



SANTA CRUZ TECH BEAT

The go-to source for Monterey Bay tech

Digest #137

Here's the news you need to know for this week.

The part of MBEP's summit last week that was most inspiring to me was the AgTech panel. I am following up with Driscoll's, Hahn Family Winery, and others so we can learn about the cutting edge technology they're using to run their businesses.

Startup Grind has invited me to be the featured guest at their Monday, May 16, 6pm, Fireside Chat at NextSpace in Santa Cruz. You're invited. Come network and nosh. I hear they're providing beer, wine, and food. Get the details in the article below, and rsvp.

The region is buzzing. Salinas debuted their new solar farm. Cruzio and the City of Santa Cruz are moving forward with the fiber project. A Seattle writer reflects from afar what we're doing here (without fiber). Find out why Lightspeed POS (originally MerchantOS) is closing their Santa Cruz office. Startup Challenge is gearing up for their May 6 event where 26 finalists will vie for top prizes. SlugRoute is helping riders track campus shuttles on UCSC campus.

Boo hoo. The last broadcast of GeekSpeak will be this Saturday, May 7, 11am to 12 noon. They will keep producing the podcast, but KUSP 88.9 is selling its FM signal. GeekSpeak is a real Santa Cruz gem.

All this, and more! Scroll down and start reading the news!

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Top Stories

The collision of IoT with the world of big data in the Monterey Bay region's agricultural sector is revealing new problems. [Read this story.](#)

Lightspeed POS is closing their Santa Cruz office because ... well, read the article... [Read this story.](#)

You're invited! Santa Cruz Tech Beat publisher bares (almost) all at May 16 Startup Grind Fireside Chat. 6pm at NextSpace. [Read this story.](#)

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Update from Cruzio: Santa Cruz Fiber Project is on track to break ground in early 2017. [Read this story.](#)



Seattle GCN writer on Santa Cruz: Getting to gigabit internet without fiber. [Read this story.](#)



Open source CRM software and a richer extension ecosystem are some of the benefits of X2CRM's newly released version 6.0. [Read this story.](#)



SlugRoute, a mobile app to track shuttles in real time, launches at UC Santa Cruz. [Read this story.](#)



Salinas debuts the city's new solar farm. The photovoltaic cells begin operating later this month. [Read this story.](#)



Twenty-six finalists from this year's Startup Challenge competition will compete at CSUMB on May 6 for the grand prizes. [Read this story.](#)



Salinas students get "CSin3" degrees thanks to orchid grower. The program guides students to a degree in computer science in only three years. [Read this story.](#)



MBEP's second summit touts the area's economic strengths while also acknowledging some challenges that lie ahead. [Read this story.](#)



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Events

Note: Dates, times, and locations are all subject to change. Be sure to check the event website for your event.

- Tue May 3, 7pm: [Drupal Group monthly meeting](#) at NextSpace.
- Wed May 3, 4:10-5:20pm: [herScript monthly meeting](#) at CSUMB BIT Building.
- Wed May 4, 2-5pm: [STEAM Into the Galaxy: Star Wars Day](#) at Santa Cruz Public Library, Downtown Branch.
- Wed May 4, 6pm: [Santa Cruz New Tech Meetup](#) at Cruzio.
- Thu May 5, 5:30: [Buffer Local Santa](#)



[Cruz Meetup](#) at Midtown Cafe, 1121 Soquel Ave, Santa Cruz.

- Fri May 6, 3-7pm: [Startup Challenge Venture Showcase](#) at CSUMB.
- Sat May 7, 11am-12noon: [Last broadcast of GeekSpeak](#) on KUSP radio, 88.9.
- Tue May 10, 6pm: [Startup Monterey Bay Tech Meetup](#) at The Press Club, Seaside.
- Thu May 12, 2pm, [Summer Entrepreneurship Academy Informational Session](#) at UCSC, E2, Room 599.
- Fri May 13, 12noon-3pm, [Santa Cruz Hackerspace Meetup](#) at Cabrillo College STEM Building 800, Room 828.
- Sat May 14, 10am: [Santa Cruz Web Developers Meetup](#) at NextSpace.
- Mon May 16, 6pm: [Startup Grind Monterey Bay Hosts Sara Isenberg, networking and fireside chat](#), including a few dirty little secrets from Santa Cruz tech at NextSpace.
- Mon May 16, 6:30pm: [Salinas AgTech Meetup](#) at CSUMB Salinas City Center.

**View more events on
[our EVENTS page](#).**

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