

WEDNESDAY MORNING: BREAKING SPRING

*In the Spring a livelier iris changes on
the burnish'd dove;*

*In the Spring a young man's fancy
lightly turns to thoughts of love.*

— excerpt, Locksley Hall by Alfred, Lord
Tennyson

Welcome to spring break. And by break, I mean
schedules are broken around here. Nothing like
waiting up until the wee hours for a young man
whose fancy not-so-lightly turned to love,
because spring.

~yawn~

While the teenager lies abed yet, mom here will
caffeinate and scratch out a post. It may be
early afternoon by the time I get over this
spring-induced sleep deprivation and hit the
publish button.

Apple blossoms – iPhones and iPads, that is

Not much blooming on the #AppleVsFBI front,
where Apple now seeks information about the
FBI's method for breaking into the San
Bernardino shooter's iPhone 5C. The chances are
slim to none that the FBI will tell Apple
anything. Hackday offers a snappy postmortem
about this case with an appropriate amount of
skepticism.

I wonder what Apple's disclosure will look like
about this entire situation in its next
mandatory filing with the SEC? Will iPhone 5C
users upgrade to ditch the undisclosed
vulnerability?

What if any effect will the iPhone 5C case have
on other criminal cases where iPhones are
involved – like the drug case Brooklyn? Apple
asked for a delay in that case, to assess its
position after the iPhone 5C case. We'll have to

wait until April 11 for the next move in this unfolding crypto-chess match.

In the meantime, spring also means baseball, where new business blossoms for Apple. Major League Baseball has now signed with Apple for iPads in the dugout. Did the snafu with Microsoft's Surface tablets during the NFL's AFC championship game persuade the MLB to go with Apple?

Volkswagen coasting

It's downhill all the way for VW, which missed last week its court-imposed 30-day deadline to offer a technical solution on its emissions standards cheating "clean diesel" passenger vehicles. If there was such a thing as "clean diesel," VW would have met the deadline; as I said before, there's no such thing as "clean diesel" technology. The judge allowed a 30-day extension to April 24, but my money is on another missed deadline. Too bad there's not a diesel engine equivalent of Cellebrite, willing to offer a quick fix to VW or the court, huh?

Of note: former FBI director Robert Mueller has been named "special master" on this case by Judge Charles Breyer; Mueller has been meeting with all the parties involved. What the heck is a "special master"? We may not have a ready answer, but at least there's a special website set up for this case, In re: Volkswagen "Clean Diesel" MDL.

The cherry on top of this merde sundae is the Federal Trade Commission's lawsuit filed yesterday against VW for false advertising promoting its "clean diesel" passenger cars.

With no bottom yet in sight, some are wondering if VW will simply exit the U.S. market.

Automotive odd lot

- Jury says GM's ignition switch was bad, but not at fault in a 2014 accident in New Orleans (Reuters) – Keep

an eye on media representation of this case. Headline on this one focused on the switch, not the jury's decision.

- Car-to-car communications will be road tested soon (MIT Technology Review) – This technology might have prevented Google's self-driving car from getting crunched by a bus recently.
- Dude demonstrates his hack of Alexa + Raspberry Pi + OBDLink to remote start his car (Gizmodo) – What. even.

Did Tennyson write anything about spring spawning naps? Because I feel like I need one. Hope we're back in the groove soon. See you in the morning.