14 June 2017

Synopsis

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The **European Union** has unveiled its new aid plan that will incorporate investment in **digital infrastructure** as part of a digital focused development strategy that will also seek to extend the EU's own norms on **net neutrality** and **data privacy** to **Africa** in particular.

German Chancellor **Angela Merkel** has suggested that a set of common standards are needed for global digital interactions, on a similar basis to financial and trade agreements in the **G20** and under the **WTO**.

The CEO of **Huawei** has called on the Governments of **Europe** to develop their **broadband infrastructure** to a greater extent in order to increase the Bloc's attempts to widen digitisation.

In the **US** a bipartisan alliance in the House of Representatives have introduced new legislation to provide Congressional oversight on how the US military uses **cyber weapons** in its operations.

The **National Security Agency** has announced that it will no longer provide expected statistics on the number of Americans affected by the agency's use of warrant-less **cyberespionage** tools.

Donald Trump has announced that Democrat **Jessica Rosenworcel** will be renominated for a seat on the **FCC** subject to Senate approval. Ms Rosenworcel's nomination will not affect the 2-1 FCC majority however as current Democrat Commissioner Mignon Clyburn's term will expire at the end of the month, with her future as yet undecided.

China's ruling Communist Party has rebuked the country's internet watchdog for its "lax" **control** over the country's **cyberspace** and its failures to enforce the policies of President **Xi Jinping**.

The **US** Government has issued a formal warning that **North Korea** has been responsible for a series of **cyber attacks** since 2009 and warned that hackers working on the country's behalf could strike again soon.

A new report by **Cisco** has found that the number of **Internet users** in **India** is expected to double by 2021 from its 2016 figure.

Amnesty International has warned that dozens of News sites have been shutdown in **Egypt** as the government has moved to **digital censorship** as part of a new bid to silence criticism.

In **Zimbabwe** the Minister responsible for the country's **Cyber Crime** and Computer bill has issued a statement arguing that the introduction of new legislation is in no way linked to the 2018 elections.

ICANN have released an amended version of their proposed budget and **operating plan** for the 2018 financial year following a public consultation.

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

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"A new European Commission aid plan promises to channel more development funds into building internet networks in Africa, in the hope that the bloc's fresh privacy and net neutrality rules could become a template for other countries.

The Commission is promoting the digital-focused development strategy as a potential "win-win" for African countries with sparse internet networks and European companies that might invest there."

10.06.17

Reuters

[Germany's Merkel says digital world needs global rules](#)

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has suggested that a set of common standards are needed for global digital interactions, on a similar basis to financial and trade agreements in the G20 and under the WTO.

"German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Saturday that the digital world needs regulations like those that exist for financial markets in the G20 and for trade under the World Trade Organization.

Global policymakers are facing uncharted territory as emerging technologies open new frontiers for regulation with the inter-networking of smart devices and trends in the automation of factories, dubbed Industry 4.0 by German politicians."

Cybersecurity

14.06.17

SC Media

[Virgin Media routers contain vulnerability which allows admin access](#)

Researchers have found a security flaw in the broadband routers issued by Virgin Media that provides a backdoor for hackers. The flaw is based on a universal private encryption key used across routers used in the UK.

"A security vulnerability has been discovered in home broadband routers used by Virgin Media customers, which facilitates hackers gaining access to the device's administrator panel.

The researcher who discovered the flaw from Context Information Security says that both the Super Hug 2 and Super Hub 2AC (both of which are made by Netgear) are affected."

Privacy

08.06.17

Politico

[EU to propose law to help police get data from tech firms](#)

Further details have emerged from members of the EU Commission relating to planned EU wide legislation to provide greater powers to law enforcement to access the data held by social media and encrypted communications companies.

"The European Commission will present plans to EU justice ministers Thursday designed to make it easier for authorities to get electronic evidence directly from tech companies to aid in police and terrorism investigations.

The move comes in the wake of terror attacks across Europe that have sparked a debate about information sharing, with police complaining evidence is increasingly out of reach on computers and servers."

Internet Inclusion

08.06.17

Out Law

[Telecoms groups express concern about direction of EU regulatory reforms](#)

An alliance of six telecommunications trade associations have expressed concerns for the EU's development of internet access within the bloc, specifically arguing that attention has been diverted from the development of 5G technology.

"A coalition of six trade bodies said discussions among law makers over a new [European Electronic Communications Code](#) and [e-Privacy Regulation](#) "seem to have lost their focus on the importance of 5G as one of the key technologies that will underpin the ecosystem and the competitiveness of newly connected sectors of the European economy".

