

## Facebook: Expanding beyond the Like button

Citizens of Facebook, the world's biggest social network "is ready to let you express more emotions now," said Annalee Newitz in *ArsTechnica.com*. As of last week, Facebook users can respond to posts in their News-feeds with five new emojis, in addition to the ubiquitous thumbs-up Like: Haha, Sad, Angry, Wow, and Love. The addition of the reactions is one of the biggest changes to the social network's look and feel in years, but users hoping for a Dislike button will have to keep waiting. Facebook's newly developed emotional range skews positive. Sad and Angry come close to covering negative ground, "but they aren't the same as an option that allows you to say something straight-up sucks."



Wow: Useful for sarcasm and political tirades

"This is huge," said Dave Gershgorin in *Popular Science*. Facebook's Like button isn't just iconic—it's been copied by seemingly every other social media platform. "And now Facebook is messing with the recipe." The company has actually been working on making its service more expressive since 2012, first adding "stickers"—little animated emoticons—to its messaging app before spending months developing and testing these reactions (and others that didn't make the cut). To make its new emojis internationally relatable, the company drew heavily on famous works of psychology and anatomy, including Charles Darwin's 1872 book, *The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals*, which outlined more than 50 universal emotions.

This bevy of emotional choices comes with a whiff of "teenage angst," said Lance Ulanoff in *Mashable.com*. Will the recipient of our Haha face think we're laughing with him, or at him? Will an Anger response come across as too intense to far-flung friends? And will your uncle be offended by your Wow reaction to his political tirade? All of a sudden, scrolling our feed feels like traversing an emotional "minefield." The beauty of the Like button was its flexibility, said Nico Lang in *DailyDot.com*. It could "show appreciation, sympathy, laughter, and acknowledgment under the umbrella of a single icon." I understand that Facebook wanted to provide a "more human experience for its 1.5 billion users," but "we don't need Facebook to be as complex as we are."

"Like almost everything Facebook does, there is a double purpose at work here," said Will Oremus in *Slate.com*. By prompting users to react more fully, Facebook can tweak users' feeds to keep them on the site longer, with "the optimal mix of happy, sad, amazing, funny, and infuriating posts" to entice them to return more often. Advertisers also covet the rich, nuanced data these reactions will likely provide. Facebook could engineer users' feeds so that "ads come sandwiched between posts that are making people happy or [ensure] that they never appear alongside posts that are making people angry." The best part: Users will be doing the hard part—building the data set—all by themselves.

### Innovation of the week

"A robot's nimble steps in a snowy forest have wowed the world's robotics industry," said Matt McFarland in *WashingtonPost.com*. Google-owned Boston Dynamics recently unveiled footage of its latest version of Atlas, a 5-foot-9, 180-pound human-like robot boldly treading where no other robot has gone before. In the video, Atlas ambles through a field, occasionally slipping, "but always catching its balance." While many two-legged robots can walk, robotics experts say none "has been able to navigate uneven, unpredictable terrain." There are no consumer applications for Atlas so far, but some think the machine will pave the way for robots that can take on complex tasks like preparing meals or caring for the elderly. "It's a huge step toward getting robots that can actually operate in our world," said Georgia Tech robotics professor Aaron Ames.



### Bytes: What's new in tech

#### Wearable tech's melancholy side

Our obsession with using apps and gadgets to track everything from hours slept to paces walked could be sucking some of the joy out of life, said Robinson Meyer in *TheAtlantic.com*. New research suggests that the more we measure an activity, the less we like it, and the less likely we are to do it. In a series of experiments, Duke University professor Jordan Etkin asked students to complete tasks including coloring, reading, and walking. The students who received numerical feedback—"you have colored one shape," for example—got more done but reported less enjoyment than those who weren't tracked. Etkin notes that access to data can help people make progress with a goal-directed activity, like running to lose weight. But for those who run simply for fun, using an iWatch or Fitbit to track their heart rate or calories burned could turn their hobby into a chore.

#### Zipcar adds one-way trips

"Zipcar is solving its single biggest problem," said Chris Ziegler in *TheVerge.com*. The car-sharing service is convenient for city dwellers who don't own a vehicle, but it's always "been hamstrung by a couple annoying rules." First, drivers have to return the vehicle they've bor-

rowed to the same spot they picked it up. Second, it's hard to extend a reservation because other drivers may have booked the car after you. Now Zipcar is rolling out designated vehicles for one-way trips, bringing it up to speed with competitors like Daimler's Car2Go. Drivers will also be able to extend their reservation indefinitely, and even change their final destination mid-trip. The new features will be available in Los Angeles "in the coming weeks" and in other U.S. markets later this year.

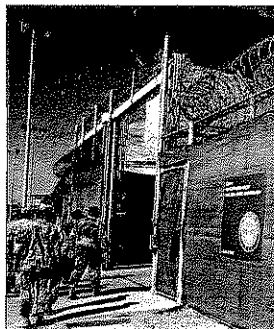
#### Google Docs goes hands-free

Google just took another step toward making keyboards obsolete, said Jack Nicas in *WSJ.com*. Voice dictation is now a built-in feature of its free Google Docs app, which means users can speak to their computers to compose memos, messages, and reports. Voice-recognition software is becoming increasingly prevalent as it gets more accurate, and Google's technology has gotten so good at recognizing speech "that it now automatically generates captions for YouTube videos." Voice dictation is a boon for disabled users, but "Silicon Valley's larger goal is to get consumers to interact with computers more naturally." That means in the future there will be much less typing and much more talking.

