



12 July 2017

Synopsis

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A new report from the European Parliament's Civil Liberties Committee has called for the introduction of shared best practices across the **EU** for member states to circumvent the **encryption** of mobile messaging apps as well as protect critical infrastructure.

Germany became the first **EU** country to implement the General Data Protection Regulation (**GDPR**), ahead of the official implementation date next year. In the **UK** the House of Lords will shortly publish a new report on the impact that **Brexit** will play on the UK's implementation of GDPR.

A new report from the **Electronic Frontier Foundation** has found that messaging app **WhatsApp** continually falls short in protecting **user data**. While WhatsApp was singled out specifically, the Foundation found that in general companies are more active in protecting the **privacy** of their users.

The **Russian Government** have confirmed that at last week's **G20** meeting in Hamburg **Donald Trump** and **Vladimir Putin** did in fact discuss a potential joint **cybersecurity** unit. President Trump had publicly denounced any plans prior to the statement from Russia.

The **US Department of Defense** announced plans to implement new **encryption** procedures to protect the email accounts of its armed forces personnel.

President **Trump's** nomination for the vacant role of **FBI Director Chris Wray** has come under industry scrutiny for his positions on **encryption** and other **data privacy** issues.

The Government of **Singapore's** Ministry of Communications and Information and the country's **Cybersecurity Agency** have launched a public consultation ahead of the introduction of a new **cybersecurity** bill.

The **Chinese** government has promised to not disrupt the legitimate use of the **internet** by its citizens following recent moves to end the use of **Virtual Private Networks** on mobile and traditional platforms.

ICANN extended the deadline for their consultation on the organization of the group's **Root Server System Advisory Committee** to 24 July 2017.

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

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IEEE Global Internet Policy Monitor

12 July 2017

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Europe

Internet governance

12.07.17

Euractiv

[MEPs push cyber security rules as ‘political message’ before EU overhaul](#)

A new report from the European Parliament’s Civil Liberties Committee has called for the introduction of shared best practises across the EU for member states to circumvent the encryption of mobile messaging apps as well as protect critical infrastructure.

“MEPs are pressuring the European Commission to propose new cyber crime rules on hacking vulnerabilities, encryption and information sharing between EU countries, ahead of a legal overhaul planned for September.

Member states should exchange “best practices” about circumventing encryption and invest more to protect critical infrastructure like energy and transport networks from cybersecurity attacks, according to a report that passed Tuesday (11 July) in the European Parliament’s Civil Liberties Committee (LIBE).”

Cybersecurity

06.07.17

SC Media

[Rise in use of biometrics products for cyber-security, report predicts](#)

A new study has found that companies are increasingly turning to biometric products to help them overcome the risks of cybersecurity.

“A new report is predicting a significant rise in the use of biometric products, as organisations look to prevent fraud and protect their estate from organised cyber-crime groups.

Fraud, as the report highlights, is a serious problem. In the 2016 Cyber Security Breaches Survey published by the UK government, 65 percent of large firms in the UK detected a cyber-security breach or attack in the past year.”

12.07.17

Reuters

[German military aviation command launches cyber threat initiative](#)

The German Military's aviation command is set to implement a new cybersecurity initiative to protect the country's military aircraft from any future threat of cyberattacks.

"The German military's aviation safety chief has launched a new initiative against cyber threats, citing research that he said shows hackers can commandeer military airplanes with the help of equipment that costs about 5,000 euros (\$5,700).

A defense ministry spokesman told Reuters that development of new "aviation cyber expertise" would cover everything from raising consciousness about cyber threats to technical research projects and equipping aircraft with protective systems."

13.07.17

Computer Weekly

[Cybersecurity startups urged to join GCHQ Cyber Accelerator](#)

The UK's digital espionage service GCHQ is to launch a second iteration of its cyber accelerator programme, designed to support UK based cybersecurity entrepreneurs in the establishment of new cybersecurity startups.

"The UK government has announced a second cyber accelerator programme aimed at helping UK startups take the lead in producing the next generation of cyber security systems.

Cutting-edge cyber security entrepreneurs and startup firms can [apply to join](#) the second programme in the GCHQ Cyber Accelerator, which will be extended from three to nine months."

Privacy

12.07.17

SC Media

[House of Lords to report on post-Brexit GDPR, Germany first to enact GDPR](#)

Germany has become the first EU country to implement the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), ahead of the official implementation date next year. In the UK the House of Lords will shortly publish a new report on the impact that Brexit will play on the UK's implementation of GDPR.

