

FRIDAY MORNING: IT'S FIVE SOMEWHERE



[image: Sarah G via Flickr]

This week has been really long. Painfully dragged out. Mid-week snowstorm probably didn't help. But here we are, survivors with another week and yet another Presidential campaign debate under our belts.

I'll keep it short and snappy given how much ugly we've been through.

Your information security is only as good as the stupidest person on staff

"Hello, FBI? I'm new here and I don't have my code. Can you help a girl out?" No joke, that's about all it took for one unnamed hacktivist to get inside the FBI. And yet the FBI demands backdoors into all mobile devices. I can't even...

Meet your new immortal overlord: Your self-driving car

This first graf scares the crap out of me:

The computer algorithms that pilot self-driving cars may soon be considered the functional equivalents of human drivers. That's the early opinion of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration—and so begins our slow-burn acquiescence in the battle of man versus machine.

And not even for the reasons that PC World's editor-in-chief Jon Phillips outlines in his editorial. If a governmental agency recognizes an algorithm as equal to a human, how long before humans are actually subordinate to artificial intelligence? It's bad enough corporations – legal constructs – have nearly the same rights as humans and can live forever. This needs to die on the vine right now – especially since Google is ramping up hiring for its line of self-driving cars.

Speaking of Google...

- Google's phasing out support for ads using Adobe Flash. Thank you, thank you, thank you. Flash can DIAF.
- Compliance with EU "right to be forgotten" expanding. Too bad U.S. hasn't evolved enough to enact similar legislation.
- Google sees TV experience differently – but it may not be a set-top box. (Why should it be when Chromecast works like a charm?) New approaches may address some of FCC chair's concerns about cable network's black box lock-in.

Busy week on Zika front

- CDC Director told House Foreign Affairs subcommittee yesterday that Chikungunya virus may model Zika's spread
- CDC's Chief Entomologist

offered 'best guess', Zika transmissions inside U.S. will look more like dengue – relatively small numbers.

- Howler monkeys dying off; is Zika virus involved?
- U-W to research Zika in monkeys; VA-Tech switching gears to examine immune response to Zika
- U-T Galveston working on Zika vaccine, while U-T Austin studies *Aedes aegypti* mosquito in Zika's spread

Media commentator Douglas Rushkoff interviewed on digital society

You left Facebook in 2013. How is that working out for you?

Professionally, I'm thinking it may be good for one's career and business to be off social media altogether. Chris Anderson was wrong. "Free" doesn't lead to anything but more free. Working for free isn't leverage to do a talk for loads of money; now they even want you to talk for free. What am I supposed to do? Join YouTube and get three cents for every 100,000 views of my video? That is crap; that is insane! ...

A worthwhile read, give it a whirl when the dust begins to settle.

Here's hoping the weekend moves as slowly as this week did. *Huli pau!*