



New UK Home Secretary Wants ‘Backdoor’ Access To All Encrypted Messages

Patel is an ardent Boris Johnson supporter. As the new Home Secretary, her first call is for the government to gain ‘backdoor’ access to all encrypted messages. The U.S.-led ‘Five Eyes’ intel alliance is meeting with her this week. □ TN Editor

New Home Secretary Priti Patel, pictured last week in London, is having discussions with Britain’s Five Eyes intelligence allies about combating cyber threats and having better access to encrypted messages

British spies want ‘backdoor’ access to encrypted messages on social media to prevent terror threats and child abuse.

Officials from the UK, US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand - known as the ‘Five Eyes’ intelligence alliance - are meeting in London to discuss being able to get ‘lawful access’ to WhatsApp discussions that

could be linked to crime.

It comes after the London Bridge terrorists used WhatsApp to discuss plans which British officials say helped prevent the 2017 plot that killed eight people from being identified.

One such technique suggested by the UK intelligence agency GCHQ is to allow its agents to be 'silently' added to chats or calls so they can observe the conversation without being detected.

Encryption is increasingly being used to protect privacy on social media platforms, with WhatsApp already using it, Facebook due to introduce it to its Messenger app and Google exploring 'encrypted browsers'.

Meanwhile new Home Secretary Priti Patel has pledged to strengthen Britain's links with its Five Eyes allies and confirmed they would also be discussing ways to bolster border defences and tackle foreign 'Islamist' threats.

A spokesperson for the Home Office said: 'We need to ensure that our law enforcement and security and intelligence agencies are able to gain lawful and exceptional access to the information they need.'

Five Eyes intelligence chiefs want tech firms to do more to help them and say such access would only be reserved for 'exceptional cases' where there was a 'serious threat of terrorism or child sexual abuse', with a judge or government minister having the final sign-off.

In a paper produced at the end of 2018 GCHQ and National Cyber Security centre directors Ian Levy and Crispin Robinson said it would be 'relatively easy' for a messaging service to provide 'silent' access.

The paper said: 'You end up with everything still being end-to-end encrypted, but there's an extra 'end' on this particular communication.'

'This sort of solution seems to be no more intrusive than the virtual crocodile clips that our democratically elected representatives and judiciary authorise today in traditional voice intercept solutions, and certainly doesn't give any government power they shouldn't have.'

The pair added it would be exceptional because ‘almost all users would not be affected’.

But the proposal was condemned as a ‘threat to human rights’ and opposed by 50 organisations including Apple, WhatsApp and campaigners Liberty in an open letter.

The letter said: ‘The overwhelming majority of users rely on their confidence in reputable providers to perform authentication functions and verify that the participants in a conversation are the people they think they are, and only those people.’

‘The GCHQ’s ghost proposal completely undermines this trust relationship and the authentication process.’

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Marty The Grocery Store Robot Aggravates Shoppers, Employees

Technocrat-minded engineers build things according to their own image and then wonder why the rest of the world yawns and says “Get Lost!” In this case, Marty the robot manages to annoy everyone. □ TN Editor

Attention shoppers: I’ve seen the future of grocery store technology, and let me tell you, we can do better.

I’m no Marty McFly. I simply reside in a small Connecticut town, which means that in addition to doing Extremely New England things like commuting to the city on the Metro North, bragging about beaches, and the fact that the state inspired the picturesque fictional town in *Gilmore Girls*, I occasionally spend some time on the weekends shopping for groceries at a local Stop & Shop.

Prior to 2019, the Stop & Shop shopping experience was similar to that offered by most any other large grocery store chain. But this year, Stop & Shop introduced giant, gray, aisle-patrolling robots at more than 200 stores in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New Jersey.

Now, food shopping comes with unprecedented levels of anxiety and absurdity.

Each of the robots weighs a massive 140-pounds and costs a whopping \$35,000. Oddly, all of the robots are named Marty, and atop their tall frames — which tower over my own 5 foot, 3 inch stature — rests a large pair of google eyes. You know, so as not to come off as *complete* faceless, emotionless, lifeless bots. If you’re confused as to what these rolling mechanical columns do, Martys also wear the following description on their bodies like a name tag:

This store is monitored by Marty for your safety. Marty is an autonomous robot that uses image capturing technology to report

spills, debris, and other potential hazards to store employees to improve your shopping experience.

