Your WIRED.co.uk (http://www.wired.co.uk/) daily briefing. Today, Twitter has updated its anti-harassment policies, Spotify is being sued for unlawful music distribution, the disruptive weather patterns of this year’s strong El Niño could cause an international humanitarian crisis and more.

*Get WIRED Awake sent straight to your inbox every weekday morning by 8am. Click here to sign up to the WIRED Awake newsletter (http://condenast.msgfocus.com/condenast/wired/awakesignup/index.html).*

1. Twitter updates its anti-harassment rules
   (https://blog.twitter.com/2015/fighting-abuse-to-protect-freedom-of-expression-0)

Twitter (https://blog.twitter.com/2015/fighting-abuse-to-protect-freedom-of-expression-0) has announced an update to its Twitter Rules (http://twitter.com/rules) for users, which now explicitly state that "you may not promote violence against or directly attack or threaten other people on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, religious affiliation, age, disability, or disease." The announcement was made in a blog post by Director of Trust and Safety Megan Cristina and clarifies recent news reports describing the service's latest measures to curb abusive behaviour and hate speech. Cristina writes that "we embrace and encourage diverse opinions and beliefs -- but we will continue to take action on accounts that cross the line into abuse."
2. Spotify is being sued for "unlawful" music distribution
   (http://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/2015/12/musician-david-lowery-sues-spotify-for-unlawfully-distributing-music/)

   David Lowery, of US bands Camper Van Beethoven and Cracker, is suing Spotify for copyright infringement (Ars Technica (http://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/2015/12/musician-david-lowery-sues-spotify-for-unlawfully-distributing-music/)). Lowery's specific complaint is that the streaming service isn't correctly licencing the works it distributes, an issue that Spotify is currently in settlement negotiations with the US National Music Publishers Association over. Spotify is reported to have set aside a reserve of as much as $25 million to pay unlocated artists. The company's communications head Jonathan Prince told Ars Technica that "especially in the United States, the data necessary to confirm the appropriate rightsholders is often missing, wrong, or incomplete. When rightsholders are not immediately clear, we set aside the royalties we owe until we are able to confirm their identities".

3. Strong El Niño prompts humanitarian concerns

   Humanitarian concerns are growing for people in countries likely to be seriously affected by what scientists are describing as "the strongest El Niño on record" (BBC (http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-35159826)). The phenomenon's warm Pacific currents are predicted to cause drought in some regions and flooding in others, potentially resulting in food shortages in countries as far separated as Ethiopia, Indonesia and Haiti. This year, the El Niño weather event has caused particularly dramatic shifts in global weather patterns, including the wet and stormy winter we're experiencing in the UK, and is making it very likely that 2015 will go down as the warmest year on record.

4. Anxiety can help you process threats effectively
   (http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/12/151229070643.htm)

   French researchers have found that high levels of non-clinical anxiety can indicate that you're well equipped to cope in a crisis (ScienceDaily (http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/12/151229070643.htm)). The study found that anxious people processed threat signals in the part of the brain responsible for action, while their more relaxed peers did their threat processing in the brain's sensory circuits, which are responsible for face recognition. The study specifically addressed the ability to recognise angry or fearful facial expressions that could indicate a potentially risky situation.

5. Tor Project declares a bounty on bugs
   (http://motherboard.vice.com/read/the-tor-project-is-starting-a-bug-bounty-program)

   The non-profit Tor Project, responsible for maintaining software for anonymous routing, has announced that it will be setting up a bug bounty programme to reward those who find a vulnerability in Tor applications
The move comes as commercial exploit-selling enterprises such as Zerodium have declared their own bounties on Tor Browser. The programme will begin in the new year, and will start out as an invite-only scheme, according to Tor Browser lead developer Mike Perry.

6. Humanoid social robots could be the personal assistants of the future

Scientists at Singapore’s Nanyang Technological University have developed Nadine, a humanoid robot receptionist who can recognise people she’s met, remember what they’ve said in the past, and display emotional responses. Modelled after her creator, Prof Nadia Thalmann, the robot runs personal digital assistant software similar to Apple’s Siri or Microsoft’s Cortana and, it’s suggested, could serve as a personal assistant in the home or office, or as a companion for the elderly and the young.

7. If you’ve encrypted your Windows 10 PC, Microsoft probably has your key

If you’ve used Windows 10’s built-in encryption tool to protect your hard disk, and use a Microsoft account to log in, then Microsoft will have a copy of your encryption key stored in the cloud. Windows 10, like Windows 8.1 before it, has a built-in version of Microsoft’s BitLocker encryption software, which you can use to encrypt your device’s hard disk to protect it in case of theft. If you use the tool, your key is automatically stored your online Microsoft account. You can go online to delete it, but remember back it up locally or write it down first, or you may not be able to access your encrypted data in the future.

8. Disney has invented a wall-climbing robot

VertiGo is a wall-climbing robot that can transition seamlessly from rolling along the ground like a toy car to ascending a sheer vertical surface. Once it’s on the wall, the little robot uses a pair of propellers to keep it in place and can drive around as though it were on a horizontal surface. VertiGo is the result of a research and development collaboration between the ETH Zurich university and Disney Research Zurich.

9. Rare giant squid seen off the coast of Japan