

⌚ **MONTREAL, QC.** Aug. 3, 2016. McGill University researchers have developed and launched a new application that will help Canadians living with vision loss to better navigate the world around them. The application was successfully tested in Montréal and benefited from the funding of the Canadian Internet Registration Authority's Community Investment Program. The McGill team has launched an expanded version of the app to include cities across Canada. This application overlays GPS, Google Maps, public transit and other data to provide audible instructions and descriptions to help guide users' movements. The expanded and improved « Autour » app is available to iPhone users now via the Apple Store.

⌚ **TORONTO, ON.** Jul. 27, 2016. Blackhawk Network, a leading prepaid and payments network, announced the launch of its first website for purchasing egifts in Canada. This website will provide shoppers with an online store to purchase a variety of branded egifts, including those in the retail, dining and gaming industries. The egifts can be delivered to recipients by email. The website address is [www.GiftCardStore.ca](http://www.GiftCardStore.ca).

⌚ **VANCOUVER, BC.** Jul. 18, 2016. A new personal health record system was launched by the Cowichan Tribes First Nation. The objective of the new system is to increase access to primary care for 400 Cowichan Tribe members. It will allow patients to, *inter alia*, view their health record 24/7 online, receive lab reports, check vital signs, and directly communicate with their care providers through a direct messaging system.

⌚ **WATERLOO, ON.** Jul. 14, 2016. P&P Optica announced that one of its spectrometers will be onboard SpaceX-9 spacecraft when it will leaves Cape Canaveral on July 18th en route to the International Space Station (ISS). The spectrometer is only about 0.3 metres long, has an electronic camera attached, and will be used by scientists aboard the International Space Station.

⌚ **CALGARY, AB.** Jun. 28. Siemens Canada announced that it, along with three charities, will help new residents of Calgary with a donation of more than 200 computers. The computers will be provided to Syrian refugees. Siemens has over 4800 employees in Canada. Three hundred employees have volunteered in the workshops for preparing the computers. The computers will be used to help the refugees keeping in touch with their families and also help them with job searches.

⌚ **MARKHAM, ON.** Jun. 28, 2016. VentureLAB, a not-for-profit Regional Innovation Centre, and Saint Elizabeth, a national health care provider and not-for-profit charitable organization, announced a new partnership with the goal of developing a vibrant health innovation cluster in York Region. The partnership will allow both organizations to expand programs, leveraging transformative solutions to deliver quality healthcare and drive better



By **Alexandre Abecassis**

patient outcomes. Saint Elizabeth, Canada's largest social enterprise, is responsible for many advances in Canadian health care, investing \$4 million over two years to achieve these goals; their use of SoapBox, a cloud-based platform that connects leaders with the best ideas from frontline workers; and collaboration with Canadian and international organizations focused on people-powered health innovation.

⌚ **MARKHAM, ON.** Jun. 20, 2016. Katla Labs announced today the release of the application Sidekick. This application is a sensor-based mobile app that auto-launches when the user drives. It is designed to keep drivers safe, informed, and empowered with a rich portfolio of built-in features. For instance, the application alerts the driver in real time if he/she is driving towards an incident. It detects a distress situation and calls an emergency contact, hands-free. The application also communicates with other drivers nearby. It also enables the recording of dashcam videos and helps tracking many elements such as historical commute times, trip mileage, etc.

⌚ **MONTRÉAL, QC.** Jun. 20, 2016. The Centre de technologies avancées BRP – Université de Sherbrooke (CTA) announced that it will present its Can-Am Spyder electric concept vehicle during the Electric Vehicle Symposium and Exposition taking place at the Palais des congrès de Montréal from June 19 to 22, 2016. The vehicle is 100% electric and can achieve a range of 170 km

⌚ **VANCOUVER, BC.** Jun. 17, 2016 Microsoft announced that it has opened the doors of the Microsoft Canada Excellence Centre in Vancouver. This centre is a development facility that will create innovative products for the global market and develop technology talent in BC. This center will allow Microsoft to grow to more than 750 positions and will inject almost \$100 million in direct investment in the city annually. Across the province, it will have an estimated economic impact of \$180 million each year.

⌚ **MONTRÉAL, QC.** May 25, 2016. Ecole Polytechnique Montréal and Deloitte announced that they are joining forces to revamp Polytechnique's training program in the field of cybersecurity. The course content of the three certificate programs in Cyber Investigation, Online Fraud and IT Network Computer Security has been upgraded to account for current market

needs and the changing nature of cybercrimes. The newly updated programs will be offered at the beginning of the Fall 2016 semester.

⌚ **TORONTO, ON.** May 25, 2016. According to the new Global Software Survey from BSA The Software Alliance, computer users in Canada are using unlicensed software at an alarming rate, despite the link between unlicensed software and cyberattacks. The survey found that in Canada the percentage of software installed on computers that was not properly licensed was 24 percent.

⌚ **TORONTO, ON.** May 25, 2016. Redknee Solutions announced the signing of a new multi-year services agreement with lifecell, one of the largest mobile communications operators in Ukraine and part of the Turkcell Group. The contract allows the operator to leverage Redknee's monetization and subscriber management platform to quickly launch new products and services while improving and standardizing service levels across multiple geographic locations. Redknee Solutions provides monetization and subscriber management solutions and services that allow communications service providers, utility companies, auto makers and enterprise businesses of all types to charge for things in new and innovative ways. The solution is available on premise, cloud-based, or as a Software-as-a-Service.

⌚ **TORONTO, ON.** May 18, 2016. Akira announced the launch of a mobile platform that connects patients to family doctors on demand from their smartphone. The app enables patients in Ontario to consult with board-certified physicians by secure mobile text or video, and provides users mobile access to personal health records including clinical notes, prescriptions and test results. The app enables the user to speak with an Ontario-based doctor immediately. Once logged in, the user can begin a text conversation with the doctor, and based on the patient's situation, the doctor can immediately launch a video chat if necessary. The user can start a chat with a doctor. The app can be used « to diagnose and treat many common health problems such as anxiety or depression, urinary tract infections (UTIs), rashes, and the flu ». The app is available through a monthly subscription service which provides unlimited access to the platform's team of doctors and nurse practitioners.

## About the Author

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