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BUSINESS NEWS

Apple Talks To Publishers On Siri Deals

Companies could provide voice assistant with current news

By Alexandra Bruell

Apple is discussing new deals with publishers to use their content to deliver current news and information, an effort to improve its AI-powered Siri voice assistant.

The iPhone maker has reached out to publishers in recent months, said people familiar with the matter. The proposed multiyear deals would provide Apple with access to content to help power Siri AI, which is expected to roll out later this year, the people said.

Apple has proposed a variable compensation plan, with payments made to partner publishers when their content is used, some of the people said. The company has discussed a possible nine-figure budget for the payments. Apple declined to comment.

Standard licensing models between large AI companies and individual news organizations include guaranteed fees and are generally tied to broad access to content, rather than a pay-as-you-go model.

Apple's recent conversations with publishers come as it works to beef up its voice assistant, which for years has been criticized for its lack of utility. The company recently announced a major upgrade to Siri that could integrate AI more closely into the lives of Apple customers.

News Corp, owner of The Wall Street Journal, has a commercial agreement to supply news through Apple services.

Chairman of Tata Sons to Depart

By Kimberley Kao

ASHISH VAISHNAV/SOPA IMAGES/ZUMA PRESS

Natarajan Chandrasekaran decided against seeking a new term after a monthslong stalemate.

The chairman of Tata Sons resigned, putting an end to a decade at the helm and casting a spotlight on leadership at one of India's oldest and most prominent business groups.

Natarajan Chandrasekaran, whose term ends Feb. 20, 2027, said he has decided against seeking another five-year term after Tata Sons' board failed to reach a resolution on his reappointment in a monthslong stalemate. One board member withheld support when Chandrasekaran sought reappointment in February, he said Wednesday, without naming the director.

"It is not only necessary to have a leader in place to lead the [Tata] Group beyond February 2027, but also clarity on leadership is important for employees, investors, partners and other stakeholders," he said. "Tata Sons is a very large institution and there are many strategic projects that are under critical stages of execution."

The announcement comes ahead of Tata Sons' annual general meeting on Tuesday, when shareholders were scheduled to vote on Chandrasekaran's reappointment as a director.

Tata Sons, the group's principal investment holding company, has business interests spanning consumer products such as salt, telecommunications, technology, steel, automobiles and aviation.

Shares of Tata Group companies were broadly lower on Wednesday. **Tata Consultancy Services**, the conglomerate's largest company, dropped as much as 5.7% in Mumbai trading before trimming its intraday losses to about 3.7%. **Tata Steel** was 1.6% lower, **Titan** Co. lost 0.2% and **Tata Power** declined 0.5%. **Tata Motors** was up about 1.6%.

The Tata Group is one of the largest private-sector employers in the world, with more than a million employees worldwide. The group has 26 publicly listed companies with a combined market capitalization of $277 billion as of March 31.

Its operations extend well beyond India, with a presence across more than 100 countries. The group owns Jaguar Land Rover, Britain's largest automaker, and Tata Steel has operations across Europe, including in the U.K. and the Netherlands.

Chandrasekaran joined the board of Tata Sons in October 2016 and has been chairman since 2017. He has chaired the boards of several group companies including Tata Motors and Air India.

Lilly Sues Weight-Loss Drug Sellers


CAROLYN FONG FOR WSJ

The FDA has said retatrutide can't legally be compounded.

By Katherine Hamilton

Eli Lilly has filed six new lawsuits against U.S. entities that it alleges are selling a version of the company's investigational weight-loss drug on the black market.

The conglomerate is claiming the entities sell retatrutide, a GLP-1 drug that is still in trials and has yet to be approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

Lilly's lawsuits involve entities known as Aesthetic Envy, Astra Peptides, Legendary Peptides, Striker Pharmacy, Texas Peptides and Lone Star Peptide. They are filed in courts in California and Texas.

The black-market companies call themselves "medical spas" and "wellness clinics," and they offer the unapproved products as a weight-loss hack, Lilly said. The entities also claim the drugs are for research use only, when they are actually intended for human consumption, the company said.

Lilly also has referred the bad actors to regulators and law enforcement and is calling on social-media platforms and payment processors to help stop black-market sales.

