



28 February 2018

## Synopsis

**Scroll to read full summaries with links to news articles.**

The **United States** has warned the **World Trade Organisation** that new **Chinese internet access** rules coming into force next month will restrict cross border transfers of information and trade in services.

A study by **EY**, a professional services firm revealed that only ten percent of organisations in **Singapore** are prepared for **EU** general **data protection** regulation laws.

The **Hong Kong** Government have announced they will commit eight point five billion dollars to bolster **biotechnology**, **artificial intelligence**, **smart city** and **financial technologies**.

**Pierre Moscovici**, the **EU Tax Commissioner** announced during a tech industry conference that new legislation to tax **digital companies** will be introduced next month.

Eleven **European** countries have shown their support for new legislation that would place export restrictions on companies selling **surveillance technologies**.

The **UK Government** have announced a fifty-thousand-pound grant for **cybersecurity training** and one point eight million for **machine learning** technologies that will help improve threat detection capabilities at airports.

Technology company, **Intel** said they failed to notify the Federal Government and industry organisations about **security flaws** in its **microchips** because of industry reporting standards which are designed to protect users until a solution is developed.

Congressional Democrats have formally introduced legislation to save **net neutrality** from the **Federal Communication Commission**, however, more support from Republicans is needed to pass the measure.

**Microsoft** and the **US Justice Department** are involved in a **privacy rights** fight which reaches this Supreme Court this week. The court will consider whether US law allows prosecutors to force technology companies to hand over **data** sorted overseas.

**Uruguay** and **Canada** have become the latest countries to join the **Digital 7 group** which have pledged to follow nine **digital-development principles** including, open standards, open markets connectivity and teaching children to code.

**South Africa** is suffering from a major **cybersecurity skills** shortage because several top performers in the field are moving abroad looking for more lucrative opportunities.

Sub-Saharan **Africa** is expected to spend upwards of \$95 billion by 2021 on various **ICT** software, equipment and platforms. The figure is further proof of the **digital transformation** occurring across the continent.

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

For more information, visit the [IEEE Internet Initiative website](#), and see [IEEE Global Internet Policy Monitor](#) past issues. Join [IEEE Collabratec™](#) Internet Technology Policy Community discussions related to internet policy issues and to collaborate with other members of the global technical and policy communities.

**IEEE Global Internet Policy Monitor**

28 February 2018

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## Europe

### Internet governance

**21.02.18**

**Euractiv**

#### [Moscovici asks tech industry to be 'part of the solution' before digital tax proposal](#)

Pierre Moscovici, the EU Tax Commissioner announced during a tech industry conference that new legislation to tax digital companies will be introduced next month.

*"Pierre Moscovici, the EU Tax Commissioner, warned a tech industry conference on Tuesday (20 February) that he is determined to introduce new legislation to tax digital companies next month."*

*"I know this will raise some eyebrows in this audience. It is happening," Moscovici said, speaking at a conference about SMEs that was organised by Brussels lobby group DigitalEurope."*

**26.02.18**

**Euractiv**

#### [Europe postpones response to cryptocurrencies to end of year](#)

Commission vice-president Valdis Dombrovskis announced that the European Commission will deliberate whether new rules are required for digital currencies by the end of the year.

*"The European Commission will assess whether new rules are needed against the "substantial speculation" of digital currencies, Commission vice-president Valdis Dombrovskis said on Monday (26 February)."*

*"Dombrovskis, who is in charge of financial services in the EU, said that "we don't exclude moving ahead at EU level" if the bloc sees that there is not "clear response" at the international level to tackle the risks emerging from Bitcoin and the like."*

**27.02.18**

**Euractiv**

### [Tensions over net neutrality shake up Mobile World Congress](#)

At the Mobile World Conference, EU Commissioner for the Digital Single Market, Andrus Ansip expressed his distain at the Federal Communications Commission decision to repeal net neutrality rules in America.