Essentially, once Marty identifies a hazard using its sensors, it stops in its tracks, changes its signature operating lights from blue to yellow, and repeatedly announces, “Caution, hazard detected,” in English and Spanish. One of several catches to their existence, however, is that the robots don’t actually *clean* anything.

Marty does a whole lot of nothing

Marty is advertised as an aisle-sweeping superhero, but it’s simply a messenger that shouts about a problem until a more capable human comes and removes whatever the hazard may be. Upon learning this fact, some people, like myself and the woman heard in this video shared by Twitter user @jennlynnjordan, are rightfully confused.

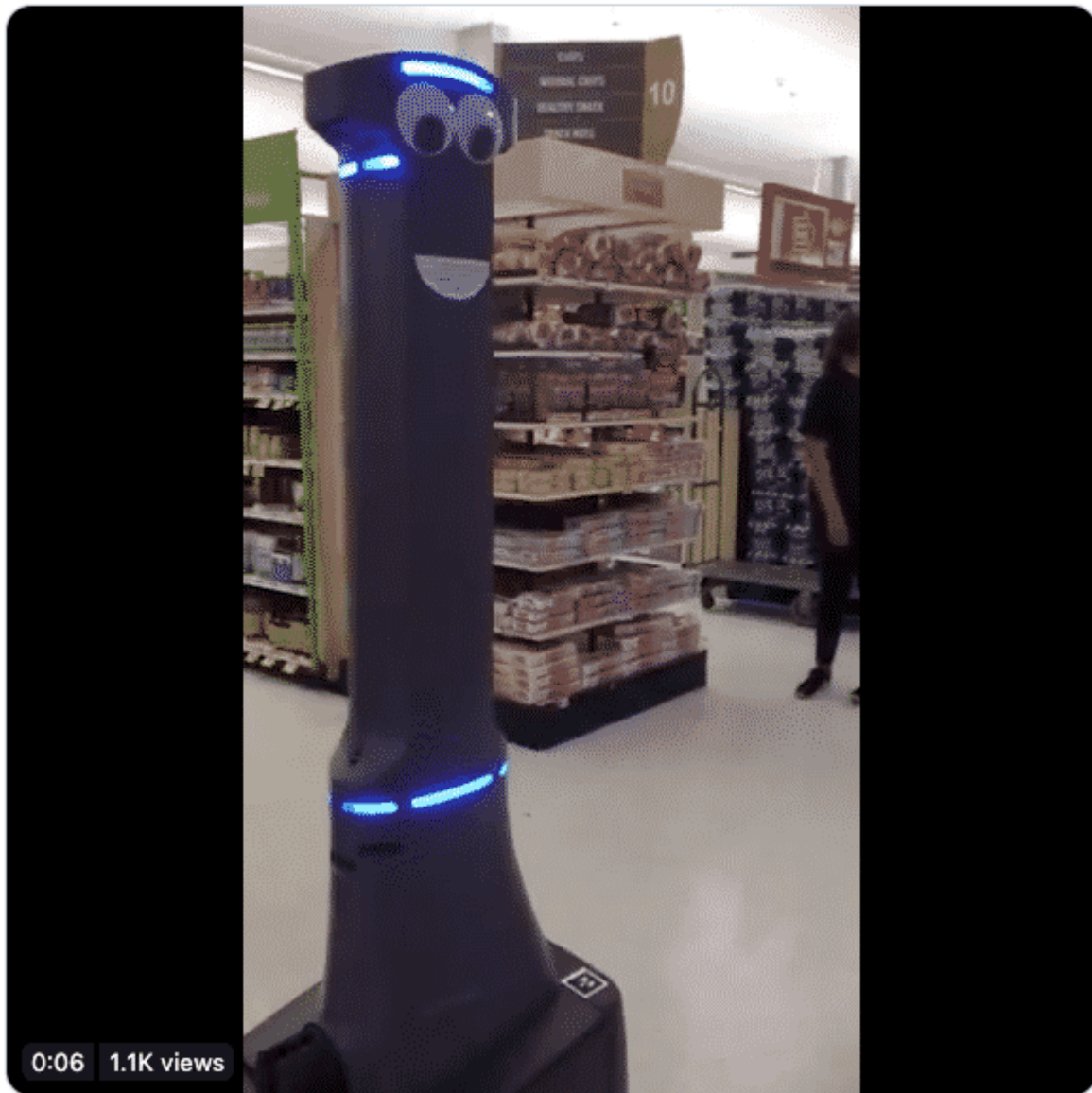


Jennifer Jordan

@jennlynnjordan



Apparently my supermarket has just gotten a robot. Its name is Marty. It detects spills. Doesn't clean them, just starts shouting if it sees one.



