



Mastercard Wants to Identify You by Your Heartbeat, Veins, and Walking Stride

The payment provider is investigating innovative behavioral biometrics such as gait, face, heartbeat, and veins for cutting-edge payment systems of the future. -GEG

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Commuters may soon be able to ditch their bus pass and access public transport with technology identifying them by the way they walk.

Mastercard [MA, +0.09%](#) is working with transport firms to develop a new system that would authenticate passengers by their gait.

[The payment provider](#) told MarketWatch that everyone has a unique walk, and it is investigating innovative behavioral biometrics such as gait, face, heartbeat and veins for cutting edge payment systems of the future.

Ajay Bhalla, president of cyber and intelligence solutions for Mastercard, told MarketWatch in an interview: "We are working with transport organizations where your face or gait will

authenticate you.

“The way you hold your phone, which ear you use, and how your fingers touch the buttons are all unique to you. We have been testing heartbeat, vein technology, and the way people walk to authenticate people.”

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UN World Health Organization Holds Secret Talks With Tech Giants To Stop Spread of Coronavirus “Misinformation”

California: Facebook reportedly held a secret meeting with the World Health Organization to combat the spread of information on social media about the coronavirus that they claim is misinformation and conspiracy theories, characterizing it as an ‘infodemic’. Both Facebook and Twitter already announced that they would remove content deemed to be misinformation regarding the virus, however, what is considered “misinformation” is totally subjective. Amazon, Twilio, Dropbox, Google, Verizon, Salesforce, Twitter, YouTube, Airbnb, Kinsa and Mapbox were all at the meeting.

The World Health Organization has held talks with tech giants

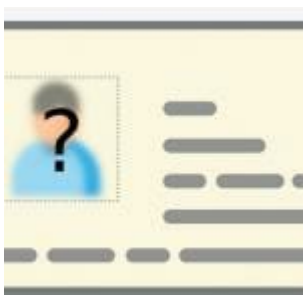
to stop the spread of coronavirus “misinformation,” despite the fact that some things once labeled “misinformation” have since turned out to be true.

The meeting was organized by the WHO but hosted by Facebook at its Menlo Park campus in California. Attendees included representatives from Amazon, Twilio, Dropbox, Google, Verizon, Salesforce, Twitter, YouTube, Airbnb, Kinsa and Mapbox.

According to the WHO’s Andy Pattison, an “infodemic” of misinformation has accompanied the coronavirus outbreak and big tech giants need to respond by censoring “fake news” content.

Both Facebook and Twitter already announced that they would remove content deemed to be misinformation regarding the virus, a dangerous new lurch to mass censorship given that what is considered “misinformation” is totally subjective and beholden to partisan bias.

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US Lawmakers Introduce bill That Would Stop Federal

Grants to States That Give Driver's Licenses to Illegal Immigrants

House and Senate Republicans introduced new legislation, the 'Stop Greenlighting Driver Licenses for Illegal Immigrants Act', that would block federal money from from funding sanctuary states that allow illegal aliens to obtain driver's licenses. It is estimated that states that issued licenses to illegal aliens received nearly \$53-million last year that would be impacted by this new legislation. Fifteen states and the District of Columbia have enacted laws to allow unauthorized immigrants to obtain drivers licenses. -GEG

House and Senate Republicans have introduced legislation that would block certain federal funds from sanctuary states that allow illegal aliens to obtain driver's licenses.

The [Stop Greenlighting Driver Licenses for Illegal Immigrants Act](#) would stop Justice Department (DOJ) grants that are a top source of federal criminal justice funding for states.

The legislation would target states that “defy federal immigration enforcement or that allow illegal aliens to get driver licenses without proof of lawful presence” and those that “prohibit or restrict a local or State government entity or official from collecting or sending to or receiving from the Department of Homeland Security immigration enforcement information.”

In the Senate, the legislation is being introduced by Tennessee Senator Marsha Blackburn and co-sponsored by Sens. Tom Cotton, R-Ark.; Kevin Cramer, R-N.D.; Shelley Moore Capito, R-W.Va.; Kelly Loeffler, R-Ga.; Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, and Mike Rounds, R-S.D. Companion legislation is being

introduced in the House by Colorado Rep. Ken Buck. His bill is co-sponsored by 21 other lawmakers.

“Tennesseans know all too well what can happen when illegal immigrants are granted driver licenses,” Blackburn said in a statement. “While Tennessee and many other states prohibit driver licenses for illegal aliens, a growing number of states are moving in the opposite direction and unleashing dangerous open borders policies. Immigrants must follow the proper federal process and obtain citizenship or lawful status before obtaining a state driver license.”

“In America, no one is above the law,” she added.

Blackburn’s office estimated that states that issued licenses to illegal aliens received nearly \$53 million that would be impacted by this new legislation during the 2019 fiscal year.

