



**Apple Expands  
Advanced Data  
Protection Feature  
Globally**



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5G Offerings**



# Newsletter

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## LAWYERS HUB PROJECTS

### French For Lawyers.

Attention all lawyers, law students, and legal practitioners! The Lawyers Hub is excited to announce our upcoming event: “French for Lawyers”, a unique opportunity designed to help you, legal professionals, expand your language skills and improve your ability to navigate the global legal landscape. Led by experienced legal professionals and language experts, you will have the chance to learn essential legal terms and phrases in French, as well as gain an understanding of the cultural and historical context of the language in the legal profession through interactive activities, group discussions, and case studies. Don't miss out on this valuable opportunity to enhance your language skills and further your career, register now at ... #Frenchforlawyers.



### The Africa Law Tech Festival – Attention all!

Don't miss out on the opportunity to attend the Africa Law Tech Festival 2023. This annual event brings together top legal and Tech minds from across the World to discuss the latest developments in technology and its impact on the legal industry. With keynote speakers, panel discussions, and networking opportunities, it's a must-attend event for anyone looking to stay ahead of the curve in the ever-evolving field of law and technology. Mark your calendars, 11th & 12th July 2023 and save the date! Here at Nairobi, Kenya, Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity to connect with colleagues and gain valuable insights into the future of our great Africa Continent and the World at large. See you there! #AfricaLawTech #TechPolicy#Africa.

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**IAPP Training** - There are Limited slots available for the IAPP Training for you to become a Certified Data Protection Professional (CIPP/E/CIPPM). Sign Up: <http://www.lawyershub.org/training>.

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# Startup & Commerce News

## Court Declines Extension of Order Banning Bank-to-Mobile Money Transfer Fees

A court has declined to extend an order that had previously prevented banks from charging fees for transferring money to mobile money accounts. This means that banks will now be able to charge fees for such transfers, which could potentially result in increased costs for individuals and businesses that use mobile money services. The decision by the court will have an impact on the use of mobile money in the country.



## Fintech Company Kwara Acquires Software Company to Modernize

Savings Cooperatives - A Kenyan fintech company Kwara, which aims to modernize traditional savings cooperatives by turning them into digital banks, has announced the acquisition of IRNET Coop Kenya Ltd, a software company that is a subsidiary of the Kenya Union of Savings and Credit Cooperatives. This acquisition will enable Kwara to incorporate IRNET's software capabilities into its platform, helping it to more efficiently and effectively modernize savings cooperatives. The effects of this transition can be both socially and

economically beneficial. On the social side, it allows members of the cooperative to have easy access to their savings, through digital channels, which can improve financial inclusion and literacy. On the economic side, digitalization of cooperatives can lead to more efficient and transparent operations, which can improve the overall performance of the cooperatives and attract more members. This can also lead to more lending opportunities and can be a catalyst for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) growth.

## Kenyan Fintech Pezesha Gets License to Operate in Uganda Pezesha.



Kenyan Fintech Pezesha Obtains License to Expand to Uganda: Pezesha, a Pan-African fintech company that specializes in providing lending infrastructure for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and institutions, has been granted a license to operate in Uganda. This license will allow Pezesha to expand

its services to SMEs in Uganda, providing them with access to affordable lending options and financial services. This will have a positive impact on the growth of SMEs in Uganda, as they will have access to more financial resources to invest in their businesses, which could lead to increased economic growth and job opportunities in the country. Additionally, the expansion of Pezesha to Uganda highlights the growing interest and potential for fintech companies in the region, as it's a sign that the African fintech scene is growing and providing more opportunities for innovation and financial inclusion.



## Starlink satellite plans to launch in Kenya.

On January 11th, Elon Musk's Starlink satellite internet plans to launch in Kenya before July. This is a story that would interest those in the technology industry.



