

# The Phoebus Cartel

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## Synopsis

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Have you ever wondered why your smartphone or toaster oven doesn't seem to last very long, even though technology is becoming better and better? This week, in a special collaboration with Planet Money, we bring you the history of planned obsolescence — the idea that products are designed to break.<br><br>Learn more about sponsor message choices: [podcastchoices.com/adchoices](https://podcastchoices.com/adchoices)<br><br>[NPR Privacy Policy](#)

# Reader's comments

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