



# SANTA CRUZ TECH BEAT

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## Digest #344

I'm writing this on Thursday, August 20, waiting for a possible notification to evacuate my home because of the nearby CZU Lightning Complex fires. Yikes! Who knows what the next few days will bring? We'll know more by the time you read this. I do know that preparing this digest is one way to feel "normal," so here it is.

We have news this week about (or from) Paystand, Scoot Science, Steve Blum, Bud Colligan, Poly, and Looker, but the topic that stands out for the current moment isn't about tech. Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County has just launched a Fire Response Fund. The funds will aid residents displaced by the CZU August Lightning Complex Fires. Learn more below.

Scroll down and start reading!

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<http://santacruztechbeat.com>

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## Top Stories

The Community Foundation Santa Cruz County establishes the Fire Response Fund to support those affected by the CZU August Lightning Complex Fires. [Read the article.](#)

Paystand announces record-setting growth of 1007% and 150 new enterprise customers. [Read this article.](#)

Steve Blum: California legislators lean toward faster broadband standard, as committees wrap up work. [Read the article.](#)

Scout Science, an ocean monitoring and forecasting technology company, announces a partnership with a global leader in salmon farming and sustainable farming practices. [Read the article.](#)

Longtime tech entrepreneur and new Foundation of CSUMB board member Bud Colligan envisions free higher education for all. Wi-Fi, too. [Read the article.](#)

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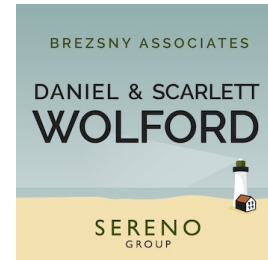
CLOUD  
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The Monterey Bay Aquarium launches free online courses for preschool through high school students, plus resources for parents and caregivers. [Read the article.](#)

Voice and video: Poly looks at how COVID-19 is redefining the contact center. [Read the article.](#)

Updated SDKs, new UI components, SQL runner visualizations are just some of the ways Looker 7 will support the data-driven workforce. [Read the article.](#)



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