



22 March 2017

Synopsis

Scroll to read full summaries with links to news articles.

The **Japanese** and **German** Governments have agreed to cooperate on setting international standards for the development of the **Internet of Things**. The agreement follows a joint visit by Chancellor **Angela Merkel** and Prime Minister **Shinzo Abe** to the **CeBIT** technology fair in Hannover.

The President of **Cyprus** has launched a new collaborative project between the University of Cyprus and Imperial College **London** that will look at how to improve the **cyber resiliency** and efficiency of critical infrastructure.

Also this week the **European Parliament** has approved plans to clear the **700MHz** band for the use of **wireless broadband** by 2020. In his statement **Andrus Ansip** the Commissioner for the **Digital Single Market** welcomed the step that will increase access to the internet across the EU and will aid in the transition to **5G**.

President Trump has outlined his intention to continue the role of the **United States** in international forums on **internet standards** as part of proposals for his first Budget. The proposals do not expand on the President's current views on **internet governance**, as they only relate to the funding of the **NTIA** to attend conferences.

A new bill has been introduced by Democrats in the House of Representatives that will seek to classify elections as critical infrastructure in order to provide the **Department of Homeland Security** with powers to protect future **elections**.

Ajit Pai the Chairman of the **FCC** has called for greater investment in **broadband** provision, as an important economic factor and as a means of extending **internet access** in the USA. Chairman Pai will call on the Trump Administration and Congress to include broadband investment in an upcoming bill on infrastructure spending.

The Indian Minister of State for Home Affairs **Hansraj Gangaram Ahir** has announced that **India** is working with a coalition of 15 countries to improve response to cybercrimes and to enhance **cybersecurity**.

India's Telecoms Regulator **TRAI** has announced a further extension to its consultation on its **Net Neutrality** paper with the new deadlines for supportive comments of 12th April and counter comments to be submitted by the 26th April.

Internet Solutions Kenya have announced that **Telco Systems** will aid in the upgrade of its network to 10GB increasing the speed of internet access available in the country.

Greg Medcraft, Chairman of the Australian Securities and Infrastructure Commission has warned that **Australia** faces a “frightening” number of potential **cyber attacks** and that the biggest threat to global financial markets will be from cyber attacks.

The **United Nations'** Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development has stated that new action has to be taken to increase global access both to **broadband services** and the Internet.

IEEE Global Internet Policy Monitor

22 March 2017

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Disclaimer: Please note that this monitor is a summary of news sources and does not reflect the official views of IEEE.

Europe

Internet governance

21.03.17

Nikkei Asia

[Japan, Germany join forces on standardizing IoT innovations](#)

The Japanese and German Governments have agreed to cooperate on setting international standards for the development of the Internet of Things. The agreement follows a joint visit by Chancellor Angela Merkel and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to the CeBIT technology fair in Hannover.

“Japan and Germany agreed Monday to coordinate on international standards for the “internet of things” and artificial intelligence in a collaboration that could benefit Japanese technology companies.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe toured the CeBIT technology fair in Hannover with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and played up the booths of Japanese developers. Before the expo opened, the leaders signed the Hannover Declaration espousing bilateral cooperation in creating common standards for internet of things technology and next-generation vehicles. Other areas covered by the agreement on cutting-edge technologies include research and development, deregulation and cybersecurity.”

Cybersecurity

17.03.17

Imperial University

[President of Cyprus launches critical infrastructure partnership](#)

The President of Cyprus has launched a new collaborative project between the University of Cyprus and Imperial College London that will look at how to improve the cyber resiliency and efficiency of critical infrastructure. The KIOS Centre of Excellence will receive funding from the European Union to help its research into the effects of cybersecurity and smart control systems on critical infrastructure.

“The President of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades helped launch a multi-million euro collaboration between Imperial and the University of Cyprus this week.

The EU-funded teaming project, [KIOS](#), brings together the two universities to make critical infrastructure more efficient, resilient and economical.

The KIOS Centre of Excellence, directed by the [University of Cyprus](#)' Professor Marios Polycarpou in partnership with Professor [Thomas Parisini](#) of Imperial's Department of [Electrical and Electronic Engineering](#), will focus on major societal challenges to critical infrastructure like cybersecurity and smart control systems. They will improve the way critical infrastructure is monitored, increasing automation and efficiency, while heightening security. Imperial's [Institute of Security Science and Technology](#) will play a leading role in the Centre."