*“Sparks flew at a public discussion over net neutrality at one of the world’s biggest tech conferences on Monday (27 February), as EU tech chief Andrus Ansip defended the bloc’s two-year-old legislation while sharing a stage with the American regulator who just repealed a similar US law.”*

*“Ansip and Ajit Pai, the chairman of US Federal Communications Commission, explained their different positions on regulating internet traffic during an hour-long discussion that prompted occasional jeers from the audience.”*

## [Cybersecurity](#)

**21.02.18**

**Euractiv**

### [Grid operators need a revised cybersecurity strategy in the IoT era](#)

According to a new report by Navigant Research, energy grid operators need a revised cybersecurity strategy to deal with emerging threats.

*“Cybersecurity threats invade the minds of electricity grid managers on a constant basis, and for good reason, writes Neil Strother.”*

*“Neil Strother is a principal research analyst with Navigant Research. His latest report examines the cybersecurity threats challenging utilities and other enterprises deploying Internet of Things (IoT) technologies.”*

**26.02.18**

**Computer Weekly**

### [NHS Digital and TechUK set out collaboration priorities for 2018](#)

NHS digital and TechUK have partnered up to make the NHS more cyber resilient and to produce a strategic review of the NHS Digital’s digital transformation programme.

*“Partnership will focus on areas such as interoperability, innovative technology, working with SMEs, cyber security and a strategic review of NHS Digital’s digital transformation programme.”*

*“NHS Digital and trade body TechUK have set out their key priorities for 2018, including a focus on helping small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) win business in health and social care.”*

**27.02.18**

### **Computer Weekly**

#### **[Understanding the cyber threat key to UK defence, says NCSC](#)**

Paul Chichester, Director of Communications at the National Cyber Security Centre has outlined the importance of understanding cyber-threats in order to reduce the risk of cyber attacks by responding accordingly.

*“Understanding cyber threats is key to defending the UK and ensuring it is a safe place to do business, says the National Cyber Security Centre.”*

*“The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) has underlined the importance of understanding the true nature of cyber threats at the inaugural Cyberthreat conference in London, hosted by the NCSC and the Sans Institute.”*

**01.03.18**

### **Home Office**

#### **[Report on cyber awareness](#)**

A new report from the UK Government’s Cyber Aware Campaign claims that growing misconceptions that cybercrime is not a ‘real crime’ is putting UK businesses and the public at risk online.

*“The internet has transformed modern life, bringing people closer together, and making the pace of business move faster than ever.”*

*“What’s more, the UK is a world leader in digital technology: we have one of the world’s most successful gaming industries, are a leading light in the global FinTech industry, and we shop online more than anyone else in the world.”*

## Privacy

**21.02.18**

**Euractiv**

### [Eleven member states back EU controls on selling spyware](#)

Eleven European countries have shown their support for new legislation that would place export restrictions on companies selling surveillance technologies.

*“Eleven EU countries have signalled their support for draft rules that would place export restrictions on companies selling surveillance technologies, a leaked working paper shows.”*

*“The group is backing the European Commission’s proposal to introduce export controls on products that could harm human rights, according to a negotiating document that EURACTIV.com has obtained.”*

**27.02.18**

**Computer Weekly**

### [London councils set aside more than £1.2m for GDPR](#)

London Councils have spent nearly one point two million to get prepared for EU data protection laws coming into effect in May, according to a report by the Parliament Street think tank.

*“London councils have spent over £1.2m in preparation for new EU data protection laws, a think tank report has revealed.”*

*“London councils have individually spent up to £300,000 on software, training and consultancy to prepare for the EU’s General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) ahead of the compliance deadline of 25 May 2018, according to a report by the Parliament Street think tank.”*

## Internet Inclusion

26.02.18

SC Media

### Government £50k grants for cybersec training and £1.8m for airport security

The UK Government have announced a fifty-thousand-pound grant for cybersecurity training and one point eight million for machine learning technologies that will help improve threat detection capabilities at airports.

*“The government is making £50,000 cyber-security training grants available, and separately it has invested £1.8 million in 'innovative' machine learning technologies that will help improve threat detection capabilities at airports.”*

*“In two separate new programmes, the government announced that it will award organisations up to £50,000 each to train and prepare staff for cyber-security career, and in another initiative, it is investing generously in airport security, and has also.”*

26.02.18

Euractiv

### Europe must switch immediately to 5G

EU Commissioner Andrus Ansip has warned that Europe must ‘immediately’ switch to 5G mobile networks to avoid falling behind the United States and Asian countries.

