

'Tech sector needs to prevent '1984' future'

Microsoft launches new tools to flag bad content

LOS ANGELES, May 11, (RTRS): Microsoft Corp on Wednesday turned up the heat on other technology giants by launching new image and video recognition products which could help it court businesses worried about running ads next to offensive content.

The Redmond, Washington-based company said its new Video Indexer can identify faces, voices and emotions in moving pictures. Separately, its Custom Vision Search lets companies build apps that recognize images with just a few lines of code.

For brands, knowing what's in the videos that they sponsor has become a hot-button issue since major companies began canceling ad deals with Alphabet Inc's Google this year over hate speech playing on its subsidiary YouTube.

Microsoft's Video Indexer has similarities to a tool Google launched in March; Amazon.com Inc also said last month it could flag insulting images via a cloud-based service.

Microsoft's latest moves underscore how its focus has evolved from its staple Windows software to the cloud, where it is competing with Amazon to sell data storage and computing

power. Extra analytics such as image recognition may prove key to luring Web developers.

"It's hard to understand what's in the video" the longer it is, said Irving Kwong, a senior product director at Microsoft, in an interview ahead of the company's developer conference Build.

He said Video Indexer, which analyzes videos far faster than humans can, could help a user "harness and get more out of the video content that you have."

The tools launched in preview by the Microsoft Cognitive Services unit on Wednesday, including a decision recommendation service, have one aim apart from winning business: data.

Microsoft views the tools as a way to put powerful computing into people's hands and improve the tools at the same time, because processing more data is key to reaching artificial intelligence. Others including Amazon are pursuing this strategy, with the prize being a new revenue stream.

Research firm International Data Corporation has forecast the market for such tools will balloon to over \$47 billion in sales in 2020 from \$8 billion

Facebook takes aim at 'low quality' websites

WASHINGTON, May 11, (AFP): Facebook said Wednesday it was making changes designed to keep its users from linking to "low-quality" websites, part of an effort to fight spam and misinformation.

The world's biggest social network said it is updating its ranking algorithm with the help of artificial intelligence so users would see fewer posts "that link to these low-quality web page experiences."

"With this update, we reviewed hundreds of thousands of web pages linked to/from Facebook to

identify those that contain little substantive content and have a large number of disruptive, shocking or malicious ads," a Facebook blog post said.

"If we determine a post might link to these types of low-quality web pages, it may show up lower in people's feeds and may not be eligible to be an ad," the blog post from researchers Jiun-Ren Lin and Shengbo Guo said.

"This way people can see fewer misleading posts and more informative posts."

The move is the latest by Facebook to attack "fake news" and other

forms of misinformation, as well as to crack down on "click farms" that aim to generate revenue from users linking to websites.

Facebook, which came under criticism for its role in the spread of misinformation during the 2016 US presidential campaign, has argued the platform did not play a major role in influencing voters.

The social network with nearly two billion users worldwide also recently stepped up its security to counter efforts by governments and others to spread misinformation or manipulate discussions for political reasons.

Nadella's presentation included images from George Orwell's "1984" and Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World" to underscore the issue of responsibility of those creating new technologies.

"What Orwell prophesied in '1984,' where technology was being used to monitor, control, dictate, or what Huxley imagined we may do just by distracting ourselves without any meaning or purpose — neither of these futures is something that we want," he said.

"The future of computing is going to be defined by the choices that you as developers make and the impact of those choices on the world."

There is much discussion in the tech world about what AI will mean for society, especially since it is quickly driving change that could eliminate jobs, with applications such as self-driving trucks or "bots" which take over many skilled functions.

"What happens to lower-level, blue-collar jobs that might be impacted?" Gartner research director of app design and development Jason Wong ask rhetorically.

that could tap into services in the internet "cloud" and even take advantage of computing power in nearby machines.

Nadella spent time on stage at the Seattle conference stressing a need to build trust in technology, saying new applications must avoid dystopian futures feared by some.

Microsoft pulled back the curtain on experiments that are further afield, too. It announced a new Cognitive Labs unit and the so-called Project Prague: technology to allow people to control computers simply with hand gestures.

Meanwhile, Microsoft chief executive Satya Nadella said Wednesday tech developers have a responsibility to prevent a dystopian "1984" future as the US technology titan unveiled a fresh initiative to bring artificial intelligence into the mainstream.

At the start of its annual Build Conference, Microsoft sought to showcase applications with artificial intelligence

Books

Books

Rosati's new book fun read

Book spills origin tidbits from Shake Shack land

NEW YORK, May 11, (AP): Harken back to when Shake Shack was not a burger-flipping force in more than 130 locations around the globe.

Then, in 2001, it was a hot dog cart in Madison Square Park, where it opened as part of an art installation. It operated for three summers, losing money each year.

