28 March 2018

Synopsis

Scroll to read full summaries with links to news articles.

China has announced that they are likely to license **fifth generation mobile** technology to telecom carriers by the second half of 2019.

During an inaugural ASEAN-Australia Summit, **Australia** and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (**ASEAN**) agreed to cooperate closer on issues such as **cybersecurity**.

The **Dubai Future Foundation**, a network of global partners signed a partnership agreement with nine global firms including internet giants **Facebook** and **Microsoft** to support the **One Million Arab Coders** initiative by providing training opportunities, internships, infrastructure and tech jobs for the Arab youth.

A warning has been issued by twenty-eight European Heads of State over claims that data analytics firm **Cambridge Analytica** illegally used the information of fifty million Facebook users to influence the **US elections** and the **Brexit** referendum vote.

The **European Commission** have announced they are planning to apply tougher **consumer protection** laws to social media network **Facebook** and email provider **Gmail** so that they can better regulate them if they misuse **personal data**.

The **UK** government have unveiled a new strategy to help UK **cybersecurity** firms to sell their products and services overseas. According to the **Department for International Trade** five key export markets have been identified, these include the **US**, **Singapore**, the **Gulf**, **India** and **Japan**.

The **United States** have announced a $400 million Federal **Government Spending** Bill to be used to purchase secure **voting** machines and improve election **cybersecurity** training.

Internet giant **Facebook** could be faced with massive fines after failing to protect the **personal data** of users from the data analytics firm **Cambridge Analytica** who illegally used that information to influence the **US elections**.

US lawmakers have sent a letter to US Ambassador **Geronimo Gutierrrez** in **Mexico** urging him to probe into an investigation in which the Mexican Government are accused of using **spyware** intended for **surveillance** of terrorists to track human rights lawyers, activists and journalists.

Telecommunications firm, **Swift Networks** said they will provide ten thousand **internet hotspots** to **Lagos** between now and the next six months.

The Nigerian Government are failing to utilise a $408 million **internet access fund** to be spent on increasing **internet connectivity** and access opportunities in **Nigeria**.

A new joint **cybersecurity** centre has opened in **Australia** which aims to improve the cybersecurity of businesses in all sectors and the Australian Government by creating a trusted environment where they can share information on cyber threats and develop collaborative solutions.

The five-day **Mobile Learning Week** event started last week addressed the **digital skills** required to create a connected global economy and society with experts in the field.

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 March 2018

Table of Contents

Europe

Internet governance

21.03.18

Euractiv

[New EU tax on tech giants' revenue is not 'anti-US', Moscovici insists](#)

EU Commissioner, Pierre Moscovici said the new taxation system that will see large digital companies paying 3% will affect several American technology companies however this is about 'fairness' and it is not an 'anti-US tax.'

"After half a year of intense debate and bickering between member states, the European Commission proposed on Wednesday (21 March) a new system for taxing digital companies that will charge large firms 3% of their revenue."

"The EU executive said it will affect between 120 and 150 companies—and half of those are American tech giants. The plan also sparked immediate backlash from American tech companies."

22.03.18

Euractiv

[EU plans to pull 'free' digital services under consumer protection rules](#)

The European Commission have announced they are planning to apply tougher consumer protection laws to social media network Facebook and email provider Gmail so that they can better regulate them if they misuse personal data.

"Digital services that collect users' data, like Facebook and Gmail, will be pulled under EU consumer protection rules as part of a European Commission overhaul due next month. Possible sanctions will be raised to up to 4% of a company's turnover."

"A major overhaul of EU consumer rules is set to extend the bloc's existing laws to services that collect users' data as payment instead of money, according to a leaked draft of the proposal that EURACTIV has obtained."

22.03.18

Euractiv

[EU heads of state issue warning over Facebook data case](#)

A warning has been issued by twenty-Eight European Heads of State over claims that data analytics firm Cambridge Analytica used the information of fifty million Facebook users to influence political campaigns. They all agreed that it was of paramount importance that data was protected.

"The 28 EU heads of state issued a warning shot on Thursday (22 March) over allegations that 50 million Facebook users' data was harvested without their consent to influence political campaigns."

"Social networks and digital platforms need to guarantee transparent practices and full protection of citizens' privacy and personal data," read conclusions from the leaders' discussion at a European Council summit in Brussels."

