

Proprietary Software: Deaths, Rentals and Back Doors

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Created *11/12/2019 - 10:07am*

Submitted by Roy Schestowitz on Wednesday 11th of December 2019 10:07:16 AM Filed under [Software](#) [1]

- [Join us on our new journey, says Wunderlist ? as it vanishes down the Microsoft plughole](#) [2]

Three months after its former CEO pleaded with Microsoft to sell him back Wunderlist, the software giant has confirmed the worst: it really is killing the popular to-do app.

On May 6, 2020, Microsoft will pull the plug on the app that it paid somewhere between \$100m and \$200m for in 2015. In its place, it is encouraging everyone to move to its To Do app, which is tightly integrated into the Microsoft ecosystem and, as a result, probably doesn't work well with anything that isn't Microsoft.

Even after years of neglect, Wunderlist remains a very popular application for to-do tasks, in large part because it does that singular task extremely well, syncing across devices and allowing users to quickly and easily attach dates to tasks, as well as arrange them in different folders.

- [\[Old\] The economics of streaming is changing pop songs](#) [3]

It helps to be included on a streaming company's playlist. These account for roughly a third of all streams. Tracks are selected by opaque algorithms, but by analysing performance data you can work out what the bots like, says Chiara Belolo of Scorpio Music, a boutique label. Composers are adapting to what they think is being looked for. Hit songs are shorter. Intros have become truncated, says Mr Kalifowitz, ?to get to the point a bit faster?.

Choruses are starting sooner (see chart). Take this year's most-streamed Spotify track. The first notes on ?Señorita?, by Shawn Mendes, preview the refrain, which arrives 15 seconds in and is a fixture throughout the playing time of 3:10.

- [Apple, Facebook Clash With Senators Over Encryption, Backdoors](#) [4]

In a Senate hearing on Tuesday, lawmakers on both sides of the aisle pushed the companies to let the police and other authorities access personal data that lies behind encryption on devices and technology platforms. Senators threatened to legislate if the private sector doesn't offer solutions on its own.

- [The Senate Judiciary Committee Wants Everyone to Know It's Concerned About Encryption](#) [5]

This morning the Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing on encryption and "lawful access." That's the fanciful idea that encryption providers can somehow allow law enforcement access to users' encrypted data while otherwise preventing the "bad guys" from accessing this very same data.

But the hearing was not inspired by some new engineering breakthrough that might make it possible for Apple or Facebook to build a secure law enforcement backdoor into their encrypted devices and messaging applications. Instead, it followed speeches, open letters, and other public pressure by law enforcement officials in the U.S. and elsewhere to prevent Facebook from encrypting its messaging applications, and more generally to portray encryption as a tool used in serious crimes, including child exploitation. Facebook has signaled it won't bow to that pressure. And more than 100 organizations including EFF have called on these law enforcement officials to reverse course and avoid gutting one of the most powerful privacy and security tools available to users in an increasingly insecure world.

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