# YouTube says it isn’t testing hiding the dislike button

On Tuesday, I published a story about how YouTube appeared to be testing hiding the dislike button on videos, with at least two users on X sharing screenshots of the dislike button moved into the three-dot menu. But a YouTube spokesperson, in a Wednesday statement to *The Verge*, confirmed that YouTube is “not testing hiding the dislike button on YouTube for users.”

However, YouTube *is* introducing a new UI for creators on their uploaded videos where the dislike button will be moved.

Here’s the full statement, from spokesperson Kimberly Taylor:

> *We are not testing hiding the dislike button on YouTube for users. We’re introducing a new UI for creators on their own uploaded videos, where dislike is behind the three-dot menu, and as always, they can find their full dislike counts in Studio, alongside other analytics.*

The new UI is rolling out to creators in “the coming weeks,” Taylor says.

The change for creators follows past adjustments to the dislike button on the platform. YouTube hid the public dislike count on videos starting in 2021 as a way to prevent harassment, and it removed the dislike button video from Shorts earlier this year.

***Update, October 21st**: Added context about the UI rollout timing from Taylor.*

https://www.theverge.com/streaming/1016206/youtube-dislike-but

# Tesla says customers can add their own vehicles to the robotaxi fleet next year – will it happen?

For years, Elon Musk has been making big promises to Tesla owners about unsupervised autonomous driving and the ability to add their own vehicles to the company's robotaxi fleet. During today's third-quarter earnings call, the company finally gave itself a deadline.

According to Tesla VP for Autonomous Driving Ashok Elluswamy, Tesla owners will be able to add their own vehicles to the company's robotaxi fleet in the second quarter of 2027. Here's his exact quote (emphasis ours):

> *Like I mentioned earlier, the software for Cybercabs and Model Y is the same. And pretty soon we'll be able to release the same software as part of the V15 release to customers. The only additional requirement is to make sure that, for example, the customer Model Y can be part of the geofences and the fleet management that Tesla has for it to be fully autonomous.* ***We suspect somewhere around Q2 next year is when we can turn on some of the first customer vehicles to be part of the robotaxi fleet.***

It’s important to mark this deadline because it’s likely that Tesla will sail right past it. When it comes to autonomous driving and robotaxis, Musk has a pretty clear pattern: he sets bold, short-term deadlines that end up slipping by years — or never happening at all. Still, Tesla has made steady, incremental strides in the tech behind its consumer driver-assistance features. But the long-promised goal of “unsupervised” Full Self-Driving remains unfulfilled.

In 2019, Musk stood on stage at the company’s first AI Day and vowed that customer-owned vehicles could be used as part of a “Tesla Network” of robotaxis, earning their owners passive income while driving around autonomously, looking for fares. He likened it to Uber or Airbnb. Musk also said that by 2020, a “million” Tesla robotaxis would be out on the road.

As of yet, neither promise has come true. Tesla has a few hundred Robotaxis in Texas and Florida, some of which still have human safety monitors. It also has several dozen fully driverless Cybercabs in Austin.

Still, FSD growth was a bright spot in Tesla’s earnings this quarter. More people buying new Teslas in North America are choosing to add Full Self-Driving (Supervised), the company reported. Over 75 percent of new buyers picked the feature this quarter — a big jump of almost 20 percentage points compared to last quarter. Still, Tesla’s vehicle sales were down this quarter, as revenue flatlined and profits dipped.

But even if Tesla opens up its robotaxi fleet to customer-owned vehicles, major regulatory hurdles remain. Unsupervised autonomous ride-hailing requires specific local and state regulatory permits. Insurance may be difficult to obtain. And in most places, it’s still illegal for individuals or outside companies to use their own self-driving cars as driverless taxis or passenger rides.

There’s also the tension between different types of Tesla

owners. Older Model 3 and Y vehicles without the latest full-self-driving hardware suites (or AI compute infrastructure) are constrained by hardware capability. Dedicated vehicles like the Cybercab are built specifically for driverless passenger service, whereas consumer vehicles require additional software layers to guarantee safety without human intervention.

Tesla might be confident it can clear every technical and legal hurdle by Q2 2027. But history says this could easily become just another deadline that quietly slips by.

https://www.theverge.com/transportation/1016118/tesla-robotaxi-customer-owned-vehicle-fleet-network-q3-2026-earnings

---

# Data centers could erase decades of air quality gains

A rush of new data centers could bring air pollution roaring back to levels not seen since the 2000s in Texas, which has become ground zero for the physical infrastructure behind generative AI.

New and proposed data centers are demanding a tremendous amount of electricity. How developers and utilities meet that demand — with gas turbines or renewable energy — will determine just how dirty things will get. So far, though, things are looking grim.

Tech companies and data center developers are devising new

ways to get enough electricity, including building out their own power sources. But if all planned data center projects were to plug into …

Read the full story at The Verge.

https://www.theverge.com/ai-artificial-intelligence/1015958/data-center-pollution-rising-report

---

# Meta to create a new class of shares to fund AI push

Meta says it’s issuing a new class of shares to fund its AI initiatives. As part of its third-quarter earnings report released on Wednesday, the company says the non-voting stock will also go toward potential acquisitions and employee compensation, with trading beginning in 2027.

