

OVERVIEW

Welcome to this edition of Iris Messenger, jam-packed full (as always) with interesting topics, including: trouble with Ethereum, cheap VPS's, Turkish shenanigans, AI gambling, music Easter eggs and articles of interest.

Please note that the next edition may be delievered late due to time constraints.

NEED A GPU?

The Ethereum hype has almost finally come to an end, with many miners now selling their second-hand GPUs as mining is no longer highly profitable on the platform, with prices dropping sub-\$200 and the mining becoming 20% harder. It's likely that this sudden lack of confidence will drop the price even lower and could spell trouble for the cryptocurrency <http://goo.gl/bd7Uzk>.

CHEAP VPS

There has been a flood of new VPS services, offering VPS's for \$1 a month. Somebody could host a service for less than a cup of coffee! Here's a comparison:

#	RAM	HDD	Ntwk
0	96M	6G	200G
1	128M	10G	100G
2	256M	10G	500G

Of course, these aren't going to be useful for running some high-end processing or high-performance app, but it will host a small game server, IRC chat, personal blog - quite comfortably.

0. <http://goo.gl/8FPUur> - \$1/month.

1. <http://goo.gl/MvwNwF> - \$1/month.
 2. <http://goo.gl/8FhaqY> - \$1.50/month.

TURKISH GSM

Turkish GSM networks are currently playing a 10 second recorded message from the president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, regarding the unsuccessful coup in 2016. This is a strange move in a long line of strange moves, including the blocking of Wikipedia, ISPs injecting javascript into webpages and hostile actions towards various journalists. This will certainly be Country to watch over the next 10 years <http://goo.gl/Lqp7HL>.

At least the Turkish government is open about it's intentions, with Australia moving towards a cloak and dagger anti-encryption method of monitoring people <http://goo.gl/W4uega>.

BIG GAMBLE OF INTELLIGENCE

Multiple top tech firms have been investing a lot of time and money into the progression of AI, including Google, Microsoft, Uber, Facebook, Apple and IBM <http://goo.gl/byYSSo>. Recently, Jefferies' James Kisner openly shot down IBM's selling point of investing in AI, despite not actually putting in comparable efforts to competitors such as Amazon and Apple <http://goo.gl/hWHbjA>.

This raises the question about what these companies will do if their investments in AI

do not pay off - after all, many smart groups of people have tried to make measured progress in the field and have come up short <http://goo.gl/RC3A1g>. It's likely we will see more combinations of BNNs, CNNs, DNNs, RNNs and some other acronyms over the next 5 years, but it's not clear whether even the mighty resources of these top tech companies will yield results proportional to their efforts.

RADIOHEAD EASTER EGG

It's rare that we get to see a nice software Easter egg, even rarer that it's in the music itself! In the last two minutes of a 90 minute special edition C90 cassette, is 2 minutes worth of a ZX Spectrum program. Running the program reveals a very cool program revealing interesting noises and scrolling text <http://goo.gl/qCrmeM>.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

This week's collection of interesting articles:

- <http://goo.gl/1Fwc7c> - Breaking of MAC address randomization.
- <http://goo.gl/ExwCVf> - Xerox Alto Bitcoin miner.
- <http://goo.gl/h55kwE> - US military satellite close to ISS.

Future suggestions welcome.

NOTICE: Any suggestions for future articles? Please email: [barray\[at\]protonmail\[dot\]com](mailto:barray[at]protonmail[dot]com).