

Best of Last Week – Bitcoin pushing global warming, browser history at risk and cell phones causing cancer in rats

November 5 2018, by Bob Yirka



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It was a big week for planetary news as an international team led by the University of Queensland found that [the world's last wilderness may vanish](#)—because such areas are disappearing so rapidly. In more positive news, a team with members from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and the Technion Israel Institute of Technology achieved [a breakthrough in a process to produce hydrogen fuel](#)—a chemical mechanism that will allow for the development of a more efficient photochemical process. And a team led by researchers at the Georgia Institute of Technology announced that they had developed [a robust fuel cell that runs on methane at practical temperatures](#)—perhaps paving the way towards an inexpensive fuel cell option. Also, a team at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, calculated that [Bitcoin could push global warming above 2° C in a couple decades](#)—because it has heavy hardware requirements that could result in enough emissions to raise global temperatures.

In technology news, a team with members from UC San Diego and Stanford University announced that they had discovered [new techniques that could expose your browsing history to attackers](#)—they found four new vulnerabilities in browser software. And NASA made headlines when the agency announced that [the Kepler telescope is dead after finding thousands of worlds](#)—it ran out of fuel. Also, a team at the State University of New York in Korea reported that they are working toward [detecting fake face images created by both humans and machines](#) using ensemble methods to detect images created by generative adversarial networks.

In other news, a team with members from Université de Montréal and the University of Windsor reported on the [scents of taking action—how smell and behavior are linked](#). They found a link between an inhibitory circuit that releases a neurotransmitter into the olfactory bulb strongly modulating behavioral responses to odors in lampreys. Also, a team in the U.K. discovered that [drug side effects in the lungs are "more widespread than thought"](#)—they found that many drugs prescribed for a

variety of purposes can have a toxic effect on the lungs.

And finally, if you are one of the millions around the world who use a cell phone, you might want to take notice of a study done by the National Toxicology Program—they found evidence suggesting [high exposure to radio frequency radiation was associated with cancer in male rats](#)—the kind of high frequency radiation emitted by 2G and 3G cell phones.

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