

Your Data.

Our Mission.

Is Your Data Safe?

Shockingly, most companies fail to protect their most valuable data - and can't tell if it's been touched or stolen. At Varonis, protecting your file and email systems from cyberattacks and insider threats is our primary focus. We're fighting a different fight - so your data is protected first. Not last.

Learn more at [www.varonis.com](http://www.varonis.com)

 VARONIS



## Best productivity hack, ever. (You're welcome.)

By Vanessa Clark



### Beats Studio 3 wireless headphones

As a freelance writer, I am used to working anywhere and everywhere, from client offices to shared workspaces, to conference media lounges and airplanes. But I didn't realise the effort it was taking to block out ambient noise until I spent a morning in a busy coffee shop with the Beats Studio 3 Wireless headphones. After a super-productive work session, I took them off and realised just how much noise I hadn't needed to filter out.

Now, admittedly, I am coming off a fairly low base of some pretty cheap earphones, but nevertheless, it was pretty remarkable. The other thing I appreciated, though, was that the noise-cancelling technology didn't overachieve either, which can create that slightly disorientating sensory deprivation feeling. I was still in the world; it just wasn't so distracting.

Of course, Apple and Dr. Dre - the rap mogul who sold Beats to Apple in 2014 for a reported \$3.2 billion - were probably less worried about my deadlines than with the quality of the sound when designing the headphones, so, as you'd expect, this is good too. For podcast fiends, spoken word is also very clear, even when you are out and about.

Comfort-wise, they are okay, even while wearing spectacles, but I did start getting a vice-like feeling after extended wear.

For exercise, they were also fine, and stayed put during low-intensity activities, but they get quite warm, so I think if you are doing anything high-impact or for a long duration, you might get quite sweaty-eared.

### Things fall apart

As much as I love a wire-free world, my biggest bugbear with Bluetooth devices is how often they drop. With a keyboard or a mouse, it's annoying, but with a headset, it makes it impossible to listen to music or hold a call. Things started well with the Studio 3, and then fell apart very quickly. Luckily, there is a fix: updating the headphone's software seemed to solve the problem, thankfully.

Other things to know: the super-fast charging is very fast, and the battery lasts a long time, given it includes noise-cancelling capabilities. You have the option of a wireless or removable wired microphone; the latter also provides playback and call controls.

Part of the Apple family, once the headset is paired with an Apple device, it will automatically connect to other devices using the same iCloud log-in. Of course, you can use the headphones with non-Apple devices as well.

Available at iStore for R5 699.



# 5G

**Q: I feel like 4G has only just arrived, so why are we already talking about 5G?**

**A:** Well, Huawei hit the ground running at the Mobile World Congress earlier this year, where it launched a full range of end-to-end 3GPP-compliant 5G product solutions covering the core network, the bearer network, base station, and terminals. It also launched a 5G-compliant chip. It, and its mobile gear cohorts Nokia and Ericsson, are currently setting up 5G trials with mobile operators around the world.

**Q: What is so exciting about 5G?**

**A:** It's not only about more mobile data at faster speeds, with promised (theoretical) speeds of between ten and 20 Gbps, although this is obviously important. But there is also an existential shift coming, thanks to 5G's ability to connect many more devices, with an incredibly low latency of less than a millisecond. This will connect the predicted billions of Internet of Things devices and enable a new wave of technology and services, including self-driving cars and remote surgery.

**Q: Ah, so this is not just more of the same, only faster?**

**A:** Nope, which makes it really interesting to see who gets the first mover advantage and starts defining the landscape. These organisations, and countries, will set the course for the hundreds of billion-rand 5G infrastructure market, plus decide how we do technology in the future.

**Q: This gives some interesting context to the Huawei announcement, then.**

**A:** It does. And the US government thinks so too. Huawei already sells more mobile antennas and base stations than its competitors, and since 2012, the US has been closing ranks against the Chinese company, banning its equipment. And, proving truth is stranger than fiction, the US even floated a plan to build a government-backed national 5G network to protect its market.