



2015 Year In Review

A quick, but fun, look back at the hot issues and major technology headlines of the year. All the way from security to gadget launches and the year's big achievements and disappointments.

HP goes from one to two – Hewlett Packard spun out its enterprise unit into its own publicly-traded Fortune 50 company with Meg Whitman taking the reigns. The other unit will continue to provide consumers and businesses with PC's and printers. Unfortunately, the decision to split will continue to have layoff implications (as many as 33,000 workers are anticipating to lose their jobs).

Twitter's executive team gets shuffled – A lot of pundits saw it coming. Dick Costolo, Twitter's CEO, was ousted from the company in favor of the microblogging firm's co-founder Jack Dorsey. The reason cited for giving Costolo the boot was a lack of user growth. Dorsey's first move as CEO? Cut more than 8 percent of the workforce.

Hack Attack(s) – Like the massive hack on Hong Kong's top toy maker VTech -- where millions of kids and their parents data was stolen -- will continue to happen. VTech's security breach included stolen names, e-mail addresses, passwords, secret questions and answers for password retrieval, IP addresses, children's names and birthdates. Most corporations' IT departments -- to this day -- still lack experience in the field of security.

Space Race 2.0 as tech gurus and companies aim for beyond – Jeff Bezos and Elon Musk – two of the most prominent entrepreneurs of our generation, restarted the space race with the goal of launching a reusable self-landing rocket. Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin got there first, with Elon Musk's Space X following just a few weeks later. Both companies are competing for further NASA contracts which could help establish a brand new industry within the private space sector.

Apple Watch released but received with a whimper – One of the most anticipated products of the year was announced with a big bang and yes, data suggests that sales balloon popped almost immediately after its release. However, things aren't looking so good for the new watch. Two reasons: One, Apple relegated them to a category of "other" mish-mash accessories and iPods it sells. Two, customers still can't figure out exactly what to do with it.

The Apple watch may just be another product ahead of its time. Android hit by multiple major security flaws - Some technology experts consider Android as the world's most popular mobile operating system (in four-out-of-five hands around the world), but where it excels in customizability and popularity, it lacks in security. In 2015, the phone and tablet platform was hit by a series of high-profile flaws, notably the stagefright virus, which affected every Android device in the world and hit a second time after the first fix failed to do the job.

Windows 10 says hello with a little controversy – Although Windows 10 came as a breath of fresh air (especially for those stuck on a widely-unpopular Windows 8), there was still a large number of people left on Windows 7. Many were put off from upgrading — not just because of the problems with Windows 8, but the subsequent allegations of data tracking and privacy invasions by Windows 10.

New laws are put in effect to tame the Internet – The internet, for a long while, was a lawless place. But 2015 saw the rise of two major new laws and one executive action directly targeting users in the U.S. and EU nations. CISA is a cybersecurity bill that allows Silicon Valley firms to share “threat data” freely with the government in return for legal protections. The aim was to prevent cyberattacks.

The one-sided encryption debate rages on – The encryption debate reached a peak after the second terrorist attack hit Paris. After evidence showed that the terrorists used encrypted communication to carry out their attacks, it reignited the debate over whether encryption should have backdoors, allowing law enforcement agencies access. Some senior NSA officials have stated that all too often ‘too much’ information is collected—making key intelligence findings near-impossible. However, other officials are insistent on a ‘collect it all’ mantra, indicating that failure is on leadership and execution, and not a failure of the data.

PC's continue to tumble down – The PC market continues to decline month after month and year after year with the rise of the tablet. Lenovo, HP and Dell (three of the largest PC makers in the market) might face an uncertain future. PC sales –even ahead of Windows 10's release –took a beating, making 2015 the fourth consecutive year of declining volume shipments. Will the PC continue to get cannibalized by the iPad Pro and Surface tablets in 2016?

We skipped mentioning a few major headlines, but if you'd like to share one of your favorite 2015 hot topics, or what you are anticipating might be in the front pages in 2016, visit our facebook page or send us a tweet!

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