

WEARABLES WEEKLY: APRIL 6-10, 2015

Apple Watch On Pre-Order In Selected Countries

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All 38 models of the Apple Watch went on pre-order in nine countries (Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, United Kingdom, and the United States) on April 10. Shipping that was originally scheduled for April 24 has been pushed back to June for certain (more expensive) models. Unlike previous sales of Apple products in-store, the Watch can only be purchased via the Apple Store website or the Store application for iPhone and iPad. It will be available to try on at Apple stores, but not to take home.



The device can be used to unlock hotel rooms, purchase foods, and present boarding passes at airports, though it cannot respond to emails (not even with simple message or emoticons). From a health perspective, features of the Watch include passive tracking of steps, standing up frequency, and heart rate (periodically).

FitBit Changes Active Minute Tracking

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Earlier this week, FitBit announced changes to its method for calculating and displaying active minutes. The company announced that it will only count active minutes if a user engages in an activity for more than 10 minutes. This is in line with recommendations from the American Heart Association. It will not impact users' step counts.

Xiaomi Mi Band To Launch Mi Band 2

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Rumors suggest a successor to Xiaomi's Mi Band will hit the Asian market: The Mi Band 2. It has been noted that the Mi Band's predecessor will feature a display. It will also link to the Alipay Wallet to enable users to make payments via the Alipay platform (owned by Alibaba) without entering their password. Xiaomi also announced earlier this week that its Mi Band now comes with a leather strap.



Artificial Intelligence Concerns Catching On

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Researchers are increasingly voicing concerns over artificial intelligence. Stephen Hawking, Bill Gates, and Elon Musk have previously noted the requirement to innovate responsibly in artificial intelligence. This past week, Oxford University philosophy professor, Nick Bostrom, was the latest to indicate warnings over advanced forms of artificial intelligence. Google is also assembling an ethics committee to oversee its work on artificial intelligence.

We would be interested to receive your comments on our Weekly Wearables Newsletter!

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