9:02 AM · Jul 23, 2019 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

“Oh, I thought it washed the floor,” the unimpressed mystery shopper can be heard saying. “Wow... I’ve got my husband to tell me there’s a mess!” she continued, delivering a burn to both Marty and her semi-helpful hubby. As Jessica McKenzie reports for the New Food Economy ,

employees aren't the biggest fans of the machines either.

"It's really not doing much of anything besides getting in the way," an employee told McKenzie. And in some cases, the machines even create *morework*.

A January press release states that the in-store robots are supposed to "enable associates to spend more time serving and interfacing with customers," but one of the robot's major flaws is that its sensors appear to treat each hazard with the same level of caution. A harmless bottle cap or errant piece of cilantro will elicit the same response as a spill of clear liquid that someone could genuinely slip and injure themselves on, which means that in certain cases an employee may have to take time that could be spent interacting with a customer to walk across the store and grab a puny little grape that escaped a bag. Seems counterproductive!

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Green New Deal Would Cost At Least \$250K Per Household In First Five Years

The Green New Deal is economic insanity except that it would fulfill the United Nation's long-held goal of completely destroying Capitalism and Free Enterprise. Out of the ashes, Technocracy will rise triumphant. □
TN Editor

According to a new study, the Green New Deal's implementation would cost the average American family a quarter of a million dollars during the first five years. The costs are even higher for Americans living in Alaska. The study did not even take into account significant parts of the Green New Deal, since they are impossible to calculate. After all, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) hasn't even introduced an actual bill, but only a resolution calling for future bills. It's less a concrete plan and more a worldview statement justifying hundreds of future laws.

The study, jointly co-authored by the Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI) and Power the Future (PTF), analyzed the additional electricity demanded for various projects like decarbonizing the economy; the costs associated with shipping and logistics; the costs of new carbon-free vehicles; and the costs to retrofit every building in America. Just these four types of costs would add up to more than \$250,000 per household in the first five years, a conservative estimate.

"The Green New Deal is a radical blueprint to de-carbonize the American economy by refashioning how we grow food, move people and goods, source and distribute electricity, and build the structures where we live, work, and play. Our analysis shows that, if implemented, the Green New Deal would cost for American households at least tens of thousands of dollars annually on a permanent basis," CEI President and CEO Kent Lassman said in a statement.

"Perhaps that's why exactly zero Senate Democrats, including the resolution's 12 co-sponsors, voted for the Green New Deal when they

had the chance,” he quipped.

“Economists and experts have been warning us for months about the devastating effects of the Green New Deal, and now we have the numbers to prove it,” PTF Executive Director Daniel Turner said in a statement. “This study only calculates a fraction of the cost of Alexandria-Ocasio Cortez’s radical plan, which amounts to a socialist free-for-all with no regard for the American taxpayer.”

“No family should be forced to pay tens of thousands of dollars in the first year alone to fund AOC’s ideological wishlist. Thankfully, Americans see through the Green New Deal and are beginning to fight back,” he added.

CEI and PTF analyzed the estimated costs for households in five states — Alaska, Florida, New Hampshire, New Mexico, and Pennsylvania. In every state except Alaska, the Green New Deal would cost a typical household more than \$70,000 in the first year of implementation, approximately \$45,000 for each of the next four years (adding up to \$250,000 for the first five years), and more than \$37,000 each year after that. In Alaska, the average family would pay more than \$100,000 in the first year, \$73,000 for the next four years, and more than \$67,000 each year afterward.

“Most provisions of the GND are so broad and open-ended that the list of potential programs necessary to implement the program is limited by the capacity of legislators to imagine a new government program,” the study notes. “Therefore, it is impossible to calculate the whole or maximum cost of the GND. However, other parts of the GND are more precise, sufficiently so that an approximate minimum cost estimate is available.”

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