22.03.18

Computer Weekly

[Chancellor of the exchequer announces UK fintech strategy](#)

Philip Hammond the UK Chancellor of the Exchequer has unveiled the UK's first financial technology (fintech) strategy which will see the creation of a cryptocurrency taskforce and new industry standards to make it easier and cheaper for companies to partner with existing banks.

"The government has outlined its plans to support the financial technology industry in the UK."

"The UK government has announced its strategy for the financial technology (fintech) sector, which will attempt to create an environment in which fintech firms can prosper."

22.03.18

Computer Weekly

[Mayor of London kick-starts drive to make city top for AI](#)

The Mayor of London Sadiq Khan has commissioned a new study on companies providing artificial intelligence (AI) to address the opportunities the technology poses and maximise the positive impact that AI will have on the UK economy.

"London mayor Sadiq Khan commissions a study to look at improving the capital's readiness for artificial intelligence."

"The mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has put his name behind a study that seeks to raise the profile of the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the city."

22.03.18

Computer Weekly

[**Pressure grows on government to clarify post-Brexit position on UK-EU data flows**](#)

TechUK the trade association for the technology industry in the UK has urged the UK Government to provide clarity on whether data flows between the UK and EU will remain the same post-Brexit and during the twenty-one-month transition period.

"TechUK says clear guidance is needed on whether the UK will need a data adequacy agreement in place during the 21-month Brexit transition period."

"The government is coming under increasing pressure to provide concrete assurances that data flows between the UK and EU will be allowed to continue unhindered post-Brexit."

26.03.18

Computer Weekly

[**UK government publishes export strategy for UK cyber security**](#)

UK government have unveiled a new strategy to help UK cyber security firms to sell their products and services overseas. According to the Department for International Trade five key export markets have been identified. These include the US, Singapore, the Gulf, India and Japan.

"The government has published a guide for UK cyber security firms on how it plans to support their efforts to find and secure opportunities to export their products and services."

"The accelerated pace of digital change brings a great opportunity to promote the UK's cyber security expertise to international markets, according to Liam Fox, secretary of state for international trade."

26.0318

Euractiv

[European elections face the challenge of fake news](#)

The European Parliament have announced that they will launch a 'not neutral' information campaign ahead of the 2019 European elections to deal with fake news.

"To tackle fake news ahead of the 2019 European elections, the European Parliament will launch 'a not neutral' information campaign, according to the institution's spokesman and media director, Jaume Duch. EURACTIV's partner Euroefe *reports."*

"The issue of false information is fundamental, but it isn't new. Fake news on European issues has been around for a long time. Brexit is the result of 30 years of false information," Duch said at an informal lunch organised by the New Economy Forum in Madrid."

Cybersecurity

21.03.18

Euractiv

[France and Estonia strengthen digital cooperation](#)

France and Estonia have both signed an agreement to deal with cybersecurity related issues together and share the technical solutions used to combat the threats.

"Paris and Tallinn have signed an e-government agreement to combat cyberattacks and develop the digital economy. EURACTIV's partner La Tribune reports."

"There are three chapters to the agreement signed on March 19 by Mounir Mahjoubi, French Secretary of State in charge of Digital Affairs, and Urve Palo, Estonian Minister of Entrepreneurship and Information Technology: digital governance, digital economy, and cybersecurity. It also mentions the possibility of "sharing existing technical solutions", "organising [joint] events", setting up "pilot projects" and increasing "expert visits". Each country will have to appoint an advisor by the end of the month."

22.03.18

Euractiv

[EU leaders back UK on Russia, hold off on trade](#)

Twenty-eight-member states have shown their support for the UK after Theresa May denounced Russia as the culprits in the poisoning attack in Salisbury. One of the options they are considering is cyberwarfare with Russia.

Leaders of the 28 EU member states are meeting in Brussels on 22-23 March for high-level talks on issues ranging from the Salisbury poisoning attack to relations with Turkey, US and Russia, and visions for a reform of the eurozone.

The agenda highlights include: Poisoning/Russia: EU leaders backed Britain in the night of 22 March in blaming Moscow over a nerve agent attack on a former Russian spy in England and agreed to recall their ambassador to Moscow for consultations.

23.03.18

SC Media

[Security industry reacts to UK police cyber-crime budget revelations](#)

A new report called Policing and Cybercrime has revealed that the UK police force spend a merger £1.3 million on cyber-crime training in the last three years.