## Kenya Revenue Authority to Monitor Mobile Money Transactions to Curb Tax Evasion

Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) has announced that it will begin monitoring mobile money transactions in order to reduce tax evasion as part of the government's efforts to increase revenue collection and ensure compliance with tax laws. The KRA will use data analytics and other technology tools to track mobile money transactions and identify potential cases of tax evasion. The authority is also encouraging taxpayers to voluntarily disclose any undeclared income or assets in order to avoid penalties. The move by

the KRA raises concerns about privacy and civil liberties as monitoring mobile money transactions may be seen as a form of surveillance. It could be viewed as a violation of the constitutional right to privacy, and it's important for the government to ensure that the monitoring is done in a transparent and lawful manner to avoid any potential legal challenges. It's also important for the KRA to put in place measures to protect the data collected and only use it for the purpose of tax compliance and not for other purposes..

**Microsoft has announced plans to invest \$10 billion in OpenAI, as the technology race heats up.**



The investment will accelerate the development of AI technologies and will have a significant impact on the economy and the world. This move by Microsoft highlights the growing importance of AI in today's economy and the need for companies to invest in cutting-edge technologies to stay competitive. It also demonstrates the increasing collaboration between tech companies and research institutions in the pursuit of advancements in AI.

## Navitas to Acquire Silicon Control IC Company

Navitas Semiconductor, a provider of advanced power management solutions, announced it will acquire a silicon control IC company, the name of the company is not disclosed. The acquisition will help Navitas expand its portfolio of power management ICs and increase its presence in the market. The company's advanced power management solutions will benefit from the acquisition by gaining access to the target company's technology and intellectual property. The financial details of the acquisition were not disclosed, but it is expected to close in Q1 of 2022.

## Iristel Company's expansion to Kenya.

Canadian company Iristel announced its expansion into Kenya after defeating Safaricom in court.



## Biglaw Associate Earns 60-Day Suspension for Billing 277 Hours to Review 20 Documents -

A Biglaw associate has been given a 60-day suspension for billing 277 hours to review 20 documents. The associate, who works at a large law firm, was found to have falsely recorded the time spent

on the task, earning a significant amount of money from the client. The firm conducted an internal investigation and found that the associate had engaged in misconduct, leading to the suspension. The incident highlights the importance of accurate timekeeping and billing practices in the legal profession and the need for law firms to have proper oversight and controls in place.



## TECH Layoffs

Tech companies across the industry have announced significant layoffs in the first few weeks of 2023, citing economic uncertainty and fears of a recession as reasons for their cost-cutting decisions.

Google, a subsidiary of Alphabet Inc., announced that it will cut 12,000 jobs from its global workforce, impacting approximately 6% of the company's employees. In an email to employees, Google CEO Sundar Pichai stated that the decision was difficult and that he takes full responsibility for the choices that led to this outcome.

Microsoft also announced layoffs, with plans to cut 10,000 jobs this year, affecting nearly 5% of the company's global workforce. In a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, the company cited macroeconomic conditions and changing customer priorities as the reason for the layoffs.

Amazon, the e-commerce giant, announced plans to eliminate 18,000 roles, including

layoffs announced in November. The majority of cuts will be in the Amazon Stores and People Experience and Technology Solutions teams.

E-Discovery Provider DISCO to Lay Off 9% of Workforce - discovery provider DISCO announced it will lay off roughly 9% of its workforce as a cost reduction initiative. The company, which specializes in providing software for legal discovery, is facing increased competition in the market and has decided to streamline its operations in order to remain competitive. The layoffs will affect employees in various departments and positions within the company, and it is not clear how many people will be affected. DISCO will also be implementing other cost-saving measures, such as reducing travel and other expenses.

Coinbase, a cryptocurrency trading platform, also announced layoffs, with 950 people set to lose their jobs. In a statement, CEO Brian Armstrong said the decision was necessary to reduce expenses

and increase the company's chances of success in a difficult economy.

Netflix has announced a layoff of 300 employees, marking the second consecutive month that the company has cut staff due to declining subscriber growth and a falling stock price. The company is also introducing a lower-priced subscription tier that includes advertising to address its financial struggles, although some analysts have warned that this move could cannibalize Netflix's existing user base and benefit competitors more than Netflix itself.

These layoffs come on the heels of a volatile 2022, where major tech brands also announced layoffs in the thousands. The economic uncertainty and fear of a recession continue to impact the tech industry, leaving many workers uncertain about their future.