The NCSL [reports](#) that fifteen states and the District of Columbia have enacted laws to allow unauthorized immigrants to obtain drivers licenses. These states—California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Utah, Vermont and Washington—issue a license if an applicant provides certain documentation, such as a foreign birth certificate, foreign passport, or consular card and evidence of current residency in the state.

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Locust Swarm may Cause Food Crisis in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Somalia

Billions of locusts are impacting East African countries including Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization says insects are breeding so fast that their numbers could grow 400 times by June. Efforts to control the infestation so far have failed. The UN is calling on the international community to provide \$76-million to fund insecticide spraying of the affected areas. The UN also is warning of an ensuing plague that could last several years and would further stimulate migration. -GEG

The East African region could be on the verge of a food crisis if huge swarms of locusts devouring crops and pasture are not brought under control, a top UN official has told the BBC.

A massive food assistance may be required, Dominique Burgeon, director of emergencies for the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), said.

Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda are affected.

Efforts to control the infestation have so far not been effective.

Aerial spraying of pesticides is the most effective way of fighting the swarms but countries in the region do not have the right resources.

There are fears that the locusts – already in the hundreds of billions – will multiply further.

The FAO says the insects are breeding so fast that numbers could grow 500 times by June.

The UN body has now called on the international community to provide nearly \$76m (£58m) to fund the spraying of the affected areas with insecticide.

“If it doesn’t, the situation will deteriorate and then you will need to provide massive food assistance for a humanitarian situation that may even get out of control,” Mr Burgeon said.

“There is always a risk when you have people in acute food insecurity that famine is not very far,” he added.

An FAO spokesperson later clarified that they were not warning about a famine but rather “food insecurity”.

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Jeff Bezos Announces \$10-Billion “Bezos Earth Fund” to Fight Climate Change, But Keeps His Profit-Making Scheme a Secret

Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon, announced on Instagram that

“climate change is the biggest threat to our planet” and he is launching the Bezos Earth Fund and committing \$10-billion to the cause. Bezos omitted to mention that the project requires central banks to match his \$10-billion at a rate of roughly 100 of theirs to his 1 and commit trillions more in a way that forces investors to buy Environmental, Social, and Governance (known as ESG exchange-traded funds), which is a category of investment that involves a group of securities in which Amazon stock always is listed among the top five. It appears that his \$10-billion ‘donation’ could be an excellent ‘investment’.

—GEG

Just in case Greta Thunberg hadn’t whipped up enough of a frenzy among those who are convinced the world will end in 12 years if central banks don’t print several quadrillion dollars *now* and immediately fix the weather, while commercial banks are already salivating at the outsized profits generated by crowding their virtue signalling clients into all sorts of ESG portfolios (such as the [ESG ETF](#) whose top holdings are bizarrely Apple, Microsoft, Amazon, Google and Intel), moments ago the world’s richest man slammed shut any further debate whether climate change (and ESG) is the next social mania, when he announced (on the wokest of places, i.e., [Instagram](#)), that he is committing \$10 billion to fight climate change.

This is [what Bezos said](#):

Today, I’m thrilled to announce I am launching the Bezos Earth Fund. ☐☐☐

Climate change is the biggest threat to our planet. I want to work alongside others both to amplify known ways and to explore new ways of fighting the devastating impact of climate change on this planet we all share. This global initiative will fund scientists, activists, NGOs – any effort that offers a real possibility to help preserve and protect the natural world. We can save Earth. It’s going to take collective action from big companies, small companies, nation states, global organizations, and individuals. ☐☐☐

I'm committing \$10 billion to start and will begin issuing grants this summer. Earth is the one thing we all have in common – let's protect it, together.☐☐☐

– Jeff

What was left unsaid is that Bezos is moving forward with the implicit understanding that central banks will match his \$10 billion check at a rate of roughly 100 to 1, and commit trillions more just so investors are *forced* to buy ESG ETFs... where Amazon stock (its army of internal combustion engine delivery trucks notwithstanding) always finds itself [among the Top 5 holdings](#), and any further push by the establishment to force more “virtuous ” ESG buying will promptly recover Bezos’ paltry \$10BN investment, as AMZN’s market cap promptly doubles to \$2 trillion.

Or as Jeff, or frankly everyone else would say, you have to spend \$10 billion to be the first to hit \$1 trillion.

Incidentally, for all those who are only catching up on the latest social dogma that is climate change and ESG, here are a bunch of primers to get up to speed on all the religious fabrications you will need to make “informed” investment decisions for the next 5-10 years.

- [AQR Investing: ESG Strategies](#)
- [Goldman: Investing in Climate Change](#)
- BofA: [ESG from A to Z: a global primer](#)
- [BofA: Emission Impossible? Global Climate Change Primer](#)
- McKinsey: [Five ways that ESG creates value](#)
- iShares: [sustainable ETFs](#)

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