

Welcome to the Event Tech Podcast. Where we explore the ever evolving world of event technology every week. This show is brought to you by Endless Events, the event AV company that doesn't suck. Now let's talk tech.

Brandt Krueger:

Hello everyone and welcome to another edition of the Event Tech Podcast. That gentleman over there from Endless Events, he is the psychological Will Curran.

Will Curran:

Whoa, and you know what that leads to is we got in the house the nappy Brandt Krueger. N-A-P-P-Y.

Brandt Krueger:

Yes, yes. Very, very nappy.

Will Curran:

Nappy boy. That was definitely a millennial reference right.

Brandt Krueger:

We've been talking a lot of hardware over the course of the last few weeks as we've recorded these and they've been kind of coming out in drips and drabs as we've tried to spread them out a little bit, but we've had a lot of hardware discussions. We kind of went through our personal journeys about phones and laptops and form factors and 2-in-1's versus tablets and Will dropped a little bombshell saying that he was going to bust away from his happy Google ecosystem and go out-

Will Curran:

Not far away.

Brandt Krueger:

Not far away, not too far away. I was like, "No, you're not going Apple, you're not going back to Apple. That doesn't make any sense." No, he's not going back to Apple. And so he announced on the show and not terribly long ago that he was going, his next phone was going to be the Galaxy Fold. And my exact response was, "I'm so glad that you're doing it so that I don't have to." So we wanted to share that with you guys as well out there. So again as we're starting to experiment with maybe some shorter episodes, things that don't necessarily take a whole hour, things that are a little bit more topical that we can just kind of chat about for a little while and then call it good. Let us know how you like that format. You know, do you like them long? Do you like them short? How do you feel about the episodes and are you okay with mixing it up a little bit and doing the shorter things?

Brandt Krueger:

So without further ado, Mr Curran, you've got to start telling us about the Fold.

Will Curran:

Yeah. So I've had it now for a whole month. So I am ready to make some, not just impressions but decisions.

Brandt Krueger:

I hate to interrupt you, I'm sorry, Will. I realize just because you and I have been traveling a fair amount recently and the number of times that I saw people say, "What is that?"

Will Curran:

Yes.

Brandt Krueger:

We might need it to back it up one step because apparently not the entire world has heard about this device. So tell us what it is first before we start to go any further than that.

Will Curran:

I will say before I just explained what this is, this is one of my favorite features of the phone is the fact that I've gotten so used to it now that it is second nature to me, right? I just know it, I use it and I flip it open and I forget. And then people are, "What is that?" And I'm like, "Oh yeah, that's right. This is a really weird thing to see." So that's probably my favorite feature is the eye-catchingness of it.

Will Curran:

But yeah, so the Samsung Galaxy Fold is an Android device, so not too far from the Google ecosystem coming from the Pixel Three is what I had before. And essentially it is a folding tablet that folds up to the size of a phone. So it has a screen in the front that is usable. That's the most interesting thing is most people didn't know that A, they even had a front screen but it also that it's usable like a normal touch screen phone. And when it's closed it looks just like a kind of like a normal phone just with a really small screen. But then what's cool about it and what makes it unique is that as you open the phone it folds and it folds open like a tablet and I don't know the specs off the top of my head and honestly this is not what matters.

Will Curran:

And it folds to like a handheld size kind of Kindle sized tablet device and the screen literally folds on the crease. It's not two screens like the Surface Neo, which you talked about a couple episodes ago but is a true one single screen display basically you have a tablet always in your pocket. I think the really cool part, which I'll definitely I'm sure dive deep into. But yeah, it's running Android, full Android and it literally does everything on a normal phone does, but also has a tablet on the inside.

Brandt Krueger:

It's like if I took two normal sized Hershey's candy bars when it's folded and then you open them up and it's about, what about a six inch tablet?

Will Curran:

Yeah, it seems maybe a little bit smaller. Maybe five inches. I'll find out the specs for sure.

Will Curran:

And honestly you can probably Google size of screen on-

Brandt Krueger:

And like you say, it's not about the specs. No one's buying this thing because it's got the latest Snapdragon processor or anything like that or the amount of RAM in it. They're buying it because the screen flipping folds.

Will Curran:

Yeah, and just start talking about specific impressions. I ran from the Google Pixel, which has an amazing camera. I mean says to have the best camera, but it's just an incredible camera. Never ever have to think about the camera on it. But this was definitely a step backwards when it came to camera quality. It's not horrid. Probably has better than, you know my Google Pixel One, but it's not the Google Pixel Four, the Google Pixel Three. But you know, that's one of my only gripe I have so far.

