

The Rizz News

Yesterday's Top Tech Stories — Curated by RizzBot

Alberta startup sells no-tech tractors for half price

▲ 1977 · 666 comments · wheelfront.com

TL;DR: Alberta startup Ursa Ag is winning over American farmers by selling simple, repairable tractors powered by vintage Cummins engines at roughly half the price of major competitors.

Alberta startup Ursa Ag is selling no-electronics tractors powered by remanufactured 1990s 12-valve Cummins diesel engines at roughly half the price of comparable John Deere or Case IH machines, with its 150-horsepower model starting at \$129,900 CAD (about \$95,000 USD) and its top 260-horsepower model at \$199,900 CAD. The company, founded by Doug Wilson, strips its cabs to mechanical basics with no touchscreens or proprietary software, a direct response to years of right-to-repair battles that left farmers locked out of their own equipment. A single interview generated 400 inquiries from American farmers, and Wilson says 2026 production will surpass the company's entire cumulative output to date, though Ursa Ag has no U.S. distributors yet.

WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAYS

Practitioners are rallying around decades-old tractors like the Massey Ferguson 135 not out of nostalgia but out of genuine economic logic, pointing to cheap repairs, simple mechanics, and perfect sizing for rugged environments like forest work. The unresolved tension in the comments is whether any modern startup can actually compete in this space when the incumbent "technology" costs almost nothing to maintain and already does the job well enough.

Qwen3.6-27B: Flagship-Level Coding in a 27B Dense Model

▲ 907 · 420 comments · qwen.ai

TL;DR: Alibaba's newly open-sourced Qwen3.6-27B dense model delivers flagship-level coding performance that surpasses its predecessor Qwen3.5-397B, a model fifteen times larger, across every major benchmark.

Alibaba has open-sourced Qwen3.6-27B, a dense 27-billion-parameter multimodal model that outperforms its predecessor Qwen3.5-397B-A17B — a model with roughly 15 times the total parameter count — across all major coding benchmarks. On SWE-bench Verified, the new model scores 77.2 compared to 76.2 for the larger model, while SkillsBench shows a more dramatic gap of 48.2 versus 30.0. The model is available now on Qwen Studio with open weights released on Hugging Face and

ModelScope, offering developers a simpler deployment path than mixture-of-experts architectures without sacrificing top-tier performance.

WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAYS

Practitioners are genuinely excited about Qwen 3.6's performance-to-size ratio, with one user noting it achieves competitive results at 17GB compared to GLM 5.1's 1.51TB, roughly 1/88th the size. Underneath that technical discussion, though, a meta-debate has broken out about whether a beloved pelican SVG benchmark is eating the conversation alive, with some users defending it as a useful consistency test and others arguing it crowds out substantive analysis of the model itself.

Linux compatibility, with each approach trading one class of pain for another across nearly three decades of attempts.

Apple fixes bug that cops used to extract deleted chat messages from iPhones

▲ 729 · 175 comments · techcrunch.com

TL;DR: Apple patched a critical iPhone bug that allowed law enforcement to recover deleted Signal messages cached in notification databases, undermining encrypted messaging privacy protections for at-risk users.

Apple released a software update Wednesday patching a bug that allowed law enforcement to recover deleted messages from iPhones, including texts set to auto-delete in apps like Signal. The flaw caused notification content to be cached on devices for up to a month, even after the original messages were deleted, enabling the FBI to extract Signal conversations using forensic tools. Signal president Meredith Whittaker had publicly called on Apple to fix the issue after 404 Media first reported the vulnerability earlier this month.

WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAYS

Debate centers on a nuanced technical distinction between Apple and Google's remote notification servers seeing message content versus the local device OS caching notification plaintext longer than necessary, with commenters pushing back on conflating these two separate privacy concerns. Practitioners familiar with Signal's architecture are pointing out that properly designed apps can route notifications through platform infrastructure without exposing message content, since encrypted payloads can be decrypted locally by the app itself, making this specific bug a failure of implementation rather than an inherent vulnerability in the notification system.

Windows 9x Subsystem for Linux

▲ 975 · 233 comments · hails.org

TL;DR: A nostalgic technical discussion reveals that CoLinux ran Linux as a Windows XP process without virtualization, making it a surprisingly early predecessor to Microsoft's modern WSL2 technology.

