



NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

WhatsApp reports India revenues of Rs 6.84 crore for the first time for FY19

A film-tech start-up looks at bridging supply chain gap for new talents

Rent It Bae buys fashion rental startup Flyrobe

Yulu raises \$8M in Series A funding led by Bajaj Auto

Big Bazaar may beat Grofers, Flipkart, become lead grocery seller on Amazon

Today's View

AI-based Networking

Around 82% of companies in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom experience some type of network downtime caused by IT personnel making errors when configuring changes to the network core, as per **Avaya** survey. The survey further reveals that 80% of these companies lose revenue when the network goes down.

In order to reduce such dependencies, the concept of Intent-Based Networking (IBN) has been developed which incorporates artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning to automate administrative tasks across a computer network. The end goal of IBN is the creation of self-managing networks. The 'intent' is automatically interpreted across different devices, without requiring engineers to individually alter each device in a network. It requires significantly less administrative input, and such inputs can be given through a user-friendly Graphical User Interface (GUI), instead of Command Line Interfaces (CLI).

Though, IBN is still in the early stages of development, **Gartner** predicts that IBN will be functioning in at least a thousand enterprise networks by 2020.

Some companies have already started working on this futuristic system. For example, **Cisco** has laid out product roadmaps to create IBN platforms. Apstra, a Silicon Valley startup is actively working on its intent-based, closed-loop, vendor-agnostic **Apstra** Operating System (AOS). Based on the company's defined intent, AOS translates policies into a network

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Oyo Hotels and Homes' bright view of itself five years from now

If your company's valuations are growing by leaps and bounds year after year, your revenue and profit projections, too, had better keep pace.



Source – Live Mint

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Date – 27th Nov 19

configuration that is automatically deployed within the network infrastructure. Being vendor-agnostic, AOS supports network devices from different vendors such as Cisco, Arista or Juniper.

One big challenge in developing intent-based networking systems is building software that engineers can write once and run anywhere. Hence, initiatives such as the **Open Networking Foundation**, **OpenStack** and the **OpenDaylight Project** are working on network automation software projects to overcome this challenge.

We believe that, though Intent-based networking is in nascent stages, it could be the next big thing in IoT space, as it promises to be a compelling platform that moves networking from legacy hardware to a more agile software defined implementation. As machine learning and artificial intelligence advance, intent-based networking systems have potential to become smarter and closer to reality.

Today's News

WhatsApp reports India revenues of Rs 6.84 crore for the first time for FY19

A year after launching its WhatsApp Business app for businesses to communicate with their customers, Facebook owned messaging giant WhatsApp has reported its India revenues for the first time for fiscal year 2019. Documents filed with the Registrar of Companies (RoC) show WhatsApp, which is currently awaiting approvals from regulatory authorities for its payments service, reported revenues of Rs 6.84 crore for fiscal 2019 and a profit of Rs 57 lakh for the financial year under review. About a million businesses in India are currently using the WhatsApp business app to communicate and exchange information with their customers.

In its financial statements, WhatsApp stated the company had started its operations and attributed the revenues to its IT enabled business processes outsourcing services. The company had not reported any revenues for fiscal 2018 and stated it incurred expenses of Rs 5 lakh for fiscal 2018.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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A film-tech start-up looks at bridging supply chain gap for new talents

After fin-tech and edu-tech start-ups, now it is time for film-tech start-ups. Coastal Breeze Productions Pvt Ltd, a start-up with four promoters from coastal Karnataka, is planning a technology-based movie-making platform for new talent entering the industry. Murali Sarali, Founder and Promoter of Coastal Breeze, told BusinessLine that the start-up is in the process of creating a cognitive platform for entertainment and creative industry. The idea is to provide a platform to connect new talent with the other stakeholders in the industry supply chain. The platform, '1ME', is a single unified platform for media and entertainment sector, he said.

Source – *The Hindu Business Line*

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This News Letter has been prepared with the assistance of Preeti Patil and Manish Kulkarni.

Jack Ma's Ant Financial plans to raise about \$1 billion for start-ups

Billionaire Jack Ma's Ant Financial is planning to raise about \$1 billion for a fund that will invest in start-ups from Southeast Asia to India and help strengthen its foothold in fast-growing mobile internet markets, a source said.