Will Curran:

So yeah, you're not buying it for specs. You're buying for that screen and the form factor they have and the kind of productivity that you get out of it for sure. But yeah, it's wild. And what's interesting too, just so you guys know you, this is why you want to subscribe to eventtechpodcast.com because we're live streaming this out right now. We let everybody know to come tune in, but I'm showing video of what it looks like. I'll have this really wild skin on it made by the company D Brands. It's called their robot skin and it's also very weird. Looks like kind of like the test patterns you would see on a prototype car and it's meant to be, it's just so-

Brandt Krueger:

Like an adult comic book.

Will Curran:

Yeah, exactly.

Brandt Krueger:

Not like adult adult but just with lots of tiny little areas to draw on. Clarify that.

Will Curran:

Absolutely. I think that's what caused a lot of wows too. I think it's not too long until, because it's black and white, that I start filling it in like a coloring book.

Brandt Krueger:
Right.

Will Curran:
So we'll see on there as well. But yeah, I'm not sure where you want to start as far as my impressions as an event professional using it. But I have a lot of thoughts about this thing and...

Brandt Krueger:
I know when you first got it, because I think I saw you just a few days after you got it. You were very dainty with the opening and closing because there was some concern about how delicate it is. Like literally Samsung sent out a video saying, "Make sure you don't scratch it. Don't get dust on it. For the love of God, don't get it anywhere near sand." You know, that kind of stuff.

Brandt Krueger:
So are you still being pretty dainty about it or are you starting to settle in a little bit?

Will Curran:
Yeah, great question. I mean obviously, so this phone got recalled in April because it had fragility issues and then got re-released with a lot of warnings. And then before it hit the US people were already trying to take apart the Korean version. They were doing drop tests and everybody was like just really concerned it was going to be fragile. There's all these little things, right? Like what happens if water gets in? What happens if sand gets in? The biggest fragility related thing is just that the center screen, the big tablet screen is soft plastic. Most people don't realize that. So because it's soft plastic, it actually can scratch relatively easy versus a normal smartphone screen.

Will Curran:
And so with that being said, when I first got it, I was afraid to... Honestly I think the first day I didn't let other people hold it because we were talking in the Reddit forums about what processes are you doing to show the phone to other people and things like that. And everyone was like, I don't let other people to touch it because they're afraid they're going to like take their nail to it or they're going to push hard on it. After about three days, I learned the right thing to say and I have a script now when I hand it to people, which is, I hand it to people and I explain what it is and they go, "Oh wait, can I open it?" I'm like, "Yep, here's the tips. Don't press hard on the screen and if you're going to close it, there's a specific way that you close it the right way, which is don't press on the center."

Will Curran:
That's the kind of the natural way as people are like, "Oh, I'm going to press in the center to kind of cause it to bend." But that's not the way you do it. You want to kind of press near the bottom of the hinge and then kind of push from the back. And I've learned that it's kind of the way that you do it and it's totally natural. It's not weird to do it that way. It's just knowing the tips and tricks

for what to do. Like, "Hey, like when you have an iPhone, don't like put it in your back pocket and sit on it." Simple stuff like that, right? You kind of learned on that end, but as time went on, I babied a lot less and a lot of people concurred with me on that one on the Reddit forums was when you first get it, you're freaked out.

Will Curran:

You're like, "I don't want to break it, this and that." I put like the official case because no one makes cases for this thing. There's a couple people make cases for now. But then I then went to this skin, which is just a sticker on the outside. So not even like a protective case. And I was afraid to put it down hard even when it was folded. But then I started babying it less and less. And it's been fine. I haven't had any issues. I don't clean the screen regularly. I put it on my bathroom sink when I'm washing my hands. I touch it after I eat. I'm not like super duper babying it. And then honestly, the biggest kind of revealer and excitement for me was-

Brandt Krueger:

I touch it after I eat. Just took me a second on that.

Will Curran:

Yeah. Like just little things like crumbs on your hands. Right. Sometimes my hands are really dirty, but I end up playing with it.

Brandt Krueger:

I know what you mean.

Will Curran:

Yeah. But then the true test for this was I took this to Austin City Limits festival and when you're in a music festival, you're dancing like crazy, you're moving around. And again, I probably didn't take this as far as some people, some people like were afraid to have lint in their pockets. They would like empty out their pockets. Some people put it in an eyeglass case completely, so they don't even want it to see the light of day. My opinion with it is that like, look, if this thing's going to break, I have the insurance on it through Best Buy and also Samsung has like a no questions asked, we'll fix anything, the screen for I think 150 bucks, which is better than a deductible for most phones.

