

WIRED

UK EDITION

**OCULUS
RIFT**
THE
INSIDE
STORY
p.122

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FROM 2024**
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“This is what science education could be – hands on, multidisciplinary and related to real-world problems” – Peter Platzer

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Tony Fadell

The man behind Apple's iPod just sold his startup, Nest Labs, to Google for \$3.2bn. WIRED asks: what's his next plan?

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From interactive iDocs to digital distribution and new ways of capturing ourselves, the documentary is getting an overhaul

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WIRED despatched our favourite writers, photographers and artists to the year 2024 – and asked them to report back

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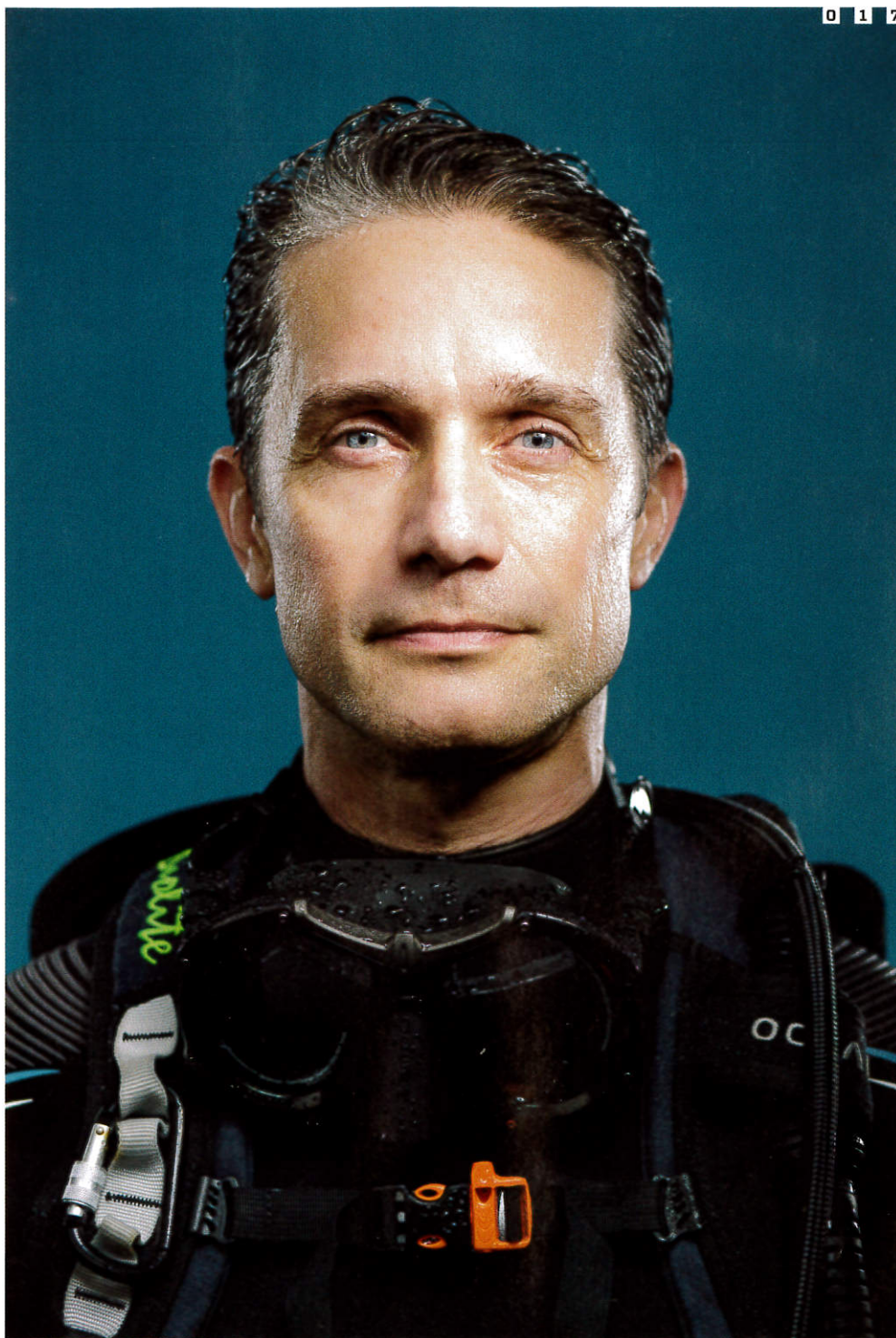
Oculus Rift