"As UK police forces are revealed to have spent just £1.3 million on cyber-crime training in the last three years, security industry response is damning."

"A freedom of information request enabled Parliament Street to determine that cyber-crime training expenditure by UK police forces is shamefully low. How low might that be? Well the ['Policing and Cybercrime' report*](#) revealed that in terms of cyber-crime training budgets the total spend across all forces that responded, including the British Transport Police and Ministry of Defence Police Service, was just £1,320,341 spread across the last three years."*

26.03.18

Computer Weekly

[Dutch SMEs' cyber security is insufficient](#)

According to Christian Oudenbroek, Director at Brand Compliance, a cloud service company, 80% to 90% of digitalised small and medium sized enterprises in the Netherlands do not comply with the EU's General Data Protection Regulation.

"Nowhere in the Netherlands is digitisation as big as it is in small and medium-sized enterprises, but the sector still has a lot to do in terms of cyber security."

"Between 80% and 90% of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the Netherlands do not comply with the rules of the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which comes into force this year and will be strictly audited by Dutch privacy watchdog AP from 25 May."

Privacy

22.03.18

Computer Weekly

[Privacy group calls for UK response to data exploitation](#)

Privacy International, a group which defends the right to privacy has urged the UK Government to introduce 'stringent safeguards' to protect personal data after data analytics firm Cambridge Analytica was found to illegally use information from Facebook users to influence the US election.

"Policy-makers need to respond swiftly to the Cambridge Analytica and Facebook data exploitation scandal, according to privacy rights group."

"Privacy International says the Facebook and Cambridge Analytica data exploitation scandal is a wake-up call for UK policy-makers."

26.03.18

Computer Weekly

[Apple CEO calls for better privacy regulations](#)

The CEO of internet giant Apple has urged for better privacy regulations after data analytics firm illegally used the data of fifty million Facebook users to influence the US elections.

"Apple's CEO is calling for better data privacy regulations as Elon Musk joins Brian Acton in supporting the #DeleteFacebook campaign."

"The storm around Facebook's controversial data sharing with Cambridge Analytica continued at the weekend despite efforts by the social networking firm's chief to contain the fallout."

27.03.18

Euractiv

[Whistleblower alleges illegal use of Facebook data swung Brexit vote](#)

Chris Wylie, a former employee at data analytics firm Cambridge Analytica explained to MPs how the firm illegally used the data of users on Facebook to influence the UK's 2016 Brexit referendum vote.

"Cambridge Analytica illegally rigged the 2016 Brexit referendum by harvesting Facebook profiles, a whistleblower has told MPs."

"During a three-hour-long hearing, Chris Wylie, a former employee of Cambridge Analytica, told British MPs that the London-based data analysis firm broke UK law."

Internet Inclusion

23.03.18

ITU

[Mobile Learning Week 2018 to focus on digital skills needed to live, work and learn in a connected world](#)

The five-day Mobile Learning Week event starting last week will address the digital skills required to create a connected global economy and society.

"Mobile Learning Week 2018 takes place 26-30 March in Paris, France, under the theme "Skills for a connected world".

"Organized by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in partnership with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the five-day event will examine the digital skills needed to create a connected global economy and society. It will also focus on opportunities to leverage information and communication technologies (ICTs) towards expanded educational opportunities for all."

United States of America

Internet governance

21.03.18

Euractiv

[New EU tax on tech giants' revenue is not 'anti-US', Moscovici insists](#)

EU Commissioner, Pierre Moscovici said the new taxation system that will see large digital companies paying 3% of their revenue is about fairness and while a lot of American technology companies are affected this is not a 'anti-US tax.'

"After half a year of intense debate and bickering between member states, the European Commission proposed on Wednesday (21 March) a new system for taxing digital companies that will charge large firms 3% of their revenue."

"The EU executive said it will affect between 120 and 150 companies—and half of those are American tech giants. The plan also sparked immediate backlash from American tech companies."

22.03.18

Channel News Asia

[US Senate passes bill to penalise websites for sex trafficking](#)

The United States Senate has passed legislation that will give them the power to sue social media networks and website owners if they facilitate and advertise online sex trafficking.