"The House of Lords has announced it is about to release a report on what post-Brexit GDPR might look like.

Called Brexit: the EU data protection package, the report was written by the EU Home Affairs Sub-Committee and explores the implications of Brexit for maintaining unhindered cross-border data flows between the UK and the EU."

12.07.17

The Independent

[WhatsApp is falling short in keeping people's messages private, says pressure group Electronic Frontier Foundation](#)

A new report from the Electronic Frontier Foundation has found that messaging app WhatsApp continually fall short in protecting user data. Whilst WhatsApp was singled out specifically, the Foundation found that in general companies are more active in protecting the privacy of their users.

"WhatsApp's users are not being kept safe properly, according to a major new report.

Pressure group the Electronic Frontier Foundation has released its rankings of how tech companies are keeping their users' data secure and private. And the popular chat app was singled out for specific criticism for potentially letting governments look at people's private messages."

Internet Inclusion

No new items of relevance

United States of America

Internet governance

10.07.17

Reuters

[Russia confirms Putin-Trump talk on joint cyber unit](#)

The Russian Government have confirmed that at last week's G20 meeting in Hamburg Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin did in fact discuss a potential joint cybersecurity unit. President Trump had publicly denounced any plans prior to the statement from Russia.

"Russia confirmed on Monday that Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin had discussed forming a joint Russian-U.S. group on cyber security, an idea that has provoked uproar in Washington, but said it was only a tentative proposal.

Trump said on Twitter early on Sunday the two leaders discussed forming "an impenetrable Cyber Security unit" when they met at the Hamburg G20 summit."

Cybersecurity

07.07.17

Ars Technica

[FBI warns of attempts to hack nuclear power plants](#)

A joint FBI and Department of Homeland Security report has revealed the extent of malware and other cyberattacks on US critical nuclear infrastructure and the methods used to target both equipment and personnel.

"The Department of Homeland Security and FBI have issued a joint report providing details of malware attacks targeting employees of companies that operate nuclear power plants in the US, including the Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation, [The New York Times reports](#). The attacks have been taking place since May, as detailed in the report issued by federal officials last week and sent out to industry."

07.07.17

SC Media

[Pentagon to encrypt soldiers' email](#)

The US Department of Defence has announced plans to implement new encryption procedures to protect the email accounts of its armed forces personnel.

“DISA will employ STARTTLS encryption technology when it migrates to a new email infrastructure this summer.

The Pentagon will start encrypting soldiers' email using the STARTTLS technology that has been around for more than a decade, the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) said.”

12.07.17

The Hill

[One in four will consider not voting in elections due to cybersecurity](#)

A new poll by Carbon Black has found that almost a quarter of US voters will potentially abstain from voting due to cybersecurity concerns. The poll noted a 7% increase on the number of people who felt that cybersecurity issues could lead them to not vote compared to a previous poll in September.

“One in four American voters say they will consider not voting in upcoming elections due to concerns over cybersecurity, according to a new poll conducted by a cybersecurity firm.

The 27 percent of voters who agreed with that statement mark a 7 percent rise over a similar poll conducted in September.”

Privacy

10.07.17

SC Media

[Facebook, Twitter and Microsoft pushing back against gov surveillance gag orders](#)

Major digital companies such as Facebook, Microsoft and Twitter have started to conduct significant legal battles with the US government to increase the amount of publicly available data relating to the security requests of espionage and law enforcement agencies and their impact on personal data protection.

“[Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Microsoft](#) among other tech firms are engaging in legal battles concerning government surveillance and the gag orders that prevent full disclosure of information requests.

U.S. District Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers [ruled](#) Thursday in an Oakland courtroom that the US government failed to show the kind of “clear and present danger” that could justify restricting Twitter's constitutional rights to disclose information about its surveillance requests, however the Justice Department is reviewing the ruling.”

12.07.17

The Independent

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“WhatsApp's users are not being kept safe properly, according to a major new report.

Pressure group the Electronic Frontier Foundation has released its rankings of how tech companies are keeping their users' data secure and private. And the popular chat app was singled out for specific criticism for potentially letting governments look at people's private messages.”

13.07.17

Tech Crunch

[Where Trump's FBI nominee stands on tech's hot privacy issues](#)

President Trump's nomination for the vacant role of FBI Director Chris Wray has come under industry scrutiny for his positions on encryption and other data privacy issues.

"While questions about Russia attracted more initial scrutiny at his Senate confirmation hearing today, Trump's proposed James Comey replacement Chris Wray did offer a few clues on his ideas about the digital privacy of American citizens."