## AI News

**ChatGPT and the AI wave.** On December 17th, 2022, \$MSFT CEO @satyanadella spoke about ChatGPT and the AI wave, saying "ChatGPT was all trained on the Azure super-computer...If you're not thinking about the ethical implications of AI, you're not thinking about AI"

# Data Protection News

## Apple Expands Advanced Data Protection Feature Globally



Apple has announced that it will be expanding its advanced data protection option globally with the latest iOS 16.3 update. This feature, known as the App Attest API, allows users to control which apps have access to sensitive data, such as location and health data, and provides more transparency about how apps are using this data. The expansion of this feature will bring greater privacy and security controls for iPhone users globally. It also aligns with the increasing global trend of data privacy and security concerns, and the need for companies to provide their users with more control over their personal data

## — Did you know? —

Did you know that tech giant Samsung started by selling noodles, in 1938 Samsung started as a grocery store in Korea that produced noodles, and its first electrical product wasn't made until the 1970's and it was a 12 inch black and white TV.

**Bonus Fact:** Samsung also created Korea's first fighter jet the KF - 16.

## WhatsApp Fined \$5.95 Million for Alleged GDPR Violation by EU Privacy Regulator -



Meta's WhatsApp, the company that owns and operates WhatsApp, has been fined \$5.95 million by the lead EU privacy regulator. The fine was issued due to WhatsApp's alleged violation of the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) regulations. The specific violation concerns WhatsApp's sharing of user data with Facebook, its parent company, without obtaining proper consent from its users. The fine, which is the largest ever issued by the regulator, highlights the increasing scrutiny and enforcement of data privacy laws in the EU and around

the world. The fine also serves as a warning for other companies to ensure that they are complying with data privacy regulations and obtaining proper consent from users before sharing their data. The impact of this news is that it serves as a reminder for companies to take data privacy and regulations seriously and to make sure they are following the laws and regulations in their operations.

## Legal Tech

### Legal Tech Investments Drop in 2022, But Number of Investors Spikes

According to Law.com's Legal Tech News, legal tech funding saw a plunge in 2022, compared to 2021. However, some experts believe that startups may benefit in the New Year. Legal technology investments dropped in 2022, but the number of investors in the sector spiked, according to a report. Despite the decrease in funding, the legal tech industry saw an increase in the number of investors, indicating growing interest in the sector. The report suggests that while the amount of money invested in legal tech may have decreased, the industry is becoming more attractive to a wider range of investors. The report also highlighted that the legal tech sector continues to be a promising area for investment, with advancements in technology and increasing demand for legal services driving growth.

### Attorneys Exploring New Technology in the Courtroom, from Doorbell Cameras to 3D

Attorneys are exploring new technologies in the courtroom to improve the legal process, from doorbell cameras to 3D. Legal professionals are using doorbell cameras as evidence in court cases, as well as utilizing 3D technology to better visualize and present evidence in the courtroom. Additionally, virtual and augmented reality technology is increasingly being used to help juries understand complex evidence and crime scenes. The use of technology in the courtroom is helping to improve the legal process and make it more efficient, and is expected to continue to grow in popularity in the future.

# Blockchain and Digital Currencies



## SWIFT Network Cuts Access to Cryptocurrency Exchanges, Impact on the Future of Cryptocurrencies

The SWIFT payments network has cut access to crypto exchanges, a decision that could have major implications for the future of cryptocurrencies.

New FTX CEO John Ray Eyes Possibility of Reviving Bankrupt Crypto Exchange - New FTX CEO John Ray is exploring the possibility of reviving the platform instead of simply liquidating assets or selling the platform, according to the Wall Street Journal report. The future of customer funds, however, remains unclear as the founder, Sam Bankman-Fried, faces fraud charges.

## DOJ Arrests Founder of Bitzlato, a China-based Cryptocurrency Exchange Involved in Money Laundering on the Darknet, Warns Against Crypto Crimes -

The Department of Justice (DOJ) has arrested the founder of Bitzlato, Anatoly Legkodymov, for crimes totaling \$700 million. Bitzlato is a China-based cryptocurrency exchange known for its involvement in money laundering on the darknet. The DOJ is warning against crypto crimes and encourages the public

# Intellectual Property

## Nokia and Samsung Sign New 5G Patent Deal to Strengthen 5G Offerings

- Nokia has signed a new 5G patent deal with Samsung, allowing the two companies to cross-license their 5G standard-essential patents, which will enable them to use each other's patents for the development, manufacture, and sale of 5G products and services. This collaboration is expected to strengthen the companies' 5G offerings and reduce potential disputes and legal action over the use of 5G patents. The deal is a significant step for both companies in the 5G market, as Nokia is a leading player in the 5G market with a strong portfolio of patents and technology, while Samsung is a major player in the telecommunications industry and has been investing heavily in 5G research and development.