19.03.17

The Telegraph

[German cyber security watchdog raises attack alert level](#)

Arne Schoenbohm, president of Germany's Federal Office for Information Security has raised the expected cyber attack level for the country, following an increase in attacks against Government websites. The alert level has been raised to "heightened readiness" as Germany prepares for this year's parliamentary elections.

"Germany has raised its alert level against cyber attacks to "heightened readiness" ahead of parliamentary elections, saying government websites are already subjected to daily assault, according to reports.

"We are noticing attacks against government networks on a daily basis," Arne Schoenbohm, president of Germany's Federal Office for Information Security (BSI), told the newspaper Welt am Sonntag."

21.03.17

Reuters

[Google and sister company to offer cyber security to election groups](#)

Alphabet Inc. companies Google and Jigsaw have announced that they will collaborate with civic groups and election organizers to combat cyberattacks. The service will be offered pro-bono and will build on the service currently offered to news organisations to combat "fake" news.

"Google and sister company Jigsaw are joining forces to defend election organizers and civic groups against cyber attacks free of charge as the broader tech industry seeks to fend off criticism that it is not doing enough to stop online efforts to distort elections.

The growing frequency of politically-motivated online attacks -- from the recent hacking of Twitter accounts by Turkish nationalists to the U.S. Democratic Party's email breach -- has left governments and pro-democracy groups scrambling for ways to thwart hackers and the rising tide of "fake" news."

Privacy

No new items of relevance

Internet Inclusion

15.03.17

Mobile World Live

[European Parliament clears 700MHz spectrum agreement](#)

The European Parliament has approved plans to clear the 700MHz band for the use of wireless broadband by 2020. In his statement Andrus Ansip the Commissioner for the Digital Single Market welcomed the step that will increase access to the internet across the EU and will aid in the transition to 5G.

“The European Parliament approved plans for coordination of the 700MHz band for wireless broadband services across the EU by 2020.

Today’s vote covers the use of the UHF (470MHz to 790MHz) band across the economic bloc and ratifies an agreement made in December by representatives from the European Parliament, European Council and European Commission (EC).”

16.03.17

SC Magazine

[Women represent just 7% of European cyber-security workforce](#)

A new survey by Center for Cyber Safety and Education has found that only 7% of cyber-security professionals in Europe are women, a 3% decline from the 2015 survey.

“A survey of over 19,000 cyber-security professionals from 170 countries has revealed a chronic shortage of women working in cyber-security amid a widening skills gap.

The survey is commissioned by (ISC)2’s charitable arm, the Center for Cyber Safety and Education™ (the Center), and shows women to be forming just seven percent of the European cyber-security workforce, amongst the lowest proportion anywhere in the world.”

United States of America

Internet governance

16.03.17

Bloomberg BNA

[Trump Backs Internet Governance Dialogue in 2018 Budget Proposal](#)

President Trump has outlined his intention to continue the role of the United States in international forums on internet standards as part of proposals for his first Budget. The proposals do not expand on the President's current views on internet governance however, as they only relate to the funding of the NTIA to attend conferences.

"President Donald Trump wants to cut funding for a number of federal agencies, departments and programs under a 2018 [budget blueprint](#) released March 16. But the U.S. presence in global internet governance discussions is one thing that Trump says he won't cut.

According to the proposal, the Trump administration will continue supporting the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's participation in "multi-stakeholder forums" on internet governance and digital commerce."

Cybersecurity

15.03.17

Washington Times

[Trump taps NSA hacker Joyce for National Security Council cyber role](#)

Rob Joyce has been chosen by President Trump to join the White House National Security Council in a role focused on cybersecurity. At present Mr Joyce heads up the NSA's specialist hacking unit the office of Tailored Access Operations (TAO).

"President [Trump](#) has picked the head of the National Security Agency's elite hacking division to be the next [White House](#) cybersecurity coordinator, his administration said Wednesday.