A developer discussion has surfaced around a hypothetical Windows 9x subsystem for Linux, drawing comparisons to CoLinux, which ran User Mode Linux as a native Windows process on XP without any virtualization. CoLinux was limited to 32-bit systems due to its reliance on matching pointer sizes between architectures, preventing it from ever being ported to Windows 7's 64-bit environment. Commenters noted that WSL1 remains technically impressive for directly implementing POSIX and Linux syscalls on the NT microkernel, a design philosophy rooted in NT's original ambition to support multiple operating systems including OS/2 and Xenix.

WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAYS

Longtime practitioners are trading war stories about Cygwin's real-world limitations, with slow forking and signal emulation emerging as the deeper technical grievances beneath the more commonly cited DLL hell complaints. What the thread quietly reveals is that the line between "technically correct" and "actually usable" has always been the fault line in Windows-

5x5 Pixel font for tiny screens

▲ 727 · 148 comments · maurycyz.com

TL;DR: A developer has created a remarkably compact 5x5 pixel font fitting in just 350 bytes, designed specifically for tiny OLED screens on memory-constrained 8-bit microcontrollers without sacrificing legibility.

A developer has released a 5x5 pixel font distributed as a C header file, designed specifically for resource-constrained 8-bit microcontrollers like the AVR128DA28 and small OLED displays such as 160x128 or 128x64 screens. The entire font weighs just 350 bytes of memory, making it dramatically more efficient than vector font alternatives that can require several megabytes of code and font data combined. The fixed-width design simplifies string length calculations to a constant six pixels per character, and the author argues 5x5 represents the smallest resolution that preserves full legibility, with even smaller experimental variants down to 3x3 also explored in the project.

WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAYS

Practitioners are genuinely excited about the technical limits of legible typography, with the subpixel rendering trick enabling 1x5 fonts sparking real surprise even among people who assumed 2x4 was the theoretical floor. What started as a thread about tiny fonts quietly derailed into a heated debate about whether Imgur's UK block reflects government censorship or the company's own GDPR violations, with commenters pushing back hard on the "authoritarian government" framing.

We found a stable Firefox identifier linking all your private Tor identities

▲ 823 · 237 comments · fingerprint.com

TL;DR: A critical Firefox vulnerability allowed websites to fingerprint users across origins using IndexedDB ordering, defeating Tor Browser's New Identity feature and private browsing isolation until Firefox 150 patched it.

Researchers discovered a privacy vulnerability in all Firefox-based browsers that allows websites to derive a stable, unique fingerprint by inspecting the ordering of

entries returned by the IndexedDB API, which reflects process-scoped internal state rather than being isolated per origin. The flaw defeats the isolation guarantees of Firefox Private Browsing mode and critically undermines Tor Browser's "New Identity" feature, which is specifically designed to make subsequent browsing activity unlinkable to previous sessions. Mozilla patched the issue in Firefox 150 and ESR 140.10.0, tracked as Bug 2024220, with the fix working by canonicalizing or sorting IndexedDB results before returning them to eliminate the identifying entropy.

WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAYS

Commenters are wrestling with a fundamental tension in the fingerprinting industry's ethics, questioning whether a company that profits from exploiting unintended browser behaviors can draw a meaningful moral line between targeting everyday web users versus Tor users. Beneath that debate lies a deeper skepticism about user consent and awareness, with several voices pushing back on the idea that most people are indifferent to tracking, arguing instead that apparent apathy masks a sense of powerlessness rather than genuine acceptance.

SpaceX says it has agreement to acquire Cursor for \$60B

▲ 805 · 962 comments · twitter.com/spacex

TL;DR: SpaceX announced a partnership with AI coding tool Cursor, securing acquisition rights for \$60 billion while combining resources to develop advanced coding and knowledge work AI models.

SpaceX announced a partnership with AI coding tool Cursor, with an option to acquire the company later this year for 60 billion dollars. The deal gives SpaceX access to Cursor's software engineering user base while Cursor gains access to SpaceX's Colossus supercomputer, which the company describes as equivalent to one million H100 chips. SpaceX also noted it could alternatively pay 10 billion dollars for the collaborative work without completing a full acquisition.

WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAYS

Debate centers on whether Cursor's \$60B valuation reflects genuine technical depth or AI hype, with some arguing their context engineering and file management tricks produce measurably better results than competitors while others insist no "harness" justifies that price regardless of deal structure. A recurring tension emerges between sophisticated investors framing the deal as a cheap option rather

than a direct acquisition and engineers who remain unmoved by financial reframing, arguing that even \$10B for a wrapper around someone else's models is reckless given that frontier LLM providers can simply absorb whatever innovations third parties build.