



Innovation Through Community



## May Newsletter

31/05/2025

Welcome!

Whether you're a new member or a long-time supporter, we're excited to welcome you to the Arab Tech Collective (ATC) and introduce to you our monthly newsletter. Our newsletter will be your guide to all things tech, community, and culture in the collective and beyond—highlighting upcoming events, exciting opportunities, and important news within our growing community.

Each month, we'll keep you updated on everything you need to know, from emerging tech trends, guest speakers, career resources, and more! If you haven't already, be sure to follow us on Instagram, LinkedIn, and Discord to stay connected.

– The ATC Team

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# We want to hear from you!

Have a minute? We'd love your feedback through a quick member survey. This helps ensure we are concentrating on the things that matter to our community.

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[Member Survey](#)

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## We're (also) on Slack!



You asked, we listened. In addition to Discord, the Arab Tech Collective is now on Slack! While many of our members already have and prefer Discord, a large percentage of our members also prefer Slack. Rather than make anyone switch platforms, we've decided to meet you where you are. Both spaces will remain active, with key announcements shared across both platforms. We'll also keep some shared channels, and let each community naturally grow and evolve with new conversations. You can join the [Slack Workspace here](#).

Feel free to pick your preferred platform and engage with the community we've been working to create. Also, we encourage you to ask questions and start discussions there—chances are, someone else is wondering the same thing. With more requests than we can always keep up with, these spaces help us support each other and keep the conversation going.

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## This Month's Focus: Palestine

From grassroots tools to global platforms, the role that technology has in shaping political narratives has never been more apparent. The tech world has become increasingly entangled with the politics of erasure, censorship, and survival. In this issue, we're focusing on Palestine—on the tools, voices, and platforms being used to resist silencing and rewrite the narrative from the ground up.

We're hoping to focus on Sudan in a future newsletter—if you know of any orgs or initiatives doing important work in that space, send them our way at: [info@arabtechcollective.org](mailto:info@arabtechcollective.org).

## Apricot: Building Opportunity for Palestinians

JobsForPalestinians.org is a mission-driven platform connecting Palestinian professionals, especially those impacted by the crisis in Gaza, with remote work opportunities across the globe. Created by Apricot, a nonprofit focused on empowering displaced talent, the initiative helps Palestinians not just survive, but actively contribute to the global workforce with dignity and skill.

Beyond being a job board, the organization also runs a high-level software development arm that operates as a dev shop, staffed entirely by Palestinians. This allows U.S.-based companies and startups to access world-class engineering while directly supporting individuals in crisis.

Featuring this work is more than a means of solidarity—it's proof of concept. It shows that with the right infrastructure, people in crisis can sustain themselves and create value. It's a powerful reminder that empowerment and economic inclusion are just as critical as aid.

## Principled Careers: Where Ethics Lead the Way

Another spotlight we wanted to elucidate on is Principled Careers, a new platform that really resonates with our community's ethos. It's built specifically for folks who've left, been fired for speaking out, or are considering leaving roles for ethical reasons—whether due to complicity, misalignment, or systemic harm.

### **Closed & Trusted Network**

This isn't your average job board. Principled is invite-only and carefully screens both candidates and employers.

### **Ethical Companies Only**

They partner exclusively with vetted organizations, many of them mature Silicon Valley startups, who are committed to transparency, accountability, and ethical innovation.

### **Data Privacy is Paramount**

Candidate profiles are never public. Your information is only shared with companies you've been matched and approved with.

As ATC members, many of us are navigating industries that often conflict with our principles—which is why this is a meaningful tool. It proves that walking away from unethical work doesn't mean walking away from opportunity. It means re-aligning with spaces where we can thrive and make a difference.

Platforms like this remind us that principled exits can lead to bigger and better next steps.

### Taqat: A Lifeline for Freelancers in Gaza

Operating across Gaza City, Nusairat, and Deir al-Balah, *Taqat* is more than a co-working space—it's a critical hub for freelancers navigating war, displacement, and digital blackout. From providing rare access to electricity and internet, to offering high-demand tech training and a smart talent-matching platform, Taqat empowers Gaza's youth, women, and people with disabilities to survive and create sustainable livelihoods.

They're currently seeking funding partners to help scale their impact and keep Gaza's digital future alive.

### Tech For Palestine: A Driving Force for Palestinian Freedom & Liberation

Tech For Palestine (T4P) is a growing network of tech professionals, organizers, and creatives mobilizing digital tools to reimagine what the tech industry can be—one rooted in justice, human rights, and solidarity with Palestine. As the force behind initiatives like Apricot, Principled Careers, Boycat, and more, T4P also offers mentorship, volunteer support, and connections to broader Palestinian advocacy to help these projects grow their overall impact.

