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Providing Water, Not IT Support

By Dan Ayars, Marketing Coordinator, TechSolutions

Some of us here at TechSolutions will temporarily step away from our IT support roles and, as we have in previous years, staff and run a water stop for the American Lung Association's annual Caesar Rodney Half Marathon. This is a major fundraiser for a great organization, so we're glad to help out and besides being rewarding, it is a heck of a lot of fun. The marathon is being held on March 23rd and starts at 9:30 a.m. We will be located at Delaware Avenue and Bancroft Parkway all morning, so stop by and say hi if you're in the area. And if you want to help out let me know, we'd be glad to have your assistance. You can get more information about this event at 2014 Caesar Rodney Half Marathon.

Samsung Galaxy S5 Review: Latest Flagship Smartphone Features a Heart Rate Sensor and Fingerprint Scanner

Samsung Galaxy S5 was officially announced at Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, Spain on Monday (February 24, 2014). The latest flagship smartphone from the South Korean brand was finally launched into the crowded market almost a year after the Galaxy S4 was first launched. Physically the Galaxy S5 looks a lot like its nearest predecessor with the same rounded edges and plastic casing; however the back of the device features a rubberized, indented texture, so it feels better in the hand.

Compared to the Galaxy S4, the Galaxy S5 is taller and heavier as it weighs 5.1 ounces and measures 5.6 x 2.8 x 0.31 inches. The handset also has a slightly larger 5.1-inch high-definition 1080p display and a 2.5GHz quad-core Snapdragon 800 processor. Furthermore, Samsung included a fingerprint scanner to its latest product, which reportedly works very well and has the ability to store up to three fingerprints.

Accessed through the Home button on the front, this feature is used to unlock the phone and make mobile payments.

The phone has a 16-megapixel rear-facing camera with two interesting features: real-time high-dynamic range (HDR) photography and video capture, and post-processing focus alteration. Notably, the S5 is water resistant, so a photo could be captured underwater as well. Users can even record underwater video in Ultra HD 4K at 30 frames per second. Selfie fanatics will be pleased that there is a 2-megapixel camera offered on the front, too.

Samsung added a heart rate monitor to the Galaxy S5 that is accessed via a sensor located next to the rear-facing camera flash. When you gently push your finger over the sensor, the phone logs your current heart rate. Other notable specifications include a 2,800mAh battery, 2GB RAM, NFC, Wi-Fi, USB 3 and Bluetooth 4.0 low-energy. The S5 runs Android 4.4.2 KitKat, the latest version of the Android mobile operating system.

With all these features and being Samsung's flagship phone, the cost is estimated to be over $500 without a carrier contract. The phone will be available in over 150 countries on April 11.

CES 2014: A Look into the Future of Technology

(NewsUSA) - The first International Consumer Electronics Show (CES) took place in New York City in June of 1967. Since then, thousands of products have been announced at the yearly show, including the VCR in 1970, the CD player in 1981, HDTV in 1998, 3D HDTV in 2009 and Ultra HDTV, Flexible OLED and driverless car technology in 2013.

Tech expert Brett Larson and KillerApps.TV gave a glimpse of the cutting-edge tech unveiled at the CES 2014:

TV Tech. Beside the big introduction of the new Ultra HD or 4k TV technology, DISH Network introduced three new ideas. Extending the capabilities of a Hopper, the SuperJoey gives users the ability to watch and record up to eight shows simultaneously. The Wireless Joey system opens up installation options where coaxial or Ethernet wiring is difficult to achieve or undesirable, like above the fireplace or in the kitchen. And Virtual Joey provides a nearly identical experience to the Hopper's hardware-based Joeys within the new Sony PlayStation 4 with a Joey app for the PlayStation 3 system and select smart TVs.

For the home hobbyist. Brother featured the ScanNCut machine -- a revolutionary new home and hobby cutting machine with a built-in scanner. It's the only home and hobby cutting machine that can take an image, photo or hand drawn sketch, scan it and allow you to precisely cut the shapes or outlines you want to create unique, one-of-a-kind scrapbooks, greeting cards, appliqués, quilts, and crafts.