[Rob Joyce](#), the chief of the NSA's office of Tailored Access Operations (TAO), has been chosen to join the [White House National Security Council](#), a presidential advisor announced Wednesday following days of speculation surrounding his potential appointment."

17.03.17

The Hill

[Dem bill would codify elections as critical infrastructure](#)

Democrats in the House of Representatives have introduced a new bill that will seek to classify elections as critical infrastructure in order to provide the Department of Homeland Security with powers to protect future elections.

“A new bill from three House Democrats would codify elections as critical infrastructure.”

Reps. [Mark Pocan](#) (Wis.), Keith Ellison (Minn.) and Hank Johnson (Ga.) introduced the Securing America’s Future Elections (SAFE) Act, which would launch several cybersecurity programs, including codifying the decision from former Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson to reclassify elections as critical infrastructure.”

17.03.17

The Hill

[Lawmakers call on federal government to clearly define cyber war](#)

A bipartisan resolution in the House of Representatives has called on the federal government to outline a comprehensive cybersecurity policy that includes a definitive definition of cyber war.

“House lawmakers have introduced a bipartisan resolution calling on the federal government to develop and adopt a “comprehensive” cybersecurity policy that defines cyber war.

The [resolution](#), introduced by Reps. Dutch Ruppersberger (D-Md.) and Scott Taylor (R-Va.) on Thursday, asks for a policy “that clearly defines acts of aggression, acts of war, and other related events in cyberspace, including any commensurate responses to any such act or event in cyberspace.”

20.03.17

Info World

[Russia will strike US elections again, FBI warns](#)

James Comey, Director of the FBI has warned legislators during a congressional hearing into Russia’s suspected interference in the 2016 Presidential Election that further interference should be expected at the 2020 Election and potentially at the 2018 mid-term elections.

“Future U.S. elections may very well face more Russian attempts to interfere with the outcome, the FBI and the National Security Agency warned on Monday.

“They’ll be back,” said FBI director James Comey. “They’ll be back in 2020. They may be back in 2018.”

20.03.17

SC Magazine

Trump announces \$1.5bn for cyber-security and critical infrastructure

President Trump has outlined \$1.5 billion to be used for the cybersecurity of the government and national critical infrastructure. The funds will be given to the Department of Homeland Security. The Budget proposal also includes plans to make individual federal departments responsible for their own cybersecurity.

“Donald Trump’s [first federal budget](#) puts forward US \$1.5 billion (£1.2 billion) for cyber-security to protect the federal government and US critical infrastructure. The sum is to be allotted to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the cabinet-level department of the United States government with responsibility for public security.

The pledge was announced on Thursday in a budget blueprint entitled America First - A Budget Blueprint to Make America Great Again. The budget intends to allow the DHS to share more threat intelligence with federal agencies and the private sector, “through a suite of advanced cyber security tools and more assertive defense of Government networks”.

21.03.17

Reuters

Google and sister company to offer cyber security to election groups

Alphabet Inc. companies Google and Jigsaw have announced that they will collaborate with civic groups and election organizers to combat cyberattacks. The service will be offered pro-bono and will build on the service currently offered to news organisations to combat “fake” news.

“Google and sister company Jigsaw are joining forces to defend election organizers and civic groups against cyber attacks free of charge as the broader tech industry seeks to fend off criticism that it is not doing enough to stop online efforts to distort elections.

The growing frequency of politically-motivated online attacks -- from the recent hacking of Twitter accounts by Turkish nationalists to the U.S. Democratic Party’s email breach -- has left governments and pro-democracy groups scrambling for ways to thwart hackers and the rising tide of “fake” news.”

Privacy

22.03.17

Nasdaq

[U.S. Senate takes up broadband privacy repeal](#)

The US Senate has taken the first step to repeal privacy protections for broadband customers that were originally introduced under the Obama administration. The move by the Senate follows the FCC's decision earlier this month to temporarily block the regulations from coming into force.

"The U.S. Senate on Wednesday took up a measure to repeal regulations adopted by the Obama administration requiring internet service providers to do more to protect customers' privacy than websites like Alphabet Inc's Google or Facebook Inc. The Senate began debate on Wednesday evening under a provision that allows Congress to repeal recently approved federal regulations.