Will Curran:

So I kind of started not caring as much and I took it to ACL and I said to myself, "If it can survive the festival, it's a normal phone." I'm not going to baby, I'm going to take pictures, I'm going to take it out when it's raining, when it's hot, when people are literally sting inches away from you, can whack it out of your hand at any minute and it totally survived. Not a problem. I will admit, the thing I did learn though, and this is kind of a weird thing with the phone, it's a little heavy. You know, it's kind of the weight of two phones put together and at first you don't notice it in your pocket too much. I don't wear like a lot of basketball shorts. I'm usually wearing a belt so I don't

notice it as much. But I did notice that when I was at the festival, if I put it in my bottom pocket and I was dancing a lot, it does feel like it might just at any second like slide out of your pocket.

Will Curran:

So I ended up putting in my Patagonia jacket pocket that can zip and then when it was kind of like close to me, no problems at all. And that wasn't any sort of problem in any sort of way. But it survived a lot of dancing. I danced a lot at ACL and it rained all day one day, it was very hot some days. I took a lot of pictures, a lot of video and everything like that and it totally survived fine. So I think, you have to understand that you can't press hard on the screen, you don't want to take a nail file to it or your nails to it. But you know, I think it's one of those things too that...one thing that helps a ton too is that I ended up using the outside screen I think a little bit more than I thought to as well, which is interesting.

Will Curran:

So yeah, definitely no fragility issues in any sort of way. I know I ranted on that but it was long story to explain that, but not a problem at all. I do think they do need to figure out a way to make it so I can not have to tell people to push hard on the screen. And I think that will come over time. But in the meantime, I haven't had any issues at all with a screen damage or anything like that.

Brandt Krueger:

So overall, happy you went for it?

Will Curran:

Yeah. Honestly.

Brandt Krueger:

We talked about this when you first mentioned it, that you like going for bleeding edge stuff, but overall, is it meeting your expectations? Exceeding? About right where you thought it would be?

Will Curran:

Yeah, I'm definitely bleeding edge. Honestly, I'd like this thing even if I didn't use it 100%, but I think I'm learning to love it because of how much it's making me more productive.

Will Curran:

And I think it definitely met my expectations and exceeding it in some ways, for sure. I think that, spoiler for sure. I'm keeping the phone, I'm not switching to the Pixel Four that's coming out or anything like that. I'm really happy with it because I think the biggest thing that came from this other than just like, "Hey, it's really cool, it's bleeding edge tech" is honestly, I've been opening my laptop way less, and I'll explain what that means. Before whenever I had to send an email or there was a long Slack conversation or I wanted to watch YouTube videos, it was never the phone was the default. It was always the laptop was. Sometimes, for example, if I was sitting on

the couch for two, three hours and I just wanted to kind of surf the web, I would default to pulling the laptop out.

Will Curran:

Now I pull the phone out and honestly it showed so much that I use the laptop less that there was a couple times where I forgot to charge the laptop and then I would show up at like a coffee shop near no outlets and I was like, "Well, I'm screwed now. My laptop's not charged. I forgot to even charge it." Whereas before I was so persistent. Laptop always on the charger, always ready to go and everything like that. I did play around with it. I haven't used it as much as I thought I would, but I have a Bluetooth keyboard I've been carrying around with me and a little stand for it so I can write emails on my keyboard. But to be honest, I've gotten really good at using the onscreen keyboard on it as well. And yeah, it's been really, really good.

Will Curran:

The small things on here that have been great is Slack conversations. I can see more of the conversation. So if people were messaging really fast back and forth, I'm not like losing track of the conversation very quickly. Longer emails are easier to read on it and in general reading's really easy on it. I read a lot of Feedly articles and pocket articles and I found that I probably burned through more articles with this than I have any other device ever before. So I think it's encouraging me to read more and I think honestly those are the three things. More screen to be able to see chat messages, bigger screen to see longer emails and also... Oh and fourth, sorry, fourth thing as well is that you get the bigger version of the website.

Will Curran:

So I'm not getting the slim mobile only version. I get like the tablet size one, which sometimes makes the biggest difference. So for example, our team uses CoSchedule to manage like all of our blog posts and our content calendar and everything like that. Before, they didn't have a mobile app, so you had to go on the website and it doesn't have a mobile phone version. Well now it does have the main full version where I can look at the full version of it on here, which now has game changed it because I've had three or four times people that said, "Hey, well what are we recording tomorrow?" And normally I have to bust out my laptop, click on it, do all these things, get on the wifi. Now literally I can open up on here. And that's been really game changing as well, just bigger versions of websites, you can see more things at once.