## Guantánamo: Does it still serve a purpose?

It's about time, said Fred Kaplan in *Slate.com*. "If Congress hadn't decided long ago to resist nearly all President Obama's initiatives," there would be scant opposition to his plan to shut down the prison at Guantánamo Bay. The president last week proposed moving up to 56 of the 91 remaining detainees to maximum-security federal prisons in South Carolina, Kansas, and Colorado. The other 35 or so detainees would be sent to other countries. "Critics fear the move would endanger Americans"—that terrorists will somehow escape or "spread jihadist propaganda" among other inmates. But 349 convicted terrorists, including 9/11 plotter Zacarias Moussaoui, *already* reside in U.S. maximum-security prisons—where many spend 23 hours in solitary, leaving little opportunity for "proselytizing or escape." Let's finally close the abusive, extralegal prison camp at Gitmo, which serves as a recruiting tool for jihadists and represents an assault "on America's standing as a beacon of justice."

There is nothing shameful about Gitmo, said Joe Connor in *NationalReview.com*. I've visited the facility as a family member of a 9/11 victim, and I've seen that the dozens of unrepentant terrorists there get more due-process rights than most Americans could imagine—free legal



Only 91 detainees are left.

counsel, prayer mats, access to secret government information, and the chance to delay their trials indefinitely. In the past, the enemy fighters there—including 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed—would have been hanged. The claim that Gitmo is a major recruitment tool for radical Islam is false, said former U.S. intelligence officer Jim Waurishuk in *AmericanThinker.com*. Intelligence agencies have found no evidence to support this myth, which was fabricated by people "sympathetic to Islamists." Besides, why would anyone in the Islamic world who objects to Gitmo be less offended if we locked up the same terrorists inside supermax prisons on U.S. soil?

This is a moot debate, said Amber Phillips in *The Washington Post*. Obama's proposal to close Gitmo has no chance of getting through the Republican-controlled Congress, which since 2009 has refused to give the commander in chief the funding needed to move detainees to U.S. courts and prisons. Obama's best option is to keep whittling down the detainees, until perhaps 35 or so are left "languishing in Cuba for the next president to deal with." Obama began his presidency with 245 detainees, so "leaving with just three dozen ain't bad."

## Millennials: A 25-year-old's salary lament

"Heed the cry of an entitled young American hipster," said Michelle Malkin in *National Review.com*: "Woe is me, me, me, me, me, me!" Last week, a "melodramatic Millennial" made headlines after being fired for writing an open letter complaining about her low pay at Yelp, the San Francisco-based tech firm. Talia Jane, a 25-year-old English major, whined that she was earning just \$12 an hour from her customer service role—\$8 after tax—and that the price of housing in the Bay Area meant 80 percent of her income went to rent. Every month, she complained, she struggled to pay her heating, electric, and phone bills; she claimed she had been "starving" for six months, surviving off free office snacks and rice, and "crying in the bathtub every week."

Well, boo hoo, said Kyle Smith in the *New York Post*. If Jane found her "groovy San Francisco dream" so tough, why didn't she take a second job? Or a roommate? Her open letter was the "classic Millennial whine: Why isn't the world helping me more?" Besides, her very active social media accounts show her making sumptuous meals in a well-stocked kitchen and bragging about getting deliveries of Kentucky bourbon.

Don't lump all of us in with Jane, said Stefanie Williams in *BusinessInsider.com*. When I lost my first journalism job during the Great Recession, I "sucked up my pride" and earned my keep tending bar and waiting tables. It wasn't easy, but I kept working hard until I was able to realize my dream of becoming a TV screenplay writer. Jane's problem isn't Yelp's wages; it's her sense of entitlement and lack of work ethic.

Jane's open letter did call attention to some genuine problems, said Tara Golshan in *Vox.com*. College graduates today are laden with far more debt than previous generations, and the cities where labor markets are booming—places like San Francisco, New York, and Boston—have "skyrocketing costs of living." Let's stop the Millennial bashing, said Rex Huppke in the *Chicago Tribune*. Every generation denigrates the next as lazy and spoiled, and compares "the way we do things (the right way!) with the way younger folks do things (the wrong way!)." All evidence to the contrary is ignored. In fact, we've been writing off entire generations with negative stereotypes since Baby Boomers were labeled the "Me Generation" in the 1970s. "Enough already."

## Wit & Wisdom

"Confidence is 10 percent hard work and 90 percent delusion."

Tina Fey, quoted in *Celebuzz.com*

"Life hasn't much to offer except youth, and I suppose for older people, the love of youth in others."

F. Scott Fitzgerald, quoted in *BleacherReport.com*

"Only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone."

Pablo Picasso, quoted in *RefDesk.com*

"To love without knowing how to love wounds the person we love."

Zen master Thich Nhat Hanh, quoted in *BrainPickings.org*

"A beautiful woman looking at her image in the mirror may very well believe the image is herself. An ugly woman knows it is not."

Simone Weil, quoted in *The New York Times*

"It is the curse of the competent not to be called upon."

Poet-songwriter Robert Priest, quoted in *TheBrowser.com*

"If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door."

Milton Berle, quoted in *BookReporter.com*

## Poll watch

■ Nearly 8 in 10 Trump supporters say that they are more enthusiastic about voting this year than in previous elections. But just 39% of Republicans who are not supporting Trump say they are more enthusiastic than in years past. 48% of Republicans who do not currently support Trump say they probably or definitely won't vote for him if he's nominated. CNN/ORC

■ Just 26% of Americans support President Obama's plan to close Guantánamo Bay. 56% want the prison to remain operational, and 18% aren't sure.

HuffingtonPost.com/YouGov