

Best of Last Week—Extraterrestrial radioactive isotope, Wi-Fi devices vulnerable to FragAttacks and COVID-19 vaccine

May 17 2021, by Bob Yirka

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It was a good week for space science as an international team of researchers found [the first-ever example of an extraterrestrial radioactive isotope on Earth](#)—found in ocean crust, the find has

implications for Earth's origins. Also, a combined team from Cornell University and the University of Iowa announced that [Voyager 1 has detected a plasma "hum" from beyond the edges of the solar system](#). And an international team of researchers conducted a study that [revealed hidden processes at work in the hearts of large stars](#)—internal mixing within an ensemble of stars that have no clear dependence on a star's mass or age.

In technology news, a team at Princeton University found that [old mobile phone numbers could compromise consumer's cybersecurity](#), as carriers recycle numbers. And a team at Aalto University and the Finnish Center for Artificial Intelligence created [the first artificial intelligence model that is able to predict how people move their eyes and fingers while typing](#), possibly leading to improvements in typing on mobile devices. Also, a team of engineers at Purdue University announced that they had made [a breakthrough in reverse osmosis that could lead to the most energy-efficient seawater desalination ever](#). And several studies found that a series of design flaws made [Wi-Fi devices vulnerable to FragAttacks](#), putting all mobile devices at risk.

In other news, a group of 18 scientists from some of the world's most prestigious research institutions published an open letter in the journal *Science* suggesting [that the idea of the SARS-COV-2 virus escaping from a research lab be revisited](#). Also, a team of researchers affiliated with several institutions in Mexico reported on a newly discovered [type of dinosaur that was possibly communicative](#)—named *Tlatolophus galorum*, it was found to have a hollow crest capable of making sounds similar to modern elephants.

And finally, if you are concerned about the next strain of COVID-19 making current vaccinations useless, you might want to check out the work of a team at the Duke Human Vaccine Institute—they announced that they had developed [a vaccine that blocks COVID-19 and variants](#)

[and also other coronaviruses.](#)

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Citation: Best of Last Week–Extraterrestrial radioactive isotope, Wi-Fi devices vulnerable to FragAttacks and COVID-19 vaccine (2021, May 17) retrieved 23 April 2024 from <https://sciencex.com/news/2021-05-weekextraterrestrial-radioactive-isotope-wi-fi-devices.html>

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