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Google's Modular Phones

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ARM buys Apical

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The acquisition supports ARM's long term growth strategy by enabling new imaging products for next generation vehicles,……

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Open Source Software From Google To Unite Smart Home Devices

Alphabet's Nest Labs Inc. has unleashed what it says is a free open source version of the software it uses to allow the Thread protocol for the Internet of Things (IoT). The release of OpenThread marks a minor but noteworthy effort to speed up adoption of its approach to interoperability in a highly fragmented market for smart home products.

Nest's rivals including the Allseen Alliance and the Open Connectivity Foundation (OCF) have already made available open source reference code for their IoT application-layer protocols. Allseen's Alljoyn was early to release software that has been adopted in a variety of shipping systems.

Apple CEO To Unveil New Facility, Detail Initiatives In India Visit

In a bid to aid Indian start-ups and developers working on Apple's iOS platform, Apple CEO Tim Cook will set up a software laboratory in Hyderabad—which is set to open today, May 19 (Thursday).

Cook's arrival last May 17 was met with much anticipation as he is expected to announce several more initiatives and detail the company's plans during his trip, including the opening of an app design and development accelerator that's set to open in Bengaluru in early 2017.

In a statement, Apple said that the accelerator would help Indian developers advance app designs for Apple's iPhone and iPads.

Google's Modular Phones To Go On Sale Next Year

Alphabet Inc. 's Google said it plans to start selling phones with modular, replaceable parts next year, two years later than initially planned.

The project, dubbed Ara, is an aggressive effort by Google to upend the mobile industry by making smartphones' hardware almost as customizable as their apps. The company on Friday showed how different parts could be snapped onto the back of a phone, including high-powered camera lenses, speakers, a glucometer for diabetes patients or a holder for breath mints.

New Chips Propel Machine Learning

Computer users have long relied on Nvidia Corp. 's technology to paint virtual worlds on the screen as they gunned down videogame enemies. Now some researchers are betting it can also help save lives—of real people.

Massachusetts General Hospital recently established a center in Boston that plans to use Nvidia chips to help an artificial-intelligence system spot anomalies on CT scans and other medical images, jobs now carried out by human radiologists. The project, drawing on a database of 10 billion existing images, is designed to to "train" systems to help doctors detect cancer, Alzheimer's and other diseases earlier and more accurately.

ARM Buys Apical

ARM has acquired embedded vision specialist Apical for $350 million in cash,

The acquisition supports ARM's long term growth strategy by enabling new imaging products for next generation vehicles, security systems, robotics, mobile and any consumer, smart building, industrial or retail application where intelligent image processing is needed. Apical's technology will complement the ARM® Mali™ graphics, display and video processor roadmap with products including:

Spirit: A power-efficient computer vision technology, Spirit gives ARM and its partners the ability to address opportunities anywhere that advanced image computing can deliver innovation. It comprises dedicated silicon IP blocks that deliver an on-chip computer vision capability by converting raw sensor data or video into a machine-readable representation of an image.