Under the rules approved by the Federal Communications Commission in October under then-President Barack Obama, internet providers would need to obtain consumer consent before using precise geolocation, financial information, health information, children's information and web browsing history for advertising and internal marketing."

Internet Inclusion

15.03.17

CNET

[FCC chairman promises broadband for all](#)

Ajit Pai the Chairman of the FCC has called for greater investment in broadband provision, as an important economic factor and as a means of extending internet access in the USA. Chairman Pai will call on the Trump Administration and Congress to include broadband investment in an upcoming bill on infrastructure spending.

"Federal Communications Commission Chairman [Ajit Pai](#) is pushing for his boss President Donald Trump and Congress to include broadband in an upcoming infrastructure spending bill.

In a speech Wednesday at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pai made the case to lawmakers that broadband should be a priority in the bill, because it's a driving force for economic growth. He also offered ideas on what should be included in the legislation to encourage the deployment of high speed internet infrastructure.

Pan-Asia

Internet governance

21.03.17

Nikkei Asia

[Japan, Germany join forces on standardizing IoT innovations](#)

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Cybersecurity

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scrambling for ways to thwart hackers and the rising tide of "fake" news."

22.03.17

MIS Asia

Microsoft completes Windows 10 customised for China's government

China and Microsoft have come to an arrangement that will allow a customised version of Windows 10 to be used by the Chinese Government and state-owned enterprises. The software is believed to provide greater security to users following a request from the Chinese Government.

"Microsoft has wrapped up work on a version of Windows 10 for China's government and state-owned businesses, and is ready to begin selling the software, a state-run newspaper said today.

"We have worked extensively to make it secure and controllable. We are now ready to serve the market," Alain Crozier, the CEO of Microsoft's Greater China operation, [told China Daily](#)."

22.03.17

BGR India

India working with 15 countries for bilateral cooperation on cybercrimes

The Indian Minister of State for Home Affairs Hansraj Gangaram Ahir has announced that India is working with a coalition of 15 countries to improve response to cybercrimes and to enhance cybersecurity.

"India is working with 15 countries for information exchange on [cybercrimes](#) and bilateral cooperation on tackling it, Lok Sabha was informed today.

In response to a question, Minister of State for Home Affairs Hansraj Gangaram Ahir said, "India is working for bilateral cooperation with around 15 countries for exchange of information and data pertaining to cyber crimes and related cooperation in law enforcement."

Privacy

No new items of relevance

Internet Inclusion

17.03.17

Communications Today

[TRAI Extends Deadline for Net Neutrality Paper Comments to 12th April](#)

India's Telecoms Regulator TRAI has announced a further extension to its consultation on its Net Neutrality paper with the new deadlines for supportive comments of 12th April and counter comments to be submitted by the 26th April.

"Telecom regulator TRAI has once again extended the deadline for sending in comments for its recent consultation paper on net neutrality up to 12th April 2017. Counter comments can now be submitted by 26th April 2017. Last month, the deadline for comment submission was extended up until March 15th. Written submissions can be sent to advqos@tra.gov.in.

The consultation paper primarily looks at how "non-discriminatory access" to content on the Internet could be ensured. It also discusses various issues of Net Neutrality including traffic management, throttling of speeds, and preferential treatment of content and apps on the Internet and how these principles are applicable within the Indian context. In the ongoing consultation, TRAI also asks if preferential treatment of content or throttling can be allowed in case a user demands it, despite the fact that it banned differential pricing in February 2016."

18.03.17

Economic Times (India)

[China ahead of India in internet access: Report](#)

A new report by Pew Research has found that China has greater internet access and smartphone use amongst its citizens than India. The statistics also revealed the growth in smartphone usage in China, who have seen an increase of 31% since 2013, whilst in India this usage has only increased by 6%.

"China is way ahead of India when it comes to internet access and [smartphone](#) ownership, a latest [Pew Research](#) report has said.

According to the survey, 71% of Chinese say they use the internet at least occasionally or own a smartphone, our definition of internet users. In contrast, only 21% of Indians say they use the internet or own a smartphone."