The firm is looking to back more start-ups in those regions that focus on payments and online finance, the person said, confirming a DealStreet Asia report. Ant Financial V-P Ji Gang told attendees at a conference that his firm was looking to raise a fund, but didn't specify the amount. Ant Financial declined to comment.

Source – *Business Standard*

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Rent It Bae buys fashion rental startup Flyrobe

Rent It Bae has acquired peer fashion rental services startup Flyrobe to consolidate operations, ramp up its omnichannel footprint and tap the overseas market.

AARK World Pvt Ltd., which owns and operates Rent It Bae, said both businesses are being merged and will operate under the brand Flyrobe. The alliance that was stitched up last week is expected to be announced in the next few days.

"The recent deal between the two startups is part cash and part stock. The new combined business is being valued at Rs 60 crore," Aanchal Saini, former CEO of Rent It Bae and the new CEO of Flyrobe, told ET.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Google eyes wider user base, more revenue streams from Google Pay platform

Aiming to grow its customer base in the country and increase the volume of annual transactions, Google seeks to further monetise services on its payments platform Google Pay. It is already charging a fee for services related to personal loans and gold investments, and has a revenue generation model in place for travel and recharge services.

“In case of recharges and travel, there is already an established commercial model in place; but we don’t charge the consumers or the merchant as of today; it works on other parameters. For the personal loans and gold investment services, there is a certain fee involved,” Sharath Bulusu, director of product management at Google Pay said. Bulusu, however, did not specify the sectors or the services which the global technology giant is eyeing to open up new revenue streams for the company.

Source – Business Standard

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Russian cows get virtual-reality glasses to help them ward off winter blues

Around this time of year, life in Russia swings from one extreme to the other: from sunshine to snow; green to grey; apricots to atrophied apples. The adjustment can cause emotional strain and illnesses in the best of us. But it’s not, apparently, only the humans who suffer. According to veterinary experts, the country’s 20 million-strong bovine population is particularly susceptible to a bout of the winter blues. Luckily, scientists now believe they have a solution to their Russian winter problem in the form of virtual-reality glasses.

The exact design of the prototype kit is top secret. But some details have already leaked. According local media, the wrap-around glasses boast a “unique form” that has been adapted to the cow’s anatomical structure.

Source – Independent

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Uber’s licence lost, Ola starts hiring drive for London launch

A day after Uber, the world’s largest ride-hailing company, lost its commercial licence in London, its Indian rival Ola Cabs began registering drivers on Tuesday, ahead of launching commercial operations in the city. The Bengaluru-based company is already operating in British cities such as Birmingham, Bristol and Liverpool.

After competing with Uber on an equal footing in India, the Bhavish Aggarwal-led company has expanded to Australia and New Zealand, apart from the UK. According to Simon Smith, head of international, Ola, the company is inviting tens of thousands of private hire vehicle drivers that are allowed to work for ride-hailing firms across London to register themselves on the Ola platform, as it prepares to launch in the city in the coming weeks.

Source – Live Mint

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Yulu raises \$8M in Series A funding led by Bajaj Auto

Bengaluru-based last-mile micro-mobility platform Yulu has raised Series A funding of \$8 million, led by leading automobile manufacturer Bajaj Auto Ltd. Existing investors invested an additional \$2 million.

With this funding, Yulu will look at building strong electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure and also fast-track refining its electric scooter, Yulu Miracle. The team is looking to support over 100,000 Yulu Miracles by the end of 2020. It is also looking at building an extensive network of battery-swapping stations across the cities where it operates. It was with this in mind that Yulu partnered with Bajaj Auto, which was handling the assembly for the EV startup.

Source – YourStory

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Big Bazaar may beat Grofers, Flipkart, become lead grocery seller on Amazon

Big Bazaar is likely to beat rivals Grofers and Flipkart, taking a lead in the online grocery war. Sources said the Kishore Biyani-led hypermarket chain could soon be the biggest grocery seller on Amazon India. At present, it fulfills 300 to 1,000 orders per day per store for Amazon. The might go up four times by early next year. Big Bazaar has more than 2,000 stores in India. Amazon might soon use it for fulfilling its two-hour grocery and fresh produce delivery service.

Source – Business Standard

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