



**We have quoted a lot of different research in episode two of Which? investigates so if you want to do any more reading here are the links to all the articles we came across while doing our investigation.**

**When we surveyed Which? members a couple of years ago almost half had bought themselves a new mobile phone within the past two years, and 63% within the past three years.** *Which? magazine, April 2019. Survey in December 2018, 46% had bought a new mobile phone within the past two years, 63% within the past three years*

**A 2019 study by the Royal Society of Chemistry estimated that as many as 40 million unused gadgets are languishing in UK homes**

<https://www.cnbc.com/2019/05/17/smartphone-users-are-waiting-longer-before-upgrading-heres-why.html>

**A report from the German Environment Agency found that mobile phone users are replacing their devices faster than ever before - something their scientists say is “ecologically unacceptable”.**

<https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/publikationen/einfluss-der-nutzungsdauer-von-produkten-auf-ihre-1>

**In 2019 Apple, Google, Dell, Microsoft and Tesla were named as defendants in a lawsuit filed in Washington DC by human rights firm International Rights Advocates on behalf of 14 parents and children from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.**

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2019/dec/16/apple-and-google-named-in-us-lawsuit-over-congol-ese-child-cobalt-mining-deaths>

**Five years earlier UNICEF reported on a study that revealed around 40,000 children worked in mines across the DRC, collecting, sorting, washing, crushing and transporting minerals, earning - according to an Amnesty International Report - the equivalent of 1-2 US dollars a day.**

<https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2016/1/19/report-highlights-plight-of-drcs-cobalt-children>

<https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/AFR6231832016ENGLISH.PDF>

**“Obsolescence” is the state of becoming old-fashioned and no longer useful**

[https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/american\\_english/obsolescence#:~:text=noun-,noun,have%20to%20buy%20new%20ones](https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/american_english/obsolescence#:~:text=noun-,noun,have%20to%20buy%20new%20ones)

**General Motors executive Alfred P. Sloan Jr. suggests to colleagues they should make minor changes to their car’s design each year to encourage car owners to replace their current vehicle. It works! - while rival Ford keep their models the same for the simplicity of production, 7 years later, General Motors surpasses Ford’s annual sales.**

<https://www.bbvaopenmind.com/en/technology/innovation/origin-and-myths-of-planned-obsolescence/>



**In Geneva, Switzerland, a meeting of the main light bulbs manufacturers in Europe give birth to what becomes known as the Phoebus cartel**

<https://www.bbvaopenmind.com/en/technology/innovation/origin-and-myths-of-planned-obsolescence/>

**Journalist and engineer Bob Baddeley wrote a widely shared article on this. In it he tells the story like this: He explains that when mobile phones first arrived the batteries could be replaced by the owner. The models were bulky though, and when it turned out that people weren't holding onto their phone long enough to replace the battery in the first place, the companies swapped them for skinnier, less replaceable ones. Then, as Mark said, they removed the screws from phones, opting for glue instead - but Bob says that was done to cut costs for us consumers, plus it gave us the added bonus of sexier looking phones.**

<https://hackaday.com/2018/09/24/planned-obsolescence-isnt-a-thing-but-its-your-fault/>

**Which? Review of the Fairphone 3+ (Which? subscribers only)**

<https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/mobile-phones/fairphone-3-plus/review>

**The Fairphone 3+ website**

<https://shop.fairphone.com/en/fairphone-3-plus>

**In 2017 a Vegas Casino was robbed by hacking their smart fish tank**

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/leemathews/2017/07/27/criminals-hacked-a-fish-tank-to-steal-data-from-a-casino/?sh=6e8ba98f32b9>

**Once a phone's security updates have stopped Which? issues a security notice at the top of the review, and, as you say, our Best Buys won't include any device suspected to have less than a year of support left.**

<https://www.which.co.uk/news/2021/06/which-security-notice-will-warn-about-at-risk-smart-devices/>

**The Environmental Audit Committee wrote last year "For too long companies like Amazon and Apple have been dodging their environmental responsibilities for the products they sell. Too many devices sold and made by these companies have a limited, and sometimes decreasing, lifespan and end up in bins, eventually going to landfill or incineration. There is no chance of precious metals being retrieved, which could quickly become a huge problem as the rare and disappearing materials are crucial for renewable energy such as wind turbines, solar panels and electric car batteries.**

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/62/environmental-audit-committee/news/136508/online-giants-and-tech-powerhouses-in-eye-of-the-storm-as-uk-battles-ewaste-tsunami/>