THE FINAL HOUR · WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2026

Tech leads into a loaded evening.

The Nasdaq-100 fund is up 1.27% at 2:14 PM ET, more than the S&P 500 and Dow funds, and five big reports land after the close.

DECISION BLOCK

VIX
−4.04% on the day
As of 2:12 PM ET

BREADTH IN OUR NAMES
26 up · 5 down
Live at 2:14 PM ET

TODAY'S #1 CATALYST
After the close
Meta, Tesla, IBM, Lam Research and Texas Instruments report

MARKETS

S&P 500 fund +0.65% · Nasdaq-100 fund +1.27% · Dow fund +0.54% · VIX −4.04% · Oil −1.00% · Dollar −0.09% · Gold +0.31% · Bitcoin +2.03%

ENGINE PICKS

No Engine List name meets the Engine star bar today · ★ AMZN — Screeners Pick (on both screened lists) · +0.53% at 2:01 PM ET

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The story: tech leads into a loaded evening

Tech leads into a loaded evening. The Nasdaq-100 fund is up 1.27% at 2:14 PM ET, more than the S&P 500 and Dow funds, and five big reports land after the close.

The brief

What: A broad up day with tech in front. At 2:14 PM ET the Nasdaq-100 fund is up 1.27%, the S&P 500 fund 0.65% and the Dow fund 0.54%, and the VIX is down 4.04%. Netflix beat on earnings last night and is down 4.45% at 2:08 PM ET.

Why: The market is leaning into tonight's AI spending test before it gets the answers: Meta, Tesla, IBM, Lam Research and Texas Instruments all report after the close. Twenty-six of the 31 names we track are up on the day.

When: After today's close: Meta, Tesla, IBM, Lam Research and Texas Instruments. Thursday 8:30 AM ET: initial jobless claims (expected 200,000). The Fed decides Wed Oct 28.

Macro strip

S&P 500 fund +0.65% · Nasdaq-100 fund +1.27% · Dow fund +0.54% · VIX −4.04% · Oil −1.00% · Dollar −0.09% · Gold +0.31% · Bitcoin +2.03%

The market story in plain words

- **Tech took the lead back.** After Tuesday's rotation into the Dow, the Nasdaq-100 fund is up 1.27% at 2:14 PM ET, about twice the S&P 500 fund's gain.
- **Fear eased.** The VIX is down 4.04% and oil is down 1.00%, a calmer backdrop going into the evening.
- **The bar is high tonight.** Netflix beat last night and still trades lower, so tonight's five reporters need more than a beat.

Market health

GAUGE	READING	NOTE
VIX	−4.04% on the day	As of 2:12 PM ET; volatility easing
Breadth in our names	26 up · 5 down	Live at 2:14 PM ET
Today's #1 catalyst	After the close	Meta, Tesla, IBM, Lam Research and Texas Instruments report

• Translation: most of our names are rising and fear is fading, but tonight's reports can change the picture fast.

Breadth in our universe

14 of 31 names in our universe are above their 50-day average at 2:14 PM ET: 45%.

26 are up on the day and 5 are down. 3 made a new 20-session high today and 2 a new 20-session low.

Earnings beats and misses

COMPANY	RESULT	REACTION
Netflix (NFLX)	Beat: $0.87 a share vs $0.82 expected	−4.45% (2:08 PM ET)

A beat that still slipped. Tonight: Meta, Tesla, IBM, Lam Research and Texas Instruments report after the close.

The Engine List

SYMBOL	TODAY
NVDA	+2.35%
ENB	+0.54%
★ AMZN	+0.53%
AAPL	+1.46%
FTNT	+1.98%
PLTR	+3.66%
SNOW	+1.56%

7 names, all higher. Change at 2:01 PM ET vs Tuesday's close. ★ AMZN is this morning's Screeners Pick.

Watch list teaser

The full list of the names we keep an eye on, with every setup, is in the Pro.

The question into the close

This morning we asked: does the S&P 500 close today above its 50-day average? It closed Tuesday 0.11% above it, and the S&P 500 fund is up 0.65% at 2:14 PM ET, so it is on track for yes. The official answer comes at the 4 PM close and prints in Thursday's morning edition.

Print quote of the day

> **"Your goal as an investor should simply be to purchase, at a rational price, a part interest in an easily-understandable business whose earnings are virtually certain to be materially higher five, ten and twenty years from now."**

— Warren Buffett, Berkshire Hathaway shareholder letter, 1996

WHY IT FITS: Tonight's five reports are a test of whose earnings keep growing for years, not just who beats a number today.

MEMBERSHIP

> LEAPS NAMES TODAY
>
> NVDA Nvidia · ENB Enbridge · AMZN Amazon · AAPL Apple · FTNT Fortinet · PLTR Palantir · SNOW Snowflake · QCOM Qualcomm · AVGO Broadcom · TSLA Tesla · GOOGL Alphabet · SNDK SanDisk · MU Micron
>
> Full LEAPS setups are in the Pro.

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