

TUESDAY MORNING: DON'T DRIVE ANGRY



[image: Chris Plascik via Flickr]

Okay, campers, rise and shine! It's Groundhog Day! Like that genius film Groundhog Day we are stuck in an unending, repeating hell – like the dark circus that is our general election cycle in the U.S.

The lesson: it's hell by choice. Let's choose better. What'll we choose today?

BPS, replacement for plastic additive BPA, not so safe after all

Here's a questionable choice we could examine: using BPS in "BPA-free" plastics. A study by Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA found that BPS negatively affects reproductive organs and increased the likelihood of "premature birth" in zebrafish, accelerating development of the embryos. Relatively small amounts and short exposures produced effects.

As disturbing as this finding may be, the FDA's approach to BPA is worrisome. Unchanged since 2014 in spite of the many studies on BPA, the FDA's website says BPA is safe. Wonder how long it will be before the FDA's site says BPS is likewise safe?

Exoskeleton assists paraplegic for only \$40,000

Adjustable to its wearer's body, SuitX's exoskeleton helps paraplegic users to walk, though crutches are still needed. It's not a perfect answer to mobility given the amount of time it takes to put on the gear, but it could help paraplegics avoid injuries due to sitting for too long in wheelchairs. It's much less expensive than a competing exoskeleton at \$70K; the price is expected to fall over time.

SuitX received an NSF grant of \$750,000 last April for its exoskeleton work. Seems like a ridiculous bargain considering how much we've already invested in DARPA and other MIC-development of exoskeletons with nothing commercial to show for it. Perhaps we should choose to fund more NSF grants instead of DOD research?

Patches and more patches – Cisco, Android, Microsoft

- Networking equipment manufacturer Cisco pushed 11 patches last week to eliminate Denial of Service vulnerabilities across 42 products.
- Google pushed an over-the-air update to their Android-based Nexus devices to patch exposures in Broadcom Wi-Fi.
- Microsoft Windows 10 update released last week Wednesday if you haven't already seen it. No Patch Tuesdays for Win 10. And if Microsoft has its way, no more Patch Tuesdays for any upgrade holdouts as it will push Win 10 even more

aggressively down our throats.

Dudes behaving badly

- Former Secret Service agent involved in the Silk Road investigation and later charged with theft of \$800K in Bitcoins has been arrested just one day before he was to begin serving his sentence for theft. This Silk Road stuff is a movie or cable series waiting to happen.
- Massachusetts' Rep. Katherine Clark, who proposed the Interstate Swatting Hoax Act last November, was swatted this weekend. Fortunately, the local police used a low-key approach to the hoax call. Way to make the case for the bill's passage, swatters, let alone increased law enforcement surveillance.

I know I've missed something I meant to post, but I'll choose to post it tomorrow and crawl back into my nest this morning to avoid my shadow. In the meantime, don't drive angry!