Rest of the World

Internet governance

No new items of relevance

Cybersecurity

21.03.17

The Australian

[ASIC chief warns of 'black swan' cyber hit](#)

Greg Medcraft, Chairman of the Australian Securities and Infrastructure Commission has warned that Australia faces a “frightening” number of potential cyber attacks and that they now pose the biggest threat to global financial markets.

“Australian companies faced a “frightening” number of potential cyber attacks, Australian Securities & Investments Commission chairman Greg Medcraft warned yesterday.

“It really is frightening,” Mr Medcraft told the ASIC annual forum.”

21.03.17

Reuters

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Privacy

No new items of relevance

Internet Inclusion

20.03.17

IT News Africa

[Nigeria leads Africa's 7 Highest Internet Using Countries](#)

Nigeria has been identified by new Internet World Statistics as the African country with the largest Internet usage in the continent. The statistics however show that Africa lags far behind other regions in overall internet access with only 26.9% of citizens able to access the Internet, compared with levels exceeding 50% in the Americas, Europe and Middle East.

“Access to the Internet is fast becoming a human right in the eyes of millions of people from around the world. This is because the Internet has evolved to a point where people see internet access as vital for them to exercise and enjoy their rights to the freedom of expression and other fundamental human rights such as education.

This view however is one that is enjoyed by people in first world countries where internet access is cheap and readily available.

On the African continent however we face many challenges that need to be overcome before this dream can become a reality. Cost, scalability, power outages and education barriers are just some of the many challenges facing the mass roll out of internet on the continent.”

22.03.17

IT News Africa

[Kenya to upgrade Fibre network infrastructure to 10GB](#)

Internet Solutions Kenya have announced that Telco Systems will aid in the upgrade of its network to 10GB increasing the speed of internet access available in the country.

“[Telco Systems](#), provider of innovative CE 2.0, MPLS, IP and SDN & NFV solutions and [Internet Solutions Kenya](#), a Pan-African communications service provider of Cloud, communication, connectivity and carrier services within Kenya and connecting outside Kenya, today jointly announced that the selection of Telco Systems to upgrade Internet Solutions Kenya’s entire Fiber network infrastructure to 10GB.



Internet Solutions Kenya provides advanced Cloud, communication, connectivity and carrier services to public and private sector organizations in Kenya and across East Africa. With its newly upgraded network, Internet Solutions Kenya will serve thousands of enterprises in its country and across the region with advanced business services.”

Global Institutions

16.03.17

ITU

[UN Broadband Commission: Time for a “New Deal” if Broadband is to reach everyone, everywhere](#)

The United Nations’ Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development has stated that new action has to be taken to increase global access both to broadband services and the Internet.

“The [Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development](#) held its 2017 Spring Meeting in Hong Kong, SAR of China, today, and committed to concrete actions that will spur the roll-out of broadband around the world. Currently, some 5 billion people are without mobile broadband access, meaning that the paths to access digital services and applications are currently blocked for much of the world’s population, thereby holding back progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The need for a new deal between all broadband stakeholders was roundly debated, bringing renewed commitment to work towards full global connectivity and digital transformation. In particular, emphasis was placed on remote and rural areas - especially to support Least Developed Countries - which represent the biggest challenge and where barriers to access also need to be viewed through the prism of affordability and content, notably local and multi-lingual content.”

Diary Dates

[Building the European data economy](#) – 10.01.17-26.04.17

[ENISA evaluation and review](#) – 18.01.17 – 12.04.17

Open from 18 January to 12 April 2017.

[ITU Council 2017](#) – 15.05.17 – 25.05.17

Geneva, Switzerland

[Africa Internet Summit \(AIS\) 2017](#) – 29.05.17 – 02.06.17

Nairobi, Kenya

[European Dialogue on Internet Governance](#) – 06.06.17-07.06.17

Tallinn, Estonia

[World Summit on the Information Society Forum \(WSIS\) 2017](#) – 12.06.17 – 16.06.17

Geneva, Switzerland

[16th European Conference on Cyber Warfare and Security ECCWS](#) – 29.06.17-30.06.17

Dublin, Ireland

[ITU WTDC-17](#) – 09.10.17 – 20.10.17

Buenos Aires, Argentina

[IGF 2017](#) – 18.12.17 – 21.10.17

Geneva, Switzerland