Internet Inclusion

11.07.17

Fortune

[Microsoft to Propose Plan to Bridge Digital Divide in Rural U.S.](#)

Technology company Microsoft announced plans to utilize TV spectrums to help improve the availability of internet connection to those living in rural parts of the United States.

"[Microsoft](#) plans to push TV spectrum for providing Internet connectivity to rural America. Microsoft president Brad Smith is set to outline the program Tuesday in Washington D.C., according to various reports."

The company has long pushed for the use of white spaces, a term referring to unlicensed spectrum between broadcast channels to bring the Internet to underserved communities, notably in Africa. Now the company wants to apply that technology closer to home, according to [Bloomberg](#) which reported that the company hopes to bring fast Internet to 2 million Americans over the next five years, with funding focusing on 12 rural states."

12.07.17

BBC

[Tech firms unite for 'net neutrality' protest](#)

Major internet companies are joining with internet access advocacy groups to protest the FCC's decision to reverse net neutrality regulations introduced during the Obama administration.

"A host of internet giants - from social networks to dating apps to porn sites - will join a protest Wednesday against plans to roll back rules protecting "net neutrality".

The sites will display a variety of messages, or simulate the potential effects of losing the basic principle of all internet traffic being treated equally."

Pan-Asia

Internet governance

No new items of relevance

Cybersecurity

11.07.17

Networks Asia

[Singapore government seeks feedback on proposed Cybersecurity Bill](#)

The Government of Singapore's Ministry of Communications and Information and the country's Cybersecurity Agency have launched a public consultation ahead of the introduction of a new cybersecurity bill.

"The Ministry of Communications and Information (MCI) and the Cyber Security Agency of Singapore (CSA) invite the public to provide feedback on the proposed Cybersecurity Bill.

The public consultation exercise will run from 10 July to 3 August 2017."

12.07.17

Reuters

[Apple sets up China data center to meet new cyber-security rules](#)

In response to the new cybersecurity laws introduced in China in June, US company Apple is set to open its first data centre in the country in order to abide by new legal requirements for data storage.

"Apple Inc. on Wednesday said it is setting up its first data center in China, in partnership with a local internet services company, to comply with tougher cyber-security laws introduced last month.

The U.S. technology company said it will build the center in the southern province of Guizhou with data management firm Guizhou-Cloud Big Data Industry Co Ltd (GCBD).

Privacy

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The Independent

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Internet Inclusion

10.07.17

Digital Trends

[China orders mobile carriers to disallow access to virtual private networks](#)

The Chinese government has promised to not disrupt the legitimate use of the internet by its citizens following recent moves to end the use of Virtual Private Networks on mobile and traditional platforms.

"VPNs, or [virtual private networks](#) that route traffic to servers in other countries, enjoy outside popularity in China, where tens of millions of people use them to skirt the country's internet restrictions. But on Monday, July 10, the government took steps to curtail the use of VPNs among the country's smartphone users by instructing mobile carriers to block access to private networks by February 1.

This move is in keeping with Chinese President Xi Jinping's "cyber sovereignty" campaign, a 14-month effort to clamp down on loopholes around China's internet restrictions. Earlier this year, China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology pledged to step up enforcement against unauthorized VPNs, and forced at least one popular company, GreenVPN, to [halt service](#) in mainland China."

10.07.17

Business World

[India Ranks 89th Globally In Broadband Internet Speed](#)

A new report by TRAI, India's telecommunications regulator has found that the country ranks 89th in broadband speed globally, with the highest available speed in India slower than the average connection speed in South Korea.

"In spite of having one of the largest number of internet users in the world, India's ambition to switch to digital is restricted by slow internet connection speed.

According to a recent report by telecom regulatory authority of India, Reliance Jio is the fastest 4G mobile service provider with an average download speed of 18.8 megabyte per second (mbps) in June."

12.07.17

Bloomberg

[China Says It Will Not Disrupt Legitimate Internet Access](#)

The Chinese government has promised to not disrupt the legitimate use of the internet by its citizens following recent moves to end the use of Virtual Private Networks on mobile and traditional platforms.

"A Chinese ministry said it will not disrupt legitimate access to the global internet by businesses and general users, after a Bloomberg [report](#) it had ordered telecommunications carriers to bar individuals from using services to circumvent its Great Firewall.

The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology's existing notice governing the use of virtual private networks, issued January, should not affect activities of local and foreign businesses or users in general, it said in an emailed statement."