## Samsung Loses Bid to Pause Patent Lawsuit over Wireless Chips

- A U.S. judge has denied Samsung's request to pause a patent lawsuit brought against them by the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) over wireless chips. Caltech had accused Samsung of infringing on its patents for wireless chips in its smartphones and other devices. Samsung had asked for the case to be put on hold while it sought to invalidate the patents at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. However, the judge ruled that Samsung did not provide enough evidence to show that the outcome of the patent office review would have a significant impact on the case. The lawsuit is set to proceed in court.

## Apple Wins Appeal to Keep \$308 Million U.S. Patent Verdict at Bay

- Apple has won an appeal in the United States to keep a \$308 million patent verdict at bay. The case was brought by a company called Smartflash LLC, which had accused Apple of using its patented data storage technology in the iTunes software without permission. In 2015, a jury had awarded Smartflash \$532 million, but the judge later reduced the award to \$308 million. Apple had appealed the decision, arguing that the patents were invalid and that Smartflash had not shown that Apple's use of the technology had caused it any harm. A US appeals court has agreed with Apple and ordered a new trial on the damages.

# Product Update

## Nigerian Company Launches “Run-Am” App to Verify Fake News and Combat Misinformation During 2023 Election

A Nigerian company called Rise Networks has launched a mobile app called “Run-Am” to verify fake news and combat the spread of misinformation during the 2023 election period in Nigeria.

## Samsung Display unveils a new prototype display and hinge that can rotate 360 degrees



Samsung Display, the subsidiary that makes the company’s screens, showed off a new prototype

display and hinge at CES 2023 that can rotate 360 degrees, meaning it can be folded inward and outward, with a different hinge design that creates a significantly less visible crease. It is speculated that the new screen could show up in the upcoming Samsung Galaxy Z Fold 5, which is expected to be released in August 2023. This new design addresses one of the main criticisms of the previous Galaxy Z Fold and Galaxy Z Flip models, which was the prominent crease that was created when the device was folded.



## Microsoft to stop selling Windows 10 downloads on January 31st

Microsoft will stop selling downloads for Windows 10 Home and Pro licenses on January 31st, more than two years before the company stops officially supporting Windows 10 on October 14th, 2025. While Microsoft is winding down its own Windows 10 sales to consumers, it is likely that Windows 10 license keys and even laptops and PCs with the OS preinstalled will still be available from third parties for quite some time before Microsoft stops supporting the OS.

## Did you know?

Apple actually owns the patent to the slide unlock feature in your phone..

# Events and Opportunities

## Kenya’s Office of the Data Protection Commissioner Hosts Data Privacy Week with Panel Discussions and Events.

The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner in Kenya is hosting Data Privacy Week from January 24th to 27th, with a series of events and panel discussions on topics such as the rights of data subjects, financial technologies, and compliance requirements for data controllers and processors.

## Africa Tech Summit Nairobi

The Africa Tech Summit Nairobi for February 15th-16th 2023 has sold out, with 1000+ delegates, 450+ companies, and 150 speakers expected to attend.

## SXSW

10th - 19th of March, 2023  
Austin, Texas

SXSW is the best tech summit for creative industry professionals. At this conference, you can immerse yourself in breakthroughs in tech, film, culture, and music from keynote speakers like Barack Obama, Olivia Wilde, and Esther Perel - all of whom have spoken at SXSW in the past. This year, topic tracks include climate change, culture, film, design, and more.

## ODSC: East

9th - 11th of May, 2023

Boston, Massachusetts

The Open Data Science Conference is a two-day extravaganza for artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, data science, big data, open-source tech, and machine learning. Business leaders from world-class companies like Microsoft and Salesforce have been known to attend and share their insights on the future of technology.