*“Europe must switch “immediately” to fast 5G mobile networks, EU Commissioner Andrus Ansip told EURACTIV in an interview.”*

*“Ansip said the EU trailed behind the United States and Asian countries in introducing 4G networks and cannot afford to make the same mistake with 5G. EU member states committed to introducing the new mobile technology in major cities by 2020 and everywhere in the bloc by 2025.”*



## United States of America

### Internet governance

**23.02.18**

**SC Media**

#### [Intel tells committee it followed industry standards with Spectre/Meltdown reveal](#)

Technology company, Intel said they failed to notify the Federal Government and industry organisations about security flaws in its microchips because of industry reporting standards which are designed to protect users until a solution is developed.

*"Intel is stating the reason behind its decision to not inform industry organizations and the federal government of crucial flaws in its processors is it was following established industry reporting standards designed to protect users until a fix is developed."*

*"In a letter responding to a query from the House Committee on Energy and Commerce Intel said it abided by standard industry practices in how and when it disclosed the Spectre/Meltdown vulnerabilities in its processors."*

**23.02.18**

**Channel NewsAsia**

#### [United States tells WTO of concerns over China's new web access rules](#)

The United States has warned the World Trade Organisation that new Chinese internet access rules coming into force next month will restrict cross border transfers of information and trade in services.

*"The United States told the World Trade Organization on Friday (Feb 23) that Chinese internet access rules coming into force next month appeared to create significant new restrictions for cross-border service suppliers and should be discussed at the WTO."*

*"The United States urges China to address these concerns quickly and pursue new policies that promote rather than disrupt cross-border transfers of information and trade in services," it said in a statement to the WTO's Services Council."*

**27.02.18**

**The Hill**

**[Dems introduce legislation to stop FCC net neutrality repeal](#)**

Congressional Democrats have formally introduced legislation to save net neutrality from the Federal Communication Commission, however, more support from Republicans is needed to pass the measure.

*“Democratic lawmakers on Tuesday introduced legislation in both chambers of Congress to reverse the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC) repeal of net neutrality rules.”*

*“The Senate legislation has the support of 50 lawmakers, including one Republican, Sen. Susan Collins (Maine), meaning it is just one vote shy of the necessary number to pass in the upper chamber under rules that prevent a filibuster.”*

**27.02.18**

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At the Mobile World Conference, EU Commissioner for the Digital Single Market, Andrus Ansip expressed his distain at the Federal Communications Commission decision to repeal net neutrality rules in America.

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*“Ansip and Ajit Pai, the chairman of US Federal Communications Commission, explained their different positions on regulating internet traffic during an hour-long discussion that prompted occasional jeers from the audience.”*

## Cybersecurity

**24.02.18**

**Washington Post**

### [Russian spies hacked the Olympics and tried to make it look like North Korea did it, U.S. officials say](#)

According to US officials, Russia hacked into several hundred computers at the 2018 Winter Olympic Games in South Korea and attempted to make the intrusion look like it was North Korea.

*"Russian military spies hacked several hundred computers used by authorities at the 2018 Winter Olympic Games in South Korea, according to U.S. intelligence."*

*"They did so while trying to make it appear as though the intrusion was conducted by North Korea, what is known as a "false-flag" operation, said two U.S. officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive matter."*

**27.02.18**

**The Hill**

### [NSA director says he hasn't received orders from Trump to disrupt Russian cyberattacks targeting elections](#)

According to a top US Intelligence official, Mike Rogers said he has not been granted 'any additional authorities' or specific direction from the Trump administration to stop Russian cyberattacks targeting US elections.

*"A top U.S. intelligence official told lawmakers on Tuesday that he has not received specific direction from the Trump administration to disrupt Russian cyberattacks targeting U.S. elections."*

*"I haven't been granted any additional authorities," National Security Agency Director Adm. Mike Rogers, who also serves as commander of U.S. Cyber Command, told lawmakers on the Senate Armed Services Committee."*

## Privacy

**26.02.18**

**SC Media**

### [Apple's China-based iCloud data center raises privacy, human rights fears](#)

Apple's China based iCloud data center has gained criticism over concerns that the Chinese Government could exploit the user data it requests from Apple to track down dissenters.

