

FRIDAY MORNING: THIS THING CALLED LIFE

It's Friday, when we usually cover a different jazz genre. But we're playing these sorry cards we've been dealt this week and observing the passing of a great artist.

We'll probably all be sick of seeing this same video, but it is one of the very few of Prince available for embedding with appropriate intellectual property rights preserved. It's a result of Prince's tenacious control over his artistic product that we won't have ready access to his past performances, but this same tenacity taught many artists how to protect their interests.

It's worth the hour and a quarter to watch the documentary Prince in the 1980s; the enormity of his talent can't be understood without reactions by professionals to his abilities.

The way his voice slides easily into high registers at 05:44, his guitar playing beginning at 06:53, offer us just the smallest glimpses of his spectacular gifts.

Good night, sweet Prince, may flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.

Great Google-y moogley

- European Community's Antitrust Commission issued a Statement of Objections regarding perceived breaches of antitrust laws by Google's Android operating system (European Commission press release) – The EU has a problem with Android's ~90% market share in some member states. They may have

a tough time with their case as the EU did very little to preserve the Nokia Symbian OS when Microsoft bought Nokia phone business. Their point about lack of application interoperability and portability between mobile devices is also weak as they did not make that case with Windows-based applications on personal computers. Further, Google has been aggressive to the point of annoyance in its efforts to segregate Android and Google apps – I can attest to this, having a handful of Android devices which have required irritating application upgrades to facilitate this shift over the last year and a half. This will be an interesting case to watch.

- The second annual Android Security Report was released on Google's blog this week (Google Blog) – Some interesting numbers in this report, including Google's revelation that it scans 400 million devices a day. Gee, a figure intelligence agencies must envy.
- Roughly 29% of Android devices can't be accessed to

issue monthly security patches (Naked Security) – Sophos has a bit of an attitude about the back-of-the-envelope number it scratched out, calculating a little more than 400 million Android devices may not be running modern Android versions Google can patch, or may not be accessible to scanning for patching. You'd think a cybersecurity vendor would revel in this opportunity to sell product. Or that an otherwise intelligent and successful security firm would recognize the numbers reflect Android's continued dominance in the marketplace with more than 1.4 billion active devices. The risk is big, but how much of that risk is due to the success of the devices themselves – still highly usable if aging, with insufficient memory for upgrades? Sounds so familiar (*cough* Windows XP)...

- Google passed a benchmark with mobile version of Chrome browser on more than 1 billion devices (Business Insider) – Here's another opportunity to screw up

interpretation of data:
mobile Chrome works on BOTH
Android and iOS devices. I
know for a fact the latest
mobile Chrome will NOT work
on some older Android
devices.

**Under Not-Google: Opera browser now has free
built-in VPN**

A lesser-known browser with only 2% of current market share, Opera is a nice alternative to Chrome and Firefox. Its new built-in free VPN could help boost its market share by offering additional privacy protection. It's not clear this new feature will protect users against censorship tools, though – and this could be extremely important since this Norwegian software company may yet be acquired by a Chinese company which placed a bid on the firm a couple of months ago.

**Definitely Not-Google: Apple cracker cost FBI
more than \$1 million**

Can't swing an iPad without hitting a report on FBI director James Comey's admission at the Aspen Security Forum this week in London that cracking the San Bernardino shooter's work iPhone cost "more than I will make in the remainder of this job, which is 7 years and 4 months," or more than \$1 million dollars. Speaking of exorbitant expenses, why was Comey at this forum in London? Oh, Comey was the headliner for the event? Isn't that interesting...wonder if that speaking gig came with speaker's fee?

That's it for this week's morning roundups. Hope you have a nice weekend planned ahead of you!