



Wearables Weekly

Compiled by Sarah Kunkle and Gillian Christie

April 25, 2016

In this week's edition: a WatchOS update renders an expensive third party Apple Watch band useless, and a program at Tufts University provides a home for abandoned fitness trackers. Read the latest below!

[Extra Miles for Fitness Trackers](#)

Lisa Gualtieri, an assistant professor of public health and community medicine at Tufts University, launched RecycleHealth in 2015 in order to get unused fitness trackers to underserved people who need help leading healthier lives. So far, the program has collected over 200 devices, including a donation of new devices from Withings. Professor Gualtieri works with organizations that serve a variety of populations, including low-income adults in wellness programs, low-income adults with mental health issues, seniors in fall prevention programs, minorities, and veterans. Prepaid mailing labels are available on the RecycleHealth website for those interested in donating.

Importance: Many wearable devices remain unaffordable and inaccessible for those who need them most. Initiatives like RecycleHealth can help address this issue and ensure people benefit from innovative technologies, regardless of income level.

[WatchOS Update Cuts Off Third-Party Apple Watch Band](#)

Thousands of Apple Watch users have purchased a Reserve Strap to give the watch some extra juice. Unfortunately, Apple's recent WatchOS update removes all functionality from Apple Watch's accessory port and now the \$249.99 battery bands no longer work as intended. The manufacturer of Reserve Strap believes this was a deliberate effort by Apple to block development of third-party smartbands, but was surprising given that Apple had been an advocate of the product, even inviting the company to Cupertino to show them early prototypes and placing pre-orders for many Reserve Straps. The band still works on Apple Watches running WatchOS 2.0 or earlier.

Importance: Limited battery life has been a major complaint with the Apple Watch (and other smartwatches). While there are plenty of third party bands available for the Apple Watch, the Reserve Strap was the first and only band that provided extra battery life, extending the charge by up to 30 hours.

Other Health Technology Headlines

[3M's New Intelligent Control Inhaler for More Accuracy in COPD Treatment](#)

[BioBeats raises \\$2.28M for its platform to replace human stress therapists](#)

[For Wearables, Doing a Thing Well Beats Trying to Do It All](#)

[How Fitbit Became The Next Big Thing In Corporate Wellness](#)

[How university students sleep](#)

['Instagram for doctors' Figure 1 reaches a million users, adds messaging tool](#)

[Legal health isn't easy for digital health companies](#)

[New Gadgets Help Pollution-Wearied Chinese Breathe Easier](#)

[Provata Health shares results of multi-year workplace wellness program study](#)

[This electronic tattoo turns your skin into a screen](#)

[Unispectral gets \\$7.5M for smartphone hyperspectral camera with food-scanning aspirations](#)

If you would like to subscribe to Wearables Weekly or have any other comments/questions, please contact Gillian Christie, Health Innovation Analyst at gchristie@thevitalitygroup.com.