13.07.17

MIS Asia

[Maharashtra government delivers free Wi-Fi to Mumbai](#)

India's state owned communications company Maharashtra Information Technology Corporation is to partner with Fortinet to provide free WiFi access to citizens in Mumbai.

“Government-owned Maharashtra Information Technology Corporation (MITC) has chosen Fortinet to provide wireless internet access to Mumbai, India.

The government has deployed Fortinet indoor and outdoor access points in more than 500 locations in the city for the first phase of the Wi-Fi project. The access points have omnidirectional antennas, wireless controllers, and a wireless manager to enable scaling, voice mobility and provide high performance.”

Rest of the World

Internet governance

05.07.17

All Africa

[Kenya: Role of Internet During Elections Key at the This Year's Kenya Internet Governance Forum](#)

The 10th Internet Governance Forum to be held in Nairobi, Kenya is set to focus on the role played by the internet in the outcome of elections, ahead of the country's General Election in August.

"Role of Internet during elections is set to take center stage at the 10th Internet Governance Forum set to be held tomorrow in Nairobi Kenya. The move comes at a time when Kenya is geared to the General Elections slated for 8th August 2017.

UNESCO will support Kenya ICT Action Network (KICTANET) to hold Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Conference in Nairobi, Kenya themed "Shape your Digital Future!". The conference aims to serve as a platform for policy dialogue on issues of Internet governance in Kenya."

10.07.17

Reuters

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Cybersecurity

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Privacy

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Internet Inclusion

07.07.17

The Guardian

[Australian internet slow and plagued by disconnections, survey finds](#)

A new survey of internet connections in Australia has found that the majority of users experience slow and faulty connections to the internet.

"Australia is plagued by internet disconnections, drop-outs and slow download speeds, a survey has found.

The Choice internet satisfaction survey found six in 10 Australians have had issues with their service in the past six months."

Global Institutions

07.07.17

ICANN

[Request for Proposal: SSAC Organizational Review](#)

ICANN launched a new request for providers willing to provide an independent assessment of the groups Security and Stability Advisory Committee.

“The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is seeking a provider to conduct an independent assessment of the Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC).”

The provider should have technical knowledge or experience with security matters with the Internet technical community and the operators and managers of critical DNS infrastructure services; demonstrate an understanding of the SSAC's charter and its [Operational Procedures](#) [PDF, 420 KB]; demonstrate knowledge of the technical areas covered by the SSAC's charter, including security and integrity of the Internet's naming and address allocation systems.”

11.07.17

ICANN

[Extended Deadline: Request for Proposal for the RSSAC Organizational Review](#)

ICANN have extended the deadline for their consultation on the organisation of the groups Root Server System Advisory Committee to the 24th July 2017.

*“The deadline has been extended for the Request for Proposal for the Independent Review of the Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC). The **new deadline is 24 July 2017 at 12:00 PDT.**”*

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is seeking a provider to conduct an independent assessment of the Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC). The provider should have technical knowledge in domain name or Internet server operations, or have experience working with the RSSAC or Root Server Operators. The provider should also have an understanding of the root server ecosystem and/or DNS protocol knowledge.”

12.07.17

ENISA

[ENISA met the members of its Permanent Stakeholders Group today in Athens](#)

ENISA met with the members of its Permanent Stakeholders Group to discuss the current and future work of the group for ENISA.

“ENISA was pleased to welcome the members of its Permanent Stakeholders Group to its premises in Athens today, 12th July 2017. The members of the group provided input regarding their work for ENISA and its future work programmes. Among the topics of discussion were also the priorities and challenges in the Network and Information Security field.”

12.07.17

ICANN

[Fifth Africa DNS Forum to Take Place in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania](#)

ICANN is in the process of putting in place the finishing touches for the organisation's fifth Africa Domain Name System Forum to take place in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania at the end of July.

“The fifth Africa Domain Name System (DNS) Forum is being organized by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers ([ICANN](#)), in partnership with [the Internet Society \(ISOC\)](#) and the Africa Top Level Domains Organization ([AFTLD](#)). The forum, which is being hosted by the Tanzania Network Information Centre ([tzNIC](#)), will take place in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from 26-28 July 2017. This year's theme will be "Taking Stock of the Africa DNS Industry and Planning Ahead.”

Diary Dates

Modernising the regulations establishing the .eu top-level domain name – 05.05.17-04.08.17

European Commission

ITU WTDC-17 – 09.10.17–20.10.17

Buenos Aires, Argentina

ICANN 60 – 28.10.17-03.11.17

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

IGF 2017 – 18.12.17–21.12.17

Geneva, Switzerland