The coalition, which includes the European Telecommunications Network Operators Association (ETNO) and GSMA, which represents mobile network operators, said law makers at the European Parliament and Council of Ministers appear to favour "a more timid approach" than the one advocated by telecoms company executives."

13.06.17

Computer Weekly

[Huawei: Europe's digitisation depends on support for broadband](#)

The CEO of Huawei has called on the Governments of Europe to develop their broadband infrastructure to a greater extent in order to increase the Bloc's attempts to widen digitisation.

"Huawei rotating CEO Ken Hu has called for governments across Europe to offer [more financial and policy backing](#) for broadband infrastructure development and deployment to support the wider digital transformation taking place across the business, industry and consumer spheres.

Hu said Europe had several unique strengths that would help fuel its wider digitisation, such as a comprehensive and strong industry base, a history of innovation, research and development (R&D) around networking standards, and emerging technologies such as the internet of things (IoT) and artificial intelligence (AI)."

United States of America

Internet governance

No new items of relevance

Cybersecurity

08.06.17

The Hill

Lawmakers move to boost oversight of sensitive military cyber ops

In the US a bipartisan alliance in the House of Representatives have introduced new legislation to provide Congressional oversight on how the US military uses cyber weapons in its operations.

"A bipartisan group of House lawmakers has introduced legislation aimed at boosting congressional oversight of sensitive U.S. military cyber operations and cyber weapons.

Reps. Mac Thornberry (R-Texas) and Adam Smith (D-Wash.), chairman and ranking member of the Armed Services Committee, along with Reps. Elise Stefanik (R-N.Y.) and Jim Langevin (D-R.I.) announced the bill on Thursday."

13.06.17

Ars Technica

Russia struck at election systems and data of 39 US states

Two journalists from Bloomberg News have reported that intelligence services believe that Russia targeted a total of 39 US states during the 2016 Presidential election.

"Citing sources "with direct knowledge of the US investigation" into Russia's information operations campaign during the 2016 US presidential election campaign, Bloomberg News' Michael Riley and Jordan Robertson report that Russian hackers struck at far more states' election offices than previously known. A total of 39 states had election systems targeted by the Russians, Bloomberg's sources said—including Illinois, where attackers broke into voter

rolls and tried to delete or modify voter registration data in an attempt to disrupt voting on Election Day."

14.06.17

Reuters

[U.S. blames North Korea for hacking spree, says more attacks likely](#)

The US Government has issued a formal warning that North Korea has been responsible for a series of cyber attacks since 2009 and warned that hackers working on the country's behalf could strike again soon.

"The U.S. government on Tuesday issued a rare alert squarely blaming the North Korean government for a raft of cyber attacks stretching back to 2009 and warning that more were likely.

The joint warning from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Bureau of Investigation said that "cyber actors of the North Korean government," referred to in the report as "Hidden Cobra," had targeted the media, aerospace and financial sectors, as well as critical infrastructure, in the United States and globally."

Privacy

12.06.17

Reuters

[NSA backtracks on sharing number of Americans caught in warrant-less spying](#)

The National Security Agency has announced that it will no longer provide expected statistics on the number of Americans affected by the agency's use of warrant-less cyberespionage tools.

"For more than a year, U.S. intelligence officials reassured lawmakers they were working to calculate and reveal roughly how many Americans have their digital communications vacuumed up under a warrant-less surveillance law intended to target foreigners overseas.

This week, the Trump administration backtracked, catching lawmakers off guard and alarming civil liberties advocates who say it is critical to know as Congress weighs changes to a law expiring at the end of the year that permits some of the National Security Agency's most sweeping espionage."

Internet Inclusion

09.06.17

Ars Technica

[The Internet needs paid fast lanes, US anti-net neutrality senator says](#)

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai has called net neutrality "a great slogan" arguing that it provides no real solution to the internets problems and only introduces government interference that he opposes.

"This week, the head of the Federal Communications Commission and a Republican US senator each called net neutrality a "slogan" that solves no real problems, with the senator also arguing that the Internet should have paid fast lanes.

"It's a great slogan," FCC Chairman Ajit Pai said, when asked by a radio host what net neutrality is. "But in reality what it involves is Internet regulation, and the basic question is, 'Do you want the government deciding how the Internet is run?"