"The U.S. Senate passed legislation on Wednesday aimed at penalising website operators that facilitate online sex trafficking, chipping away at a bedrock legal shield for the technology industry."

"The bill passed the House of Representatives last month and was expected to be signed into law as soon as this week by President Donald Trump."

26.03.18

Computer Weekly

[UK government publishes export strategy for UK cyber security](#)

UK government have unveiled a new strategy to help UK cyber security firms to sell their products and services overseas. According to the Department for International Trade five key export markets have been identified. These include the US, Singapore, the Gulf, India and Japan.

"The government has published a guide for UK cyber security firms on how it plans to support their efforts to find and secure opportunities to export their products and services."

"The accelerated pace of digital change brings a great opportunity to promote the UK's cyber security expertise to international markets, according to Liam Fox, secretary of state for international trade."

26.03.18

Channel NewsAsia

[Twitter bans crytocurrency ads on fraud fears](#)

Internet giant Twitter has banned cryptocurrency advertisements on their platforms to protect users from fraudsters, consequently this has sent the value of Bitcoin to below $8,000.

"Twitter on Monday (Mar 26) announced a ban on ads for initial offerings of cryptocurrency or sales of virtual currency tokens, sending the value of bitcoin diving below US$8,000."

"Twitter followed the lead of Google and Facebook, which earlier this year cracked down on digital currency ads to protect users from being duped."

Cybersecurity

22.03.18

Channel NewsAsia

[US spending bill to provide US$380 million for election cyber security: sources](#)

The United States have announced a $400 million Federal Government Spending Bill to be used to purchase secure voting machines and improve election cybersecurity training.

"Lawmakers have included nearly US$400 million in a massive federal government spending bill to help safeguard U.S. voting systems from cyber attacks, three sources familiar with negotiations said on Wednesday."

"The spending package, expected to be publicly unveiled on Wednesday, includes US$380 million to provide states with grants that would help them purchase more secure voting machines and improve election cyber security training."

Privacy

21.03.18

Channel News Asia

'Delete Facebook' movement gains prominent backer

Internet giant Facebook has dominated the headlines for its handling over user's data and because of this a movement called #deletefacebook has gained momentum.

"As Facebook reels from the scandal over hijacked personal data, a movement to quit the social network has gathered momentum, getting a boost from a high-profile co-founder of the WhatsApp messaging service acquired by the huge social network in 2014."

""It is time. #deletefacebook," Brian Acton said in a tweet, using the hashtag protesting the handling of the crisis by the world's biggest social network."

26.03.18

Computer Weekly

Apple CEO calls for better privacy regulations

The CEO of internet giant Apple has urged for better privacy regulations after data analytics firm illegally used the data of fifty million Facebook users to influence the US elections.

"Apple's CEO is calling for better data privacy regulations as Elon Musk joins Brian Acton in supporting the #DeleteFacebook campaign."

"The storm around Facebook's controversial data sharing with Cambridge Analytica continued at the weekend despite efforts by the social networking firm's chief to contain the fallout."

27.03.18

Computer Weekly

[**Facebook could be hit with $2tn fine after FTC inquiry**](#)

Internet giant Facebook could be faced with massive fines after failing to protect the personal data of users from the data analytics firm Cambridge Analytica who illegally used that information to influence the US elections.

"Facebook could face huge fines as the result of a federal inquiry into the data exploitation scandal, further underlining the importance of personal data protection for all enterprises."

"The fallout from the Facebook-Cambridge Analytica data exploitation scandal should leave no organisation in doubt about the consequences of failing to protect personal data."

27.03.18

Euractiv

[**Whistleblower alleges illegal use of Facebook data swung Brexit vote**](#)

Chris Wylie, a former employee at data analytics firm Cambridge Analytica explained to MPs how the firm illegally used the data of users on Facebook to influence the UK's 2016 Brexit referendum vote.

"Cambridge Analytica illegally rigged the 2016 Brexit referendum by harvesting Facebook profiles, a whistleblower has told MPs."

"During a three-hour-long hearing, Chris Wylie, a former employee of Cambridge Analytica, told British MPs that the London-based data analysis firm broke UK law."

27.03.18

SC Media

[**U.S. lawmakers ask Mexican government for updates on spyware probe**](#)

US lawmakers have sent a letter to US Ambassador Geronimo Gutierrrez in Mexico urging him to probe into