*"Human rights activists are concerned that the Chinese government's regulation requiring that Apple host its citizen's iCloud accounts on servers in China could make it easier for that nation to track down dissenters."*

*"To comply with this regulation Apple has opened a data center for its Chinese account holders that uses the state-owned firm Guizhou - Cloud Big Data Industry Co., Reuters reported. Guizhou was created and funded by the local Guizhou provincial government."*

**27.02.18**

**SC Media**

### [US Senator says Facebook should clean up bots or face fines](#)

The United States Senator, Amy Klobuchar has urged Facebook to remove bots on their platforms or face hefty fines.

*Concerning the US FBI's investigation into Russian influence on the 2016 US election, Senator Amy Klobuchar said social media companies should be fined if they can't get rid of bots on their platforms.*

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**27.02.18**

**Reuters**

### [U.S. Supreme Court wrestles with Microsoft data privacy fight](#)

Microsoft and the US Justice Department are involved in a privacy rights fight which reaches the Supreme Court this week. The court will consider whether US law can allow prosecutors to force technology companies to hand over data stored overseas.

*“Supreme Court justices on Tuesday wrestled with Microsoft Corp’s dispute with the U.S. Justice Department over whether prosecutors can force technology companies to hand over data stored overseas, with some signaling support for the government and others urging Congress to pass a law to resolve the issue.”*

*Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito, both conservatives, indicated sympathy during an hour-long argument in the case toward the Justice Department’s stance that because Microsoft is based in the United States it was obligated to turn over data held abroad sought by prosecutors in a U.S. warrant.*

## Internet Inclusion

**26.02.18**

**Euractiv**

### Europe must switch immediately to 5G

EU Commissioner Andrus Ansip has warned that Europe must ‘immediately’ switch to 5G mobile networks to avoid falling behind the United States and Asian countries.

*“Europe must switch “immediately” to fast 5G mobile networks, EU Commissioner Andrus Ansip told EURACTIV in an interview.”*

*“Ansip said the EU trailed behind the United States and Asian countries in introducing 4G networks and cannot afford to make the same mistake with 5G. EU member states committed to introducing the new mobile technology in major cities by 2020 and everywhere in the bloc by 2025.”*

## Pan-Asia

### Internet governance

27.02.18

**Computer Weekly**

#### [Singapore firms unprepared for GDPR](#)

A study by EY, a professional services firm revealed that only ten percent of organisations in Singapore are prepared for EU general data protection regulation laws.

*“An EY study reveals that only 10% of organisations in Singapore are ready to comply with the Europe’s new data protection regime.”*

*“With less than three months before the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) kicks in, just 10% of organisations in Singapore are ready to comply with the new European Union (EU) law.”*

23.02.18

**Channel NewsAsia**

#### [United States tells WTO of concerns over China's new web access rules](#)

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28.02.18

**The Straits Times**

### [Hong Kong government unveils expansionary Budget to drive innovation and technology](#)

The Hong Kong Government have announced they will commit eight point five billion dollars to bolster biotechnology, artificial intelligence, smart city and financial technologies.

*“Taking what analysts called “bold” and “targeted” approaches, Hong Kong has unveiled an expansionary Budget that seeks to bolster innovation through a spending of over HK\$50 billion (S\$8.5 billion), as well as provide immediate relief to citizens in areas like salaries tax, healthcare and housing.”*

*“Financial Secretary Paul Chan said in his annual Budget speech on Wednesday (Feb 28) that innovation and technology is undoubtedly an economic driver in future.”*



**28.02.18**

**Computer Weekly**

**[Alibaba teams up with Singapore university on AI](#)**

Chinese technology giant Alibaba has teamed up with Singapore's Nanyang Technological University to create artificial intelligence technologies for retail, transportation and healthcare.