Founded by Paul Biggar, an Irish tech entrepreneur known for co-founding CircleCI and Darklang, wrote an impactful blog post "I Can't Sleep"—which addressed the tech industry's silence on the atrocities taking place in Gaza.

The organization's mission is to foster a more ethical tech industry that challenges systems of oppression and amplifies marginalized voices. By leveraging technology, T4P strives to dismantle structures of surveillance and occupation and accelerate pro-Palestine organizing both online and offline.

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## We Need Your Help!



We are looking for contacts for student STEAM related groups at Universities. We want to start organizing more in-person events across Universities, starting in NY but expanding slowly across the US and beyond. If you happen to be apart of such a group, or know someone who'd be interested in collaborating, let us know!

**AND** we are looking for philanthropy work to do this Summer as a group. If you know of any group volunteer opportunities (e.g. park cleanup, soup kitchen, clothing drive) reach out to us!

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# Introducing: *The WIRE*



Technology is moving fast—sometimes faster than we can track. As ATC members working across innovation, media, design, and advocacy, staying informed isn't optional—it's essential. That's why we're launching *The WIRE*.

The WIRE is a monthly snapshot of emerging technologies, industry shifts, and the cultural impact of tech—especially as it relates to our communities across the MENA region and diaspora. Think of it as a trends report, but through an ATC lens: curated, critical, and community-centered.

## Trending Technologies:

Amazon has introduced *Vulcan*, a robot designed to handle ergonomically challenging tasks in its warehouses—like retrieving items from high and low shelves.

This innovation aims to reduce physical strain on human workers, who will continue to handle mid-level items or those that Vulcan cannot manage.

Amazon is also training a select number of warehouse employees to become robot technicians, creating new roles like robotic floor monitors and reliability maintenance engineers.



These developments are part of Amazon's broader strategy to integrate AI and robotics into its operations while offering retraining programs for employees to adapt to these technological advancements.

**Why it matters:** As AI continues to reshape entire industries, Amazon's shift toward redefining "human roles" in an automated environment signals a broader trend: tech companies are no longer just replacing jobs—they're reinventing them. This reflects a growing need to align human skillsets with emerging technologies, making workforce adaptation a critical part of tech's evolution.

### Industry Movements:

The gaming industry in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region is experiencing significant growth—with Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Egypt leading this surge. Player spending in these countries is projected to reach \$2.7 billion by 2028, reflecting a 7.2% compound annual growth rate.

A notable trend is the shift towards direct-to-consumer (D2C) monetization models. Over 53% of paying gamers in these countries have made purchases directly through official game websites or web shops, indicating a move away from traditional app stores.

**Why it matters:** The MENA region's gaming industry is not only growing rapidly but also evolving in how games are monetized and consumed. The shift towards D2C models and the integration of local payment methods present unique opportunities for game developers and publishers.

### Cultural Relevance:

On May 8, 2025, Watermelon Pictures, a Palestinian-owned production and distribution company, launched Watermelon+—a global streaming platform dedicated to amplifying voices from marginalized and underrepresented communities.

The service offers a curated selection of award-winning documentaries, acclaimed dramas, and hidden gems—including titles like *The Teacher*, *From Ground Zero*, and *The Encampments*, which chronicles the Columbia University Gaza Solidarity Encampment and the global student activism it inspired.

**Why it matters:** Watermelon+ emerges at a pivotal moment when authentic narratives from the Palestinian experience and other marginalized communities are often underrepresented in mainstream media. By providing a dedicated platform for these stories, Watermelon+ not only preserves cultural memory, but also brings overlooked perspectives into sharper focus. It's a reminder of how technology can be used to surface what's been silenced—and connect us through stories that matter.

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## Upcoming Events! 🎉

If you'd like to stay informed about upcoming events, we post regularly on IG, LinkedIn, Discord, and Slack. If you'd like to host an event in your city or promote one, we recommend reaching out in our Discord or Slack, we have a growing number of local channels.

For June office hours, feel free to schedule time on our calendar here:  
<https://calendly.com/arabtechcollective/30min>

Below are our upcoming events or events we will be attending. We will post more details closer to each one:

- June 2-8 — New York Tech Week
- June TBA — Summer Sahras are back!

For some other fun and interesting events in New York we'd recommend checking out:

- Supermomos – NYC tech events & networking
- Lectures On Tap – Unique speaker series, think TED Talks in a bar

If you know of any cool events/series in your city, let us know so we can let the community know!

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# Call to Publish!



We are now accepting requests from our members, subscribers, and allies who would like to publish content on our Newsletter, Socials, or Community spaces!

If you have any articles, news, events, announcements, or content that you'd like to broadcast, let us know. You can submit requests below.

[Submit Content](#)

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