So says its creator, restaurateur Danny Meyer, in a new book full of origin tidbits and recipes from the land of the longest lines. Published this month by Clarkson Potter, "Shake Shack" was co-written by company CEO Randy Garutti and culinary director Mark Rosati.

If you're looking for culinary secrets, forget about it. The recipe for ShakeSauce, for instance? Rosati, in an interview with The Associated Press, wasn't giving it up, but the book gets Shake fanatics close with another recipe that can be made at home. It's a fun read, part Shack kitsch and part, if you must have crinkle fries, here's how to make some.

Rosati started as a line cook at Meyer's Gramercy Tavern before heading for the Shake Shack in Madison Square Park that replaced the cart.

"I didn't want to go. I thought it would destroy my career," he said. "I was going from fine dining, cooking with white truffles and foie gras, to flipping burgers? Then I saw all the same ingredients we were using at Gramercy. The same beef, the same produce and the same hospitality our company is known for. So I thought, I'll do this for a year. Fast forward 10 years."

Our conversation with Mark Rosati:

AP: Tell us how to think like a burger maker? Does kale ever belong on a burger? Why can't you get a burger rare at Shake Shack?

Rosati: It comes down to you need to find the finest ingredients possible if you're going to make a really stellar burger.

And kale, yeah, it can work in the right context. Maybe if it's in the summertime and you throw the kale on the griddle and it gets a little smoky and crispy, toss in some olive oil, maybe some garlic, maybe a little Parmesan cheese and put that on top of a burger. That's going to be pretty good.

We feel the best experience is in the burgers cooked medium. We want those juices to be a little runny and drippy. That's where the pleasure factor is. You need to use the whole muscle, or the steak, because that's where all the flavor is. If you take the trimmings, which most butchers do, they don't have the flavor. That's the real secret.

AP: What's your favorite burger? Rosati: It's probably our SmokeShack burger. It's very personal why I love that burger. It was the first burger we ever added to the menu since the inception of Shake Shack. We wanted to add a bacon burger and we knew it would be too easy just to add bacon. I thought about chopped and pickled cherry peppers. I grew up in an Italian household.

At the end of the day, the line is the line. We can't do anything to stop people from wanting to wait in line. The time you wait between ordering and when you pick up your food, that's on us.

We know couples who started in that line, started chatting, exchanged numbers, went out on dates. The next thing you know they're married and asked us to cater their weddings. It's just so surreal.

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AWL registration: If you would like to join the American Women's League (AWL), please call 99039723 or 94067999 or email: kuwaitaw@yaho.com. All American women and wives of Americans are welcomed.

Allah and learn how to do it 4. Understand how to leverage your strengths and overcome weaknesses 5. Under-

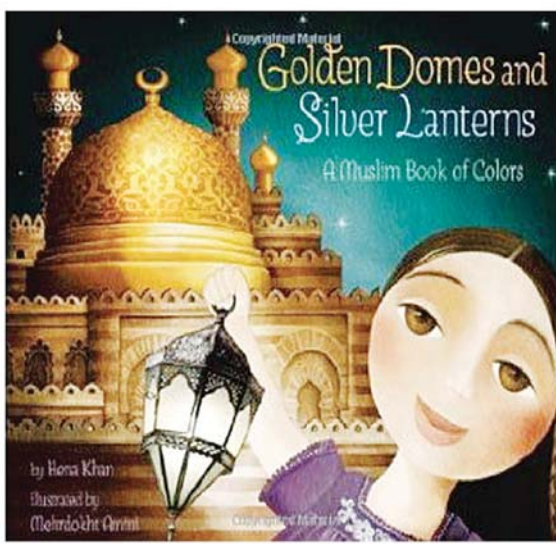
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Allah and learn how to do it 4. Understand how to leverage your strengths and overcome weaknesses 5. Under-

Just a reminder:
This week Saturday Storytime is being held at Yarmouk,
NOT Amricani



International Museum Day
Storytime at Yarmouk
May 13 at 3:30
Yarmouk Cultural Centre

Flyers from the events

This summer, how are YOUR kids going to



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Lagercrantz puts his own stamp on new Millennium book

Author steps out of Larsson's shadow

STOCKHOLM, May 11, (AFP): In the cult Millennium crime fiction series, Stieg Larsson created Lisbeth Salander as a tattooed hacker out to get revenge on her persecutors. But in the latest book, author David Lagercrantz appears to have put his own stamp on the invincible character, throwing her into prison.

"The Girl Who Takes an Eye for an Eye", the fifth Millennium novel, is due to hit bookstores on September 7 in 26 countries, including the United States, France, Germany and Britain.

"I'm waiting for the storm," Lagercrantz told AFP with a nervous laugh during a recent interview at his fashionable Stockholm apartment.