“The scale of investment required to compete, sustain growth, expand infrastructure, and pursue new strategic initiatives amidst the AI transformation taking place in the industry is significant,” Meta says in the press release. Susan Li, Meta’s chief financial officer, added during an earnings call that the new class of shares will “expand our funding tools and gi …

Read the full story at The Verge.

https://www.theverge.com/tech/1015799/meta-shares-class-ai-q3-2026-earnings

# New York’s first microdrama film festival searches for its audience

Actors Taye Diggs, Autumn Federici, Gary Entin, Troy Brookins, Edmund Entin and Eric Guilmette attend the world premiere of Microhouse Films and Lifetime’s Reunion Island during the ALZA Festival. | Getty Images for Lifetime.

It remains to be seen if people really want to watch vertical content on horizontal TV screens, but many filmmakers and creators were confident that their latest projects would play well at Alza — New York City’s first microdrama film festival. Founded by former Tribeca Festival chief operating officer Pete Torres, Alza, which took place October 16th through 18th, was billed as a showcase for the “the creativity, innovation, and growing cultural impact of stories made for the vertical screen.” The festival featured a selection of microdrama and film premieres as well as industry-focused panels with executives who all seemed to genuinely beli …

Read the full story at The Verge.

https://www.theverge.com/entertainment/1014494/alza-vertical-film-festival-bill-block-salvador-paskowitz-microdramas-verticals

# Meta says it would’ve made over $22 billion if it didn’t have to pay a child safety settlement

Meta had to shell out $9.89 billion to pay for a chunk of the child safety settlement it reached with US attorneys general. That’s according to the company’s third-quarter earnings report released on Wednesday, which says Meta’s income from operations would have been $22.89 billion without the settlement.

In August, Meta agreed to pay $17.1 billion to settle a massive nationwide lawsuit that claimed the company harmed children by making its social media platforms “addictive” by design. It will also only pay $5.3 billion of this amount if YouTube and TikTok implement stricter settings and safeguards for kids, which Meta also agreed to as par …

Read the full story at The Verge.

https://www.theverge.com/tech/1015877/meta-q3-2026-earnings-child-safety-settlement

# PHP: The three letters that shut down sites all over the internet today

Two bugs found with AI are behind major issues today for 4chan, DeviantArt, Wikipedia, and the blog where the bar around the corner posts pictures of people's dogs. The "critical vulnerabilities" were discovered in the PHP programming language, which underpins much of the internet, including any site built on WordPress. But it's far bigger than that. Some Dutch and Finnish government agencies took their sites down as a precaution. The NSA Cybersecurity account on X recommended that organizations take their systems offline if "an immediate update is not feasible," as did the UK's National Cyber Security Center. Even *Pokémon Home* and *Pokémon C* …

Read the full story at The Verge.

https://www.theverge.com/tech/1015906/php2shell-vulnerability-october-2026

---

# Flying Roadsters can't lift Tesla's flat Q3 revenues

As the smoke clears from its outrageous Roadster demo, Tesla reported Q3 earnings on Wednesday — and the cold reality is that revenue has flatlined.

Tesla said it earned $1.7 billion in net income on $28.0 billion in revenue in the quarter that ended in September 2026. Revenues were flat, while profits dropped 4 percent compared to the third quarter of 2025, when the company earned $1.4 billion in net income on $28.1 billion in revenue. Tesla's revenue came in above Wall Street expectations of $27.9 billion, according to data compiled by LSEG. Tesla's own company-compiled expectations predicted Q3 revenues of $28.3 billion.

The earnings …

Read the full story at The Verge.

https://www.theverge.com/transportation/1015790/tesla-q3-2026-earnings-revenue-profit-roadster-spacex-merger

---

# Bose acquires Skullcandy to help it reach a wider audience

Bose announced today it has acquired Skullcandy. Although the

two companies are competitors in the consumer audio space, Skullcandy recently partnered with its new owner to bring several of Bose's audio technologies – including its head-tracking spatial audio and excellent active noise cancellation (ANC) – to products like the Skullcandy Crusher 1080 ANC headphones and Method 360 ANC earbuds.

Specific details about the deal weren't shared, but according to a news release, Bose plans to keep Skullcandy a separate brand that will become part of its premium consumer audio business. Skullcandy will remain based in Park City, Utah, where it was …

Read the full story at The Verge.

https://www.theverge.com/tech/1015276/bose-acquisition-skullcandy-headphones-earbuds-speakers

---

# Airbnb bans making guests do dishes and take out the trash

Checking out of your next Airbnb might be less of a hassle now that the company is banning hosts from including time-consuming chores in their house rules. Airbnb's updated house rules policy, which starts with reservations booked on or after November 20th, says hosts can't ask guests to "complete tasks that require significant effort or time, or would typically be performed by a cleaner." According to Airbnb, that includes:

- **Dishes:** Guests shouldn’t be asked to wash and put away dishes, but you can ask them to put used dishes in the sink.
- **Laundry:** Guests shouldn’t be asked to remove sheets from the bed or start a load of laundry, but yo …

Read the full story at The Verge.

https://www.theverge.com/tech/1015844/airbnb-chores-house-rules-update