The FDA has said retatrutide can't legally be compounded or sold and that selling unapproved drugs can pose significant risks.

The agency has sent at least 16 warning letters to companies about retatrutide, according to its website. It has warned outsourcing facilities for repackaging the drug, telehealth companies for marketing the unapproved drug to consumers and distributors for selling retatrutide to compounders.

Trump Sued Over Feed From His Truth Social

By David Uberti

Two media organizations on Wednesday sued President Trump over his namesake company's real-time feed of top Truth Social accounts, arguing that selling preferential access to the president's statements is unconstitutional.

The Intercept news organization and nonprofit Freedom of the Press Foundation alleged that Trump Media's Truth API, which delivers a machine-readable feed of top Truth Social posts within milliseconds, violates the First and Fifth Amendments.

A spokesman for Trump Media, which is 41% owned by the president, described the lawsuit as an attempt to censor Trump and harm the company's shareholders. "Information from President Trump is disseminated by countless platforms and news outlets, many of which offer subscription APIs," he said in a statement.

Chili's Boosts Brinker's Results

By Connor Hart

Brinker International forecast another year of profitable growth, as its Chili's chain continues to attract value-seeking diners with its Triple Dipper appetizer, burgers and ribs.

Chief Executive Kevin Hochman said Wednesday Chili's increased its lead in the casual-dining space during the latest quarter, benefiting from recent efforts to improve its food, service and atmosphere.

Chili's same-restaurant sales rose 5.6% in the quarter ended June 24, marking five consecutive years of growth. Brinker expects companywide revenues and adjusted earnings to grow over the coming year.

Brinker posted net income for the quarter of $131.1 million, or $2.99 a share, up from $107 million, or $2.30 a share, a year earlier.

Total revenue rose 5% to $1.54 billion.

"We still have room to improve, but our progress gives us confidence that we will sustain traffic gains and repeat business," Hochman said.

Brinker, which also operates the Maggiano's Little Italy chain, said Chili's outperformance has helped offset some struggles at Maggiano's, where same-restaurant sales slipped 2.5% during the recent quarter.

The chain is seeing some green shoots, Hochman said. Overall, though, the turnaround at Maggiano's has been mixed and is happening slower than expected.


LAURA BUCKMAN FOR WSJ

Chili's said it benefited from efforts to improve its food, service and atmosphere.

Medical Leave for Home Depot CEO

By Sarah Nassauer And Gareth Vipers

Home Depot Chief Executive Ted Decker will take a temporary medical leave of absence, the company said Wednesday.

Decker, who took over the role in 2022 and is currently 63 years old, is expected to return in the next few months, according to a company statement.

A company spokeswoman declined to share further details on the reason for Decker's medical leave.

Ann-Marie Campbell, the senior executive vice president of U.S. stores and operations, and Richard McPhail, chief financial officer, will oversee operations during his absence, Home Depot said.

The home-improvement chain hasn't changed Campbell's or McPhail's compensation structures related to their new positions, said the company in a financial filing.


CAROLINE BREHMAN/BLOOMBERG NEWS

CEO Ted Decker, above, is taking temporary leave.

Campbell will oversee Home Depot's day-to-day operations and McPhail will handle the company's financials, Home Depot said. Greg Brenneman, independent lead director, will serve as board chairman during Decker's leave.

Home Depot and its competitor **Lowe's** have reported sluggish quarterly sales of late amid a weak housing market and consumer caution around investing in big home improvement projects. Home Depot will report quarterly earnings next week.

Who's Who of Distinguished Leaders

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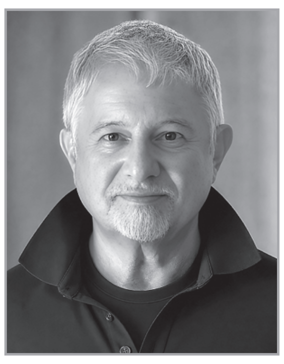
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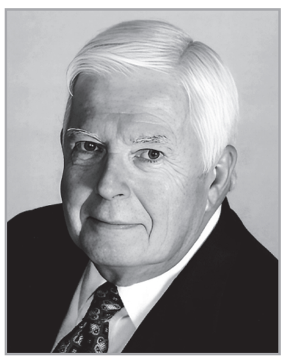
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