveform generation. The 25.08.0 release prioritized stability over new features, delivering more than 300 commits and fixing over 15 crashes, while 25.12.0 introduced a redesigned docking system and a new welcome screen aimed at improving the experience for first-time users. The team also relaunched its website with a new CMS, restored historical content dating back to 2002, and contributed improvements to the OpenTimelineIO open-source format used for cross-application project exchange.

WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAYS

Practitioners are converging around Kdenlive as a "just right" middle ground between trivial editors and professional heavyweights like DaVinci Resolve, with several commenters noting they choose it freely over paid alternatives rather than out of necessity. Beneath the enthusiasm runs a quiet thread about what "free software" really means, touching on Audacity's

controversial privacy changes and whether tools like Tenacity should replace it in the canonical FOSS stack.

Anonymous request-token comparisons from Opus 4.6 and Opus 4.7

▲ 569 · 545 comments · billchambers.me

TL;DR: Community data from 528 submissions reveals that Anthropic's Opus 4.7 model requires an average of 38% more request tokens and costs than its predecessor Opus 4.6.

Community data tracking anonymous API requests shows that Anthropic's Opus 4.7 model uses significantly more tokens than its predecessor, with an average request size jumping 38% from 338 to 451 tokens across 528 submissions. The cost increase mirrors the token jump exactly at 38%, meaning users are paying proportionally more with no pricing rate change between versions. Individual requests varied widely, with some submissions seeing token counts nearly double, including one case showing a 92.9% increase, while a handful of larger requests saw more modest single-digit percentage growth.

WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAYS

Practitioners are divided on whether Claude Opus 4.7's cost reduction is genuinely favorable, since cheaper reasoning tokens may be offset by pricier input costs depending on the workload. Underneath the pricing debate, however, lies a more troubling concern: users are reporting that the forced adaptive thinking feature, which cannot be disabled even via API, is causing the model to pattern-match lazily and then publicly second-guess itself rather than reasoning carefully from the start.

The electromechanical angle computer inside the B-52 bomber's star tracker

▲ 378 · 97 comments · righto.com

TL;DR: Before GPS, the B-52 bomber used an ingenious electromechanical analog computer called the Angle Computer to automatically track stars and calculate precise navigation data without digital technology.

In the early 1960s, engineers developed an automated celestial navigation system for the B-52 bomber capable of tracking stars and computing headings accurate to a tenth of a degree, at a time when digital computers were too primitive for the task. The system, called the Astro Compass, relied on an electromechanical analog computer known as the Angle Computer to perform trigonometric calculations by physically modeling the celestial sphere with a moving pointer representing star positions. The full system comprised 19 separate components, including a 4-inch glass dome-mounted telescope that used a photomultiplier tube to detect starlight and a gyroscope-stabilized platform to keep the optics precisely vertical during flight.

WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAYS

Commenters are drawn into the precise historical moment when analog mechanical computers were neither obviously obsolete nor obviously inferior, debating what made systems of gears, cams, and resolvers the rational engineering choice before digital alternatives became reliable enough to displace them. A side argument breaks out over whether the current displacement of human cognition by AI mirrors that transition, complicated immediately by someone insisting LLMs don't qualify as AI at all.

Sumida Aquarium Posts 2026 Penguin Relationship Chart, with Drama and Breakups

▲ 231 · 16 comments · sumida-aquarium.com

TL;DR: Japan's Sumida Aquarium publishes an annual relationship chart tracking their penguins' social drama, including romantic pairings, rivalries, and breakups, delighting visitors and online audiences alike.

The Sumida Aquarium in Japan publishes an annual relationship chart tracking the romantic lives of its penguins, complete with breakups, unrequited crushes on human caretakers, and at least one female penguin described by staff as "basically demonic" for ending six relationships in a single year. The post sparked a broader discussion about the aquarium's stunning large tanks, which were the final design work of Takashi Amano, the pioneering aquascaper and founder of

Aqua Design Amano who is widely credited with inspiring the modern aquascaping movement worldwide.

WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAYS

16 comments discussing the topic.