Will Curran:

Really happy with this thing and I'm trying to think of like any like surprises that I had along the way as well.

Brandt Krueger:

What's been the biggest downside?

Will Curran:

The weight is interesting obviously like when I was dancing I was really afraid it was going to bounce out my pocket.

Brandt Krueger:

It's not a cheap device.

Will Curran:

Yes. Okay. I mean that's one of the things too. Obviously, I spend a lot of money on technology. Like I have a technology budget. No one really realizes this. I have how much money I'm going to spend a year just to buy new devices and try new things out. And it is not a cheap device. So it does freak you out a little bit to be like, "If this slides out of my pocket, it just gets lost."

Will Curran:

That's the downside. Another downside is that I'm hearing a lot of people, I mean this is just nature of I think an early device, people don't have this device that want it. It's really hard to come by right now. It's reselling really high on high prices. So I think that's a downside but obviously I've got mine so I don't see this downside.

Will Curran:

Honestly, one of the biggest downsides on here, and this is just using the Google Pixel is I miss having the latest version of Android and all the features that come with a Google phone. In fact, one of my buddies who all we do is talk about tech and we do it every single week because we were debating back forward. I was like, "I'm getting angry because Google is now hoarding special updates just for their phones"

Will Curran:

Which is totally fine, I mean obviously they want to sell more devices, but I assume there are more of a software company than they are a hardware company. So like for example, all of these new features are getting teased for the Google Pixel Four of like better camera, better Google Assistant, none of that's going to come to this phone for like six months. And that's just sad to me because this is also Android. So I think that's one of the biggest downsides.

Will Curran:

If you're really hardcore about like the Pixel Four, great camera, the latest software updates, it does kind of suck not to kind of go back to it. And the other downside is I do wish the front screen was just a little bit bigger, but it's still usable. But honestly I probably would use it even more if it had a front screen. But then the thing you have to remember is like just open the phone and it's got a big screen, which I forget about sometimes.

Brandt Krueger:

If only I could see this on a larger screen.

Will Curran:

Totally.

Brandt Krueger:
What could I do?

Will Curran:

And it has made it a couple times where like for example, the AMC app that I used to book tickets on movies, it looks horrible on mobile. Trying to tap a seat, you have to like zoom in on it to tap a seat. Now I don't have to do that because it's so big. I just literally tap on it.

Brandt Krueger:
Giant touch targets.

Will Curran:

That's really the main downside that I've had. I guess because it's so new too is a couple of like bugged software. So there's a couple of softwares for example, Uber when you have it on the front screen and open up into the center, it doesn't resize properly. That'll get fixed in a software update. I have another issue like doing Zoom calls for video calls that for some reason the speakerphone doesn't work so I have to call in to do a speaker phone on there as well.

Will Curran:

And then the other downside about this as well is that the hinge isn't really designed to hold in place very well. I'm going to try to describe this for all of our audio listeners, but when you open it, it does like stay open. It doesn't want to close, but I wish I could like tilt it at a 90 degree angle perfectly and it hold like that. So for example, if I want to type on it like a keyboard or something like that, because for example, video calls are kind of awkward. I have to hold the device in my hand in order to take video calls and them to be able to see me properly. Whereas I do wish there was a better way to like set it on the table so I could use my hands and gesture and things like that. Like you do with a laptop.

Will Curran:

I think that's a kind of a missing feature as well. But you know, maybe that's where I have to put it on a stand as well. I'm rambling on. I really like this device overall. If I recap my thoughts, it's my new phone for sure. I can't wait until the second version of... God, I don't imagine what it's going to look like. But I will probably be one of those people that now I'm officially a folding phone user.

Brandt Krueger:

Well that was going to be kind of my next question is, so obviously there's probably other people in our audience that are more tech forward. Who do you think should think about getting this device? I think there's a lot of possibilities for event people. Obviously, the ability to have something quick and easy on the outside and then, okay I need to check something a little more detailed or a little bit bigger on the inside.

Brandt Krueger:

But in general, who do you think might be interested in this device?

Will Curran:

So I think if you use a tablet regularly, this is definitely a device for you. I didn't really ever have a tablet. You know, I had a Kindle in my backpack. I use the iPad for very specific tech related things like running our switcher and things like that. I do love my Surface Book Two that turns into a tablet. But honestly I detach it less than I probably could or should. But if you use a tablet all the time, an Android tablet, a Kindle Fire, you're going to love this thing because it will replace a device and now you don't have to carry two devices with you in any sort of way. I think that's for who it's for. I think if you read a lot. Kindles, if you read a lot of like blog articles, pocket, things like that, definitely this device would game change it.