*“Chinese tech giant has set up a joint research facility at Singapore's Nanyang Technological University to develop artificial intelligence-based technologies in retail, transportation and healthcare.”*

*“Chinese e-commerce and technology giant Alibaba has partnered Singapore's Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in a joint research facility aimed at harnessing artificial intelligence (AI) to solve societal issues such as Singapore's ageing population.”*

**28.02.18**

**China Daily**

**[5G trials planned in five cities](#)**

China Mobile Communications is planning on building the largest 5G mobile technology trial network in five Chinese cities this year, according to the company's Chairman.

*“China Mobile Communications Corp aims to build the world's largest 5G trial network and will start tests in five Chinese cities this year, according to the company's chairman.”*

*“The company will conduct outdoor field tests in Hangzhou, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Suzhou and Wuhan, and is going to establish more than 100 5G base stations in each city, said Shang Bing, chairman of China Mobile, at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona.”*

**28.02.18**

**Channel NewsAsia**

**[In Japan, Twitter sees a surge of users - and revenue](#)**

Twitter has become increasingly popular in Japan, their sales jumped thirty four percent in the last three months of 2017, compared with a year earlier, to a hundred and six million dollars.

*“Riding a wave of new users, improved advertising options and an embrace of video content by users and advertisers alike, Twitter Inc’s revenue has leaped in Japan, helping lead the company to its first quarterly profit.”*

*“Earlier this month Twitter reported that sales in Japan jumped 34 percent in the last three months of 2017, compared with a year earlier, to US\$106 million.”*

## Rest of the World

### Internet governance

23.02.18

#### Public technology

##### [D5 becomes D7 as Canada and Uruguay join global digital-government collective](#)

Uruguay and Canada have become the latest countries to join the Digital 7 group which have pledged to follow nine digital-development principles including, open standards, open markets connectivity and teaching children to code.

*“The Digital 5 has become the Digital 7 (D7), as Canada and Uruguay have joined the collective of the world’s leading e-governments. The two nations signed the organisation’s charter during a ministerial summit which gathered together representatives of the five existing member countries: the UK; South Korea; Estonia; Israel; and New Zealand. The gathering was hosted in the latter’s capital city, Wellington.*

*“Each signatory to the charter commits to “share best practice, identify how to improve the participants’ digital services, collaborate on common projects, and... support and champion our growing digital economies”.*”

27.02.18

#### IT Web Africa

##### [Somalia closer to establishing first telecoms regulator](#)

The first telecom sector regulator is expected to emerge in Somalia. The Government of Somalia has partnered with stakeholders across the nation as well as the World Bank to make this a reality.

*“The government of Somalia has partnered with various stakeholders, including telecoms operators and the World Bank, to roll out a phased project towards establishing the country’s first telecoms sector regulator.*

*ITWeb Africa recently reported that Abdi Sheik Ahmed has been appointed to head the regulator. The country’s telecoms sector comprises several players including Dalkom, Golis Telecom, Hormuud Telecom, Nationlink, Somafone, Somtel, Telcom Somalia and Telesom.”*

**28.02.18**

## **IT Web Africa**

### **[Kenya to set up blockchain taskforce](#)**

The President of Kenya, Uhuru Kenyatta, has announced that he will create a taskforce on blockchain to assess the benefits and potential risks of the technology.

*“Kenya's Ministry of ICT plans to establish a taskforce to drive the use of blockchain and Internet of Things (IOT) technology. Speaking at the Africa's Digital Symposium at Strathmore College, President Uhuru Kenyatta said that technology will be an enabler of his second term agenda to tackle job creation, affordable housing, food security and universal health.*

*"We need to better understand the opportunities for blockchain technology, the risks of cybersecurity and the essential education and skills that our young people will need to make new technology work for them," the President said."*

## **Cybersecurity**

**23.02.18**

## **SC Media**

### **[Attacks against Kaspersky Lab anti-phishing system jumped 59 percent in 2017](#)**

According to Kaspersky Lab's "Spam and Phishing 2017" analysis' phishing attacks against the cybersecurity company increased by fifty-nine percent last year.