14.06.17

Reuters

[Trump nominates Democrat Rosenworcel to serve again as FCC commissioner](#)

Donald Trump has announced that Democrat Jessica Rosenworcel will be renominated for a seat on the FCC subject to Senate approval. Ms Rosenworcel's nomination will not affect the 2-1 FCC majority however as current Democrat Commissioner Mignon Clyburn's term will expire at the end of the month, with her future as yet undecided.

"The U.S. Senate will again consider Jessica Rosenworcel, a Democrat, to be a commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission after Republican President Donald Trump nominated her late on Tuesday.

Rosenworcel served as a commissioner for the regulator until the end of 2016 when lawmakers failed to take up her re-nomination under former President Barack Obama, handing Republicans a 2-1 majority on the five-seat commission."

Pan-Asia

Internet governance

12.06.17

South China Morning Post

[Communist Party rebukes China's internet watchdog for 'lax' control over cyberspace](#)

China's ruling Communist Party has rebuked the country's internet watchdog for its "lax" control over the country's cyberspace and its failures to enforce the policies of President Xi Jinping.

"China's internet regulator has been strongly criticised by Communist Party inspectors for failing to act determinedly and quickly to enforce President Xi Jinping's policies on controlling cyberspace.

The stern criticism from the party's top discipline watchdog came after officers conducted a month-long inspection of the Cyberspace Administration from early March to early April."

Cybersecurity

08.06.17

Ars Technica

[Internet cameras have hard-coded password that can't be changed](#)

New research by security firm F-Secure has found that security cameras manufactured in China by Foscam suffer from 18 security vulnerabilities that make them susceptible to cyber attacks.

"Security cameras manufactured by China-based Foscam are vulnerable to remote take-over hacks that allow attackers to view video feeds, download stored files, and possibly compromise other devices connected to a local network. That's according to a [12-page report](#) released Wednesday by security firm F-Secure."

14.06.17

Reuters

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Privacy

No new items of relevance

Internet Inclusion

09.06.17

Economic Times

[Internet users to double to 829 million by 2021: Report](#)

A new report by Cisco has found that the number of Internet users in India is expected to double by 2021 from its 2016 figure.

"Internet users in the country will double by 2021 to 829 million users from 373 million users in 2016, driven by digital transformation according to a recent report.

This means roughly 59 per cent of the Indian population will use the internet. Also, there would be two billion networked devices in 2021 up from 1.4 billion in 2016."

09.06.17

Straits Times

[Mindef to talent-spot whiz-kids for cyber defence](#)

Singapore is set to target talented students for cyber security based national service, in a bid to improve the country's cyber defences in future generations.

"Students with a knack for cyber security could do their national service in a new Defence Ministry unit tasked to protect Singapore's cyberspace.

The ministry is working with educational institutions to talent-spot such whiz-kids for its Defence Cyber Organisation."

14.06.17

Computer Weekly

[Mobile data traffic in ASEAN, Oceania to grow 11-fold by 2022](#)

A new report from technology company Ericsson has predicted that mobile data traffic in the ASEAN and Oceania regions will likely increase 11 fold due to the increasing take up of 4G and IoT technologies.

"The expansion of 4G and IoT networks in ASEAN and Oceania will lead to a data deluge and drive cellular subscriptions to new levels

Fuelled by growing adoption of 4G services and [internet of things (IoT)](#) in Southeast Asia and Oceania, mobile data traffic in the region is expected to surge eleven-fold by 2022, a new report by Ericsson has found."

Rest of the World

Internet governance

09.06.17

Euractiv

[Digital development plan promotes EU tech laws](#)

The European Union has unveiled its new aid plan that will incorporate investment in digital infrastructure as part of a digital focused development strategy that will also seek to extend the EU's own norms on net neutrality and data privacy to Africa in particular.

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The Commission is promoting the digital-focused development strategy as a potential "win-win" for African countries with sparse internet networks and European companies that might invest there."

09.06.17

All Africa

[Zimbabwe: Cyber Law Not Linked to 2018 Polls - Minister](#)

In Zimbabwe the Minister responsible for the country's Cyber Crime and Computer bill has issued a statement arguing that the introduction of new legislation is in no way linked to the 2018 elections.

"The Cyber Crime and Computer Bill has nothing to do with the 2018 harmonised elections, but seeks to protect people from abuse on social media, a Government official has said. Information Communication Technology, Postal and Courier Services Minister Supa Mandiwanzira made the remarks at a cyber security workshop in Harare yesterday.