The inside story of how the Oculus Rift made virtual reality an actual reality – and then got snapped up by Facebook for \$2bn

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Toxic boat

Last year, the UN endorsed a plan to neutralise Syria's chemical weapons. This is the ship that is disposing of them



Right: diver Fabien Cousteau, following in his grandfather's flippers

Undersea missionary

A SCREENED: APPS FOR JULY



Steller

If Tumblr, a digital photobook, Vine and Flickr had some sort of illicit digital love affair, *Steller* might well be the resulting offspring. It's an elegant app for telling stories in visual form; you can add photos, text, video and a minimalist, arty aesthetic to your creations. *iOS*, free steller.co



Adobe Revel

A photography app, yes. But hold your yawns: this one is aimed at families who want a private, cross-platform and always-backed-up-to-the-cloud way of sharing photos and memories with each other. Premium subscriptions apply. *Android*, *iOS*, *OS X*, free (with IAP) adoberevel.com



Tengami

A tranquil puzzle game themed after olden Japan, *Tengami* delightfully recreates a moving pop-up book for tablets. It took three years for the UK developer to build, and it was worth it. Highly recommended - even for "non-gamers". *iOS* (*OS X/Windows soon*), £2.99 nyamyam.com



Opera Max

Compress data, speed up browsing, save money. That was Opera's philosophy for its mobile browser - now it applies to *Android* apps. *Opera Max* reduces your apps' data usage (such as watching video), so they do less damage to your data plan. *Android*, free opera.com



Impossible

An experimental idea for a social network - from the brain of model, actress and entrepreneur Lily Cole - *Impossible* allows you to post "wishes" and have strangers help you achieve them in exchange for a thank you. A more utopian approach to classified ads and personals. *iOS*, free impossible.com



Radiohead PolyFauna

Is it a game? Is it an album? WIRED has no idea, but it's very, very Radiohead - and very, very surreal. Move your device around you to navigate a bizarre landscape of animated creatures and strange sounds. Musicians are odd. *Android*, *iOS*, free radiohead.com **Nate Lanxon**

In 1963, oceanographer and film-maker Jacques-Yves Cousteau and a team of aquanauts spent 30 days aboard *Conshelf II*, an underwater research station beneath the Red Sea. On June 1, his grandson Fabien Cousteau, 46, plans to go one better: spending a record 31 days on *Aquarius*, the world's last remaining undersea laboratory, in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. "As my grandfather used to say, the best way to observe fish is to become a fish," says Cousteau.

He should be used to life underwater: Cousteau learned how to scuba dive at four and, like his grandfather, has spent years filming undersea documentaries. But *Mission 31* will provide a unique opportunity: submerged 19 metres below sea level, the reef base allows aquanauts to dive for six to nine hours a day - many times the normal limit - without risk of decompression sickness or "the bends".

Cousteau's team will use submersible drones to document the impact of climate change on the surrounding Conch Reef. They will also be studying themselves; particularly the physiological effects of spending extended time under pressure. "We know that we lose our sense of taste under these conditions, and that some wounds heal faster, but we don't know why," Cousteau explains. Their equipment will include a Scanadu Scout medical tricorder (WIRED 02.13) to closely monitor their health.

Another thing Cousteau has over his grandfather: Wi-Fi. *Mission 31* will live-stream discoveries, and Cousteau will host Skype lessons for schools. Guests such as Richard Branson and oceanographer Sylvia Earle will also visit. "We want to connect people with the ocean," says Cousteau. **Oliver Franklin** fabiencousteau.org



Tablet extra!
Download the WIRED app to watch a Cousteau dive video



START