*“Fraud-minded spammers continue to globally exploit the zeitgeist of current events that make opening unsolicited email irresistible, accounting for the 59 percent increase in phishing attacks last year compared to the previous 12 months, summed up Kaspersky Lab in its “Spam and Phishing 2017” analysis.”*

*“Spammers took advantage of the bitcoin surge at the end of the year by fooling unsuspecting recipients with get-rich-quick offers to steal their money or personal information.”*

**24.02.18**

**Washington Post**

**[Russian spies hacked the Olympics and tried to make it look like North Korea did it, U.S. officials say](#)**

According to US officials, Russia hacked into several hundred computers at the 2018 Winter Olympic Games in South Korea and attempted to make the intrusion look like it was North Korea.

*"Russian military spies hacked several hundred computers used by authorities at the 2018 Winter Olympic Games in South Korea, according to U.S. intelligence."*

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**26.02.18**

**IT News Africa**

**[South Africa sees shortage of cybersecurity skills](#)**

South Africa is suffering from a major cybersecurity skills shortage because several top performers in the field are moving abroad looking for more lucrative opportunities.

*"South Africa is facing a shortage of cybersecurity skills. It's nothing new and we are not alone – this is a global challenge – yet, the gaps are growing locally. The biggest obstacle: these skills take time and experience to build."*

*"In a world in which technology is advancing at breakneck speed and security threats are evolving at the same pace, this is something local businesses need to address now by investing in security technology and people."*

**26.02.18**

**Citi FM**

**[Cyber-crime to cost Ghana \\$100m in 2018](#)**

Businesses across Ghana are forecast to lose up to \$100 million over 2018 due to cyber-crime. A number of firms have called for further measures to be put in place to counter any crime.

*“An information security expert has told Citi Business News that Ghanaian businesses stand to lose 100 million dollars from cyber-crime in 2018, if pragmatic measures are not put in place to minimize it.*

*According to a Managing Partner at cyber security firm, Delta 3 International, Del Aden, the incident of cyber crime in Ghana will continue to rise unless businesses put effective counter measures in place.”*

**27.02.18**

**The Hill**

**[NSA director says he hasn't received orders from Trump to disrupt Russian cyberattacks targeting elections](#)**

According to a top US Intelligence official, Mike Rogers, no 'additional authorities' or specific direction has been provided by the Trump administration to stop Russian cyberattacks targeting US elections.

*“A top U.S. intelligence official told lawmakers on Tuesday that he has not received specific direction from the Trump administration to disrupt Russian cyberattacks targeting U.S. elections.”*

*“I haven't been granted any additional authorities,” National Security Agency Director Adm. Mike Rogers, who also serves as commander of U.S. Cyber Command, told lawmakers on the Senate Armed Services Committee.”*

## **Privacy**

**27.02.18**

**ITWeb**

**[Panda Security Africa, BDO join forces](#)**

Cybersecurity firm Panda Security Africa have collaborated with audit, advisory and tax firm BDO in order to address cyber security and data protection issues. Panda has stated that this sort of criminal activity will not slow in 2018.

*“It security company Panda Security Africa, and audit, advisory and tax firm, BDO, have joined forces to enable BDO to offer a managed security service to its clients using Panda's EDR solution.*

*According to Panda, cyber criminal activity shows no signs of slowing down in 2018, and businesses need to continually review their cyber security strategies to bring them in line with today's advanced threats.”*

## Internet Inclusion

**27.02.18**

**IT Web Africa**

### ICT spend in SSA to surpass US\$95 billion by 2021

Sub-Saharan Africa is expected to spend upwards of \$95 billion by 2021 on various ICT software, equipment and platforms. The figure is further proof of the digital transformation occurring across the continent.

*“ICT spend in Sub-Saharan Africa is expected to surpass US\$95 billion by 2021 and spend on IT specifically will exceed US\$19 billion, according to recent statistics released by the IDC.*

*Growth will be primarily within infrastructure and connectivity, but is increasingly moving into software and services, says Mark Walker, Associate Vice President for Sub-Saharan Africa at IDC.”*

**27.02.18**

**IT Web Africa**

### Kenya's CA outlines quality of service measures for telcos

Kenya's Communication Authority have issued new guidelines for local telecommunications. The aim is to improve network performance and end-to-end quality service.

