



I like...

Real power! One of the most exciting bits of technology recently launched has to be Tesla's Powerwall. Not only for what it is but, more importantly, for what it represents as possible. The very idea of no longer relying on expensive and poorly-maintained power utilities burning fossil fuels brings a glimmer of hope to a very sad state of affairs. It is no longer beyond the realms of possibility that within just a few years our homes, transport and facilities could all be running on the abundance of naturally-occurring energy (sun, wind, currents and so on). The breakthrough we need to make it all possible? Better batteries – so if you have a couple billion lying around, throw your money at this. It's just about to change the world – **Brian Timperley, MD of Turrito Networks.**

The bring your own encryption (BYOE) security model, which gives cloud customers complete control over the encryption of their data. At the same time, cloud providers are finding innovative ways to let users manage encryption keys. BYOE works by allowing customers to deploy a virtualised instance of their own encryption software alongside the business application they are hosting in the cloud. This approach allows a customer to use the encryption technology that best suits the customer's needs, regardless of the cloud provider's underlying IT infrastructure – **Warren Olivier, regional manager at Veeam Software South Africa**

Slack. Our business communication in ManMakeMachine is run almost entirely in Slack, the new business communication platform which directs communication with users or manages team discussions organised by topic. Slack substitutes the many e-mails, instant messaging and face-to-face meetings that occur every day in any company. On Slack, we create channels to keep our conversation organised and focused on various topics. Communication is instant across various devices and Slack helps to make the team's jobs easier by making communication transparent with team members in channels, or privately in direct messages. It also becomes a central place where we can integrate Google Docs, Dropbox, BitBucket and Trello. We have found that the way the application was designed and the ease of use across multiple devices makes this the ideal tool to manage our office productivity – **Ian Duvenage, CEO of ManMakeMachine**

Online streaming music. I am totally fanatical about Spotify. I've tested all of them – Beats Music, iTunes Radio, and Google Play – but never liked any. With more than 3-million songs, Spotify is the way of streaming music, mobile and offline in the house. I've got Spotify playlists in the car and for everyone in the family. It's Bluetooth up, and my phone is now synchronised with all the playlists. On three devices, you can have 10 000 songs for \$9.99 a month. And anyone who needs all of that music at once is crazy. If you're a premium user, you can't have Spotify playlists offline for more than 30 days without a handshake. If you stop paying after 30 days without a handshake, you go into free mode, which means you can stream as much as you want, but can't go offline. The best news is that we've heard Spotify is coming to South Africa for R65 a month, which is cheaper than \$9.99 – but until then, you'll need a VPN to access it.

Then there's Revo SuperConnect, which has a retro ham radio look, with a nice screen. It's fully wireless over WiFi, and has 16 000 radio stations, including TuneIn and all those guys, as well as full built-in Spotify. It doesn't have onboard storage, but that's fine because I am uncapped. It also has DAB and DAB+, which means it is high – very high – fidelity. And you must see the speaker; the only con seems to be that if you turn up the bass to much (and I like bass), it starts moving around on the table. There's also full FM installed, so if you want to go old-school and tune into Radio 5 or 702, you can. It also has built-in DNLA for playback from PCs or NAS music servers – **Vince Resente, technology evangelist and enterprise technology specialist at Intel.**

Broadband balloons. Halfway between sci-fi and delusion? Go ahead and laugh, but there's a whole range of technologies, concepts and – most importantly – new business models coming into view this year (what we call Advanced Underserved Area Communications). Folks have been using low-altitude balloons for temporary network access for a couple of decades now. But when backers like Facebook, Google and SpaceX invest in drones, low- or medium-earth orbit satellites and stratospheric balloons, you know there are alternative business models at work that could finally drive broadband access to the other 60% of the world's population. A lot of it is in testing, but take a look at O3b (stands for Other Three Billion), which is serving enterprise customers now. What will traditional network operators do? What will incumbent sat-comms do? And what will those 3-billion people do? – **Will Hahn, principal analyst for communications service provider strategies at Gartner.**