Will Curran:

It's right in your pocket. Huge. Good to go. If you digest a lot of video content on your phone or tablets or things like that, you'll love this thing. I definitely realized like I used to not like watching as many YouTube videos on phones.

Will Curran:

In fact, I was famous for a movie trailer would come out and they'd be like, "Oh yeah, let's watch that trailer." I'm like, "No, I'm going to wait until it's on my TV or my laptop." I want to watch it in big screen. But now I've been watching a lot more videos on here and I think that if your workflow benefits from having a little bit more real estate or multitasking, for example, Slack messaging while watching a video or writing notes while watching a video or, I know I keep saying video, but anything, writing notes while being in a Slack conversation or being in a meeting, being on a Zoom call, that's where this will benefit from for sure.

Will Curran:

And I think that if you love technology and you want to feel like the future, this is the phone for sure. I mean like I do feel like I'm in the future just looking at it.

Brandt Krueger:

Well I think we're going to have to check back in with you after a few months and see where you're at, see how the durability is going, see if you're still loving it, you know as far as things go with software updates, we'll kind of check back in at some point.

Will Curran:

Definitely.

Brandt Krueger:

And see how you are doing.

Will Curran:

If it's okay too, I want to drop some news that just dropped I think today or yesterday about some future folding devices if that's okay. I think if you're listening to this episode, you probably care about the future of folding devices.

Brandt Krueger:

Yeah, bring it.

Will Curran:

Yeah. So there are teases about the new Samsung Galaxy Fold coming out, but that's so far away. We don't really want to think about it, but more on the shorter horizon. Motorola has announced they have an event coming up in November where they are going to announce the future of the...I mix sometimes rumors in with like official news because I watch so many sources that can bring it all together, but I don't know if they teased the Razor or they said it's just a future device, whatever it is. But long story short, it's rumored that in November they're going to do an event that will launch the new Razer phone, which will be a vertical folding phone. And honestly, I don't know how that's going to effect for the future devices and what it's going to look like.

Will Curran:

I like this tablet format versus the vertical, but I think that it's going to be really exciting. I think in the next six months we will probably see, I bet three to four more folding devices get announced and then get released as well. Which I think is an exciting time for the future.

Brandt Krueger:

Well you shot me an article on Lenovo's prototype foldable PC.

Will Curran:

Oh yeah.

Brandt Krueger:

And that's pretty cool. And so right now it's still prototype stage. We were talking obviously a little while ago, a few episodes back about Microsoft's things that aren't going to come out until 2020. The Neo and the Duo. But those are dual screen devices. This looks like a big version of the fold where it looks like a laptop and you open it up though and it's all screen across the fold and it looks very similar in that you can kind of see the crease but not much.

Brandt Krueger:

And then it's a full right on able tablet, not even... Well, tablet PC. And they show doing exactly what you were talking about where they bend it at a little bit of an angle. And then the bottom part becomes the touch type keyboard on the screen and then you can type on the upper part. So it'll be really interesting to watch this category as we move. I've talked about many times in the past just how this foldable display technology is pushing things forward in our own AV

industry and how once we have the ability to kind of map and mold display tech onto things, I think it's really going to open up things and has the potential to actually get rid of projection, I think, at some point.

Will Curran:

Yeah, absolutely.

Brandt Krueger:

All right, well thank you so much for sharing your first thoughts. Like I said, we'll be checking in, I think from time to time and I think as we get new tools and toys, we should absolutely continue to do this. So, yeah. Awesome. Thank you so much for sharing that.

Brandt Krueger:

Wanted to thank you all for listening. Again, let us know how you're liking these shorter format episodes where we can kind of hit a topic in the time that it takes without having to feel the need to stretch it out to an hour. Be sure and check everything out at eventtechpodcast.com. You're going to see all the show notes, links to the resources, shared transcripts. We'll shoot a link to that new cool foldable Lenovo PC article. You can find all the links to subscribe on your favorite podcast apps, iTunes, PocketCasts, Google Play, the new Google podcast app. We want to know what you think. So contact us hashtag event tech podcast, let us know at eventtechpodcasts@helloendless.com if you prefer the old emails and thank you all for listening. Really appreciate it. We'll see you next time on Event Tech Podcast.

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Brandt Krueger:

Event Tech, so got to be out.

Will Curran:

So got to be out, get out, get out.

Brandt Krueger:

Be right back.

Will Curran:

Yep.