*“Kenya's Communication Authority has gazetted guidelines for Quality of Service tests for the local telecommunications industry.”*

*“The guidelines Framework for The Assessment of Service Quality of Telecommunication Systems and Services will subject telecoms to network performance, end-to-end quality service and customer experience tests. The Authority requires that raw data be transmitted to its servers on an hourly basis for network performance analysis.”*

**28.02.18**

**Standard Digital**

### Internet connectivity as a catalyst for sustainable development in Africa

Fast and reliable Internet connection has been heralded as the new way to increase sustainable development in Africa. For example, in East Africa it is helping to transform the economy and boost economic growth.

*“Fast and reliable Internet connectivity is one of the most important threads weaving together the social and economic fabric of modern society. As such, broadband access is the key to accelerating East Africa’s economic growth and powering its transition from a resourced-based to a knowledge-based economy.*

*It could play an important role in improving employment and prosperity across the region. As an example, The United Nations Human Development Index (HDI) 2017 report points out that the rate of unemployment in Kenya is the highest in East Africa region, hitting a new high at 39.1 per cent.”*

**28.02.18**

### **Guardian Nigeria**

#### **[‘How Google accelerator programme enables Nigeria’s tech startups’](#)**

Tech startup companies are now growing in Nigeria thanks to Google Accelerator programmes which matches startups with the network people and technology of Google to help scale products.

*“Victor Asemota founded SwiftaCorp over 20 years ago, a pioneering African software and technology services group with subsidiaries and operations in over 14 African countries. He is also the Co-founder of MFISA, a unique African Mobile Financial Services Accelerator that has powered a number of payment platforms around Africa.”*

*“Asemota, who is The Guardian contributor, is a mentor for Google Accelerator programmes. He spoke with ADEYEMI ADEPETUN, in San Francisco, USA, at the just concluded Launchpad Accelerator programme, organised by search giant, Google. He shed lights on the importance of the initiative and how it is enabling start-ups in Nigeria, among others.”*



## Global Institutions

**26.02.18**

**APEC**

### [APEC Embarks on New Digital Frontiers in Port Moresby](#)

APEC, a forum for 21 Pacific Rim economies have announced that over the next twelve days officials will be meeting in Papua New Guinea's capital, Port Moresby to discuss joint initiatives in the digital sector.

*"Trade and sectoral officials from the 21 APEC member economies have begun convening in Papua New Guinea for the first time during its inaugural chairmanship in 2018, intent on channeling innovation to expand the reach of the Asia-Pacific's growth resurgence."*

*"Over the next 12 days, officials meeting in Papua New Guinea's capital, Port Moresby, will introduce new joint initiatives to empower their people to tap digital breakthroughs and the opportunities for better jobs, wages and quality of life they can provide."*

**28.02.18**

**ICANN**

### [GSMA and ICANN Sign Memorandum of Understanding at GSMA Mobile World Congress](#)

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and the Global System for Mobile Communications (GSMA), a trade body that represents the interest of mobile network operators worldwide have signed a memorandum on enhancing collaboration of internet governance.

*"The GSMA and the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the Mobile World Congress being held this week in Barcelona. The MoU aims to enhance collaboration and raise awareness about Internet governance issues that are of common interest to both organizations and their communities. The agreement was signed by GSMA Director General Mats Granryd and ICANN President and CEO Göran Marby."*

*"Over the years, mobile networks have evolved to become a critical infrastructure for Internet services, especially in developing countries. The goal of the MoU is to advance the organizations' shared objective of fostering the continuous expansion of interoperable networks and the deployment of information and communication technology."*

## Diary Dates

### Cybersecurity and Data Opportunities in Sub-Saharan Africa – 05.03.18

London, England

### Living in the Internet of Things- Cybersecurity of the IoT – 28.03.18-29.03.18

London, England

### RSA – 16.04.18–20.04.18

San Francisco, USA

### Data Centre Risk Radar- Technical Skills Shortage – 26.04.18

London, England

### Africa Internet Summit – 29.04.18-11.05.18

Dakar, Senegal

### EuroDIG – 05.06.18-06.06.18

Tbilisi, Georgia