Swedish publishing house Norstedts has gone to great lengths to keep details of the latest instalment shrouded in secrecy, given what's at stake: the previous book, "The Girl in the Spider's Web" from 2015, also written by Lagercrantz, sold six million copies in 47 countries.

The first three books, penned by the late Stieg Larsson, sold 80 million copies in 50 countries.

Emotional and high-strung, Lagercrantz, 54, is full of contradictions: he at once fascinates, annoys and elicits sympathy, he's fond of superlatives and gesticulates wildly when speaking.

With the book's release date looming, he admits to having mixed feelings.

He's relieved at having finished the manuscript, but also terrified by critics, some of whom won't forgive him for taking over the series from compatriot Larsson, who died suddenly of a heart attack at age 50 in 2004 before the series gained global fame.

"There are a lot of translators who have just received it via an encrypted link, it's all very secretive. Now we're beginning to get some feedback about the book and, fingers crossed and touch wood, it seems promising."

Very little has been revealed about the plot of the fifth book. As with the preceding tome, details are trickling out, drop by drop.

"All I can say is that I started out by putting her in prison, in the worst kind of women's prison, where she immediately encounters quite a few problems," Lagercrantz says without divulging any more.

In addition to Salander, readers will also reacquaint themselves with investigative journalist Mikael Blomkvist.

Lagercrantz says bringing Salander to life, with her troubled past, is a challenge for him — he would have

Clinton to speak at book publishing convention

Yale prof talks best-selling book 'On Tyranny'

NEW YORK, May 11, (AP): Timothy Snyder would have preferred a different path to the best-seller lists.

The Yale University professor and scholar of European history, whose books include "Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin," was so alarmed by the election of Donald Trump last fall that soon after he posted a list on Facebook of "20 Lessons from the 20th Century on How to Survive in Trump's America." His advice ranged from "Be kind to our language" to "Believe in truth" to "Do not obey in advance."

The list went viral and the Penguin Random House imprint Tim Duggan Books released an expanded, pocket-sized edition of Snyder's warnings that quickly reached high on Amazon.com's best-seller list. With more than 100,000 copies in print, "On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century" has become a guide for many worried about democracy under Trump's administration, a nonfiction counterpart to such dystopian best-sellers as "1984" and "The Handmaid's Tale."

During a recent interview with The Associated Press, Snyder

wrote an entirely different leading character.

"I would have created a softer

heroine, someone nicer, more delicate and sensitive than Stieg Larsson did," he admits.

But he acknowledges she makes for a good read.

"Lisbeth's personality, her iconic personality, needs problems. So of course I have to give her tonnes of problems. And in some ways she's also suited to being an underdog."

And that, he says, is what readers will see in the fifth instalment, the second of three he's signed on to write.

Millennium was the brainchild of Larsson, a left-wing activist from a working-class family in Sweden's far north — a sharp contrast to Lagercrantz's upbringing in Stockholm's intelligentsia.

Lagercrantz, meanwhile, rose to fame in Sweden in 2011 after penning football star Zlatan Ibrahimovic's official biography.

After Larsson's death and the ensuing wild success of his trilogy, Norstedts decided — with the agreement of his only heirs, his father and brother — to continue the series with

to that, we're not a democracy now, in the very important sense that there are voter suppression laws, there is an electoral college, which means people's votes don't count the same as other people's votes.

Also:
NEW YORK: Hillary Clinton is coming to next month's publishing convention.

The former presidential candidate, secretary of state and US senator will speak June 1 at BookExpo, the publishing industry's annual national gathering, convention officials told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The hour-long event is being billed as "An Evening with Hillary Rodham Clinton" and will take place at the Jacob Javits Center, the site for BookExpo. Officials declined to say whether Clinton will give a speech and/or be interviewed onstage.

Clinton, the first woman to run as a major party nominee for president, will likely discuss the book of essays she has planned for September. The book, currently untitled, is expected to touch upon her loss to Donald Trump.

Lagercrantz was recruited and the fourth book was generally well-received. With the fifth one, he wants to win over those unconvinced about his worthiness.

One of them is Eva Gabriellson, Larsson's partner of 32 years until his death. The couple were not married and Larsson left no will, so his estate went to his brother and father. Gabriellson lost a bitter battle with them to manage his work.

She has from the beginning been critical of the decision to continue the trilogy, slamming it as a purely money-making project and blasting the choice of Lagercrantz as author.

"That's the only shadow over this project, which has otherwise been so enjoyable," Lagercrantz said.

"If you think of Stieg Larsson's books, I know now, in hindsight, that it was good for his body of work" to continue the series.

"A whole new generation has discovered his books... and his characters," he said.



This file photo taken on March 21 shows Swedish journalist and best-selling author David Lagercrantz on March 21 at his apartment in Stockholm. (AFP)