Gaming Tech. The Logitech PowerShell Controller + Battery turns the iPhone 5s, iPhone 5, and iPod touch (5th generation) into a mobile gaming console. Just insert the device into the PowerShell like a standard case, and enjoy favorite games on the go, with double the play time, thanks to an onboard battery.

Wearable Technology. The LG Lifeband Touch is a physical activity-tracking wristband with a full touch OLED display. It offers a convenient way to view key fitness data such as time, distance, speed, number of steps taken, calories burned and projected pace. The device enables data to be easily transmitted to LG's smartphone app for the connected user's convenience and tracking.

The connected car. Audi presented its newest electronic technologies at CES in Las Vegas for the fourth year in a row. The Audi stand showcased the integration of 4G LTE technology into Audi connect services. This technology allows for a faster transfer of data to the car for info on parking availability, social media, video streaming and more.

Visit www.KillerApps.TV for more information.

New Biotech Site Sparks Hope for Cancer Treatments

(NewsUSA) - The latest victory in the Myriad Genetics case in Australia, allowing Myriad Genetics to patent isolated DNA, has sparked new debate over the development of new drugs to treat cancer.

At the forefront of a grass roots movement in this debate is Viratech Corp. (OTC: VIRA), which claims to have the first open source biotech research and development platform, designed to bring open source development to the biotech industry -- something that the software industry has enjoyed and which many attribute to the current IT explosion. Popular products such as Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, Android and the Apache Open Office Suite, were all developed with open source.

The premise of Viratech's patent-pending method of open source research and development of biotech inventions is simply to use the social networking phenomena of Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, and apply it to the biotech world, where many new treatments and diagnostics are either gobbled up by Big Pharma and never developed, or never developed for lack of IP protection and financing.

Viratech's platform of promoting biotech development is not completely open source, however. It is designed to protect intellectual property, bypassing the traditional huge expense and worry of IP protection, allowing users of the site to share their IP, develop their technology and amass a body of knowledge from that sharing protected by copyright.

VIRA hopes their site can create a paradigm shift in health care, resulting in treatments that are less costly and more available to those who need them. But the most interesting claim made is that the new social networking website, designed by VIRA for cancer.im, devoted to cancer treatment (http://cancer.im), which is estimated by the American Cancer Society to have reached the $1 trillion mark, can actually improve survival rates in cancer patients. The site, being touted as "Facebook for cancer patients," is based on medical studies that conclude that raising the quality of life of a cancer patient lowers the incidents of morbidity, regardless of treatment.

Much like Facebook, Cancer.im will provide the much-needed support and social interaction that those stricken with cancer thrive on to fuel their recovery. It is premised that, as Facebook has reconnected long-lost friends and acquaintances through a "virtual connection," the same can be done by friends and family who would otherwise be embarrassed to reach out to someone they know who is afflicted by cancer, or if they don't know exactly what to do to help

Big Data on Campus to Decline Dropout Rates?

(NewsUSA) - What if colleges could predict whether students would drop out of college before they had a chance to? How helpful would this information be in reducing dropout rates and increasing graduation rates?

Well, a new system may be able to help do just that.

"We have identified factors that can be predictors of student success, which gives colleges the ability to flag at-risk students," says Eric Reich of Higher One's Campus Labs platform. "Now, thanks to Higher One's Campus Labs platform, colleges are able to use sophisticated data analysis techniques to understand more about students."

Clues to how students are doing include how often they participate in campus activities (like sporting events or student organizations), how often they use campus services (such as checking in at the financial aid office, career center or computer labs) and how engaged they are with their own course work (providing course feedback or visiting professors during office hours).

All of these actions create data that institutions can capture, and all of these actions have been shown to increase the likelihood of a student to graduate. It makes sense, but only in recent years have schools embraced the technology that can gather and analyze these data so the college can really identify at-risk students and "tweak" their programs to help.

"Using Campus Labs, an advisor can actually detect patterns of students who are not successful and intervene to give them the guidance at the critical time -- before it's too late," says Reich. Just look at Northern Arizona University, which recently partnered with Higher One to help the University collect data, collaborate across divisions, embrace student assessment and ultimately guide decisions by administrators. "Freshman outreach has been very successful for us," says Erin Grisham, executive director of educational support service at Northern Arizona. "Students we meet with retain at higher rates than those we don't meet with."

For more information, visit www.higherone.com/campuslabs.