"It is important that we have this law as of yesterday, not tomorrow and not today because our people are being abused," he said."

Cybersecurity

13.06.17

IB Times

[Hackers selling stolen data from Qatar National Bank and UAE InvestBank](#)

Data relating to cyberattacks on Qatar and UAE banks have emerged on the dark web following significant breaches in 2016.

"Stolen data from the QNB hack as well as the InvestBank data breach is now up for sale on an unspecified yet popular dark web marketplaceiStock

Hackers are reportedly selling stolen data from [the Qatar National Bank (QNB)](#) and [UAE InvestBank on the](#) dark web. Both the banks suffered major data breaches in 2016 and the data of thousands of customers was later [leaked online by hackers](#). Now, even as tensions escalate between the two Middle Eastern nations, cybercriminals appear to be cashing in on the underground cybercrime community."

Privacy

No new items of relevance

Internet Inclusion

13.06.17

Amnesty International

[Dozens of News sites blocked as Egypt ramps up digital censorship](#)

Amnesty International has warned that dozens of News sites have been shutdown in Egypt as the government has moved to digital censorship as part of a new bid to silence criticism.

"The Egyptian authorities have shifted their onslaught against media freedom to the digital sphere, blocking access to more than 40 news sites without justification in recent weeks, in an attempt to eliminate the country's last remaining spaces for criticism and free expression, said Amnesty International."

Global Institutions

ITU

Call for papers open for new ITU Journal: ICT Discoveries

ITU has announced a new journal focused on ICT discoveries in the Artificial Intelligence sphere, with a call for paper submissions for those wishing to feature in the first edition.

"ITU is pleased to announce the Call for Papers for the inaugural issue of the ITU Journal: ICT Discoveries – a special issue exploring the contributions of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to the performance and efficiency of communications networks. Submissions are being accepted until 28 August 2017.

Researchers are invited to propose novel applications of AI techniques to improve the performance and efficiency of communications infrastructure, systems and components, with a view to encouraging the creation of new services and ensuring optimal user experience."

12.06.17

ICANN

New Report Presents Syntax and Operability Accuracy of WHOIS Data in gTLDs

ICANN have issued the fourth WHOIS Accuracy Reporting System report on the syntax and operability accuracy of WHOIS records in gTLDs.

"ICANN today published the WHOIS Accuracy Reporting System June 2017 report. This latest report of the WHOIS Accuracy Reporting System (ARS) acts as a follow-on to the reports published in December 2016, June 2016, and December 2015.

The report explores both the syntax and operability accuracy of WHOIS records in gTLDs as compared to the requirements of the 2009 and 2013 Registrar Accreditation Agreements (RAAs). It also examines the leading types of nonconformances, trends and comparisons of WHOIS accuracy across ICANN regions, RAA versions and gTLD types."

13.06.17

ICANN

[FY18 Operating Plan and Budget Proposed for Adoption-Published](#)

ICANN have released an amended version of their proposed budget and operating plan for the 2018 financial year following a public consultation.

"The proposed ICANN FY18 Operating Plan and Budget and update to the Five-Year Operating Plan have been posted to the public comment page as of 13 June 2017. After reviewing the public comments, ICANN organization and the Board Finance Committee approved the Staff Report of Public Comments which was posted on the public comment page 2 June 2017."

14.06.17

ICANN

[ICANN Announces Global Indigenous Ambassador Program](#)

As part of an initiative to increase diversity in ICANN's global community the organisation has created a Global Indigenous Ambassador Program to allow greater representation for previously underrepresented indigenous groups.

"The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) today announced the creation of the Global Indigenous Ambassador Program. The program establishes two Indigenous Ambassadors, to be selected from underrepresented indigenous communities. Through the inclusion of a broader and more diverse base of knowledgeable constituents, ICANN will be better equipped to support the next generation of the global Internet community. "This is an exciting opportunity for two Indigenous Ambassadors to learn about ICANN and the At-Large community, representing the best interests of Internet end users," states Loris Taylor, President & CEO, Native Public Media."

Diary Dates

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

European Commission

World Summit on the Information Society Forum (WSIS) 2017 – 12.06.17–16.06.17

Geneva, Switzerland

China Cyber Security Conference & Exposition 2017 – 13.06.17

Beijing, China

ICANN 59 – 26.06.17-29.06.17

Johannesburg, South Africa

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

ICANN 60 – 28.10.17-03.11.17

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

IGF 2017 – 18.12.17–21.10.17

Geneva, Switzerland