

Apple shares slip on smartwatch reviews

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Apple shares fell ahead of its release this week of an updated smartwatch and new iPhone 8 models, with a high-end iPhone X set for release later this year

Apple shares slipped Wednesday after mixed reviews of its latest smartwatch and amid concerns pre-orders of coming iPhone 8 models were lagging.

Apple Watch Series 3 set to hit the market on Friday boasts the ability to connect directly to telecommunications networks to let users remain connected without a smartphone for phone calls, music and other functions.

During a live demonstration at a media event earlier this month, an Apple executive on a stand-up paddle board in the middle of a lake chatted via the smartwatch with a colleague on stage in San Francisco.

But, reviews posted on Wednesday expressed problems with Apple Watch Series 3 connecting to mobile networks.

Lauren Goode of tech news website The Verge wrote that while trying out the new Apple Watch she experience "notable connectivity issues," with the device trying to link with unknown WiFi hot-

spots instead of a telecommunications [network](#).

"We have discovered that when Apple Watch Series 3 joins unauthenticated Wi-Fi networks without connectivity, it may at times prevent the watch from using cellular," Apple said in an email response to an AFP inquiry.

"We are investigating a fix for a future software release."

Reports also surfaced Wednesday that some analysts saw iPhone 8 pre-orders lagging behind those of the prior generation, possibly because people are more interested in a 10th-anniversary iPhone X [model](#) due out later in the year.

The iPhone X was one of three new iPhone models unveiled at the first event at Apple's new "spaceship" campus.

Apple chief executive Tim Cook called the iPhone X "the biggest leap forward since the original iPhone."

The iPhone 8 models will start shipping on Friday.

Apple shares ended the formal Nasdaq exchange trading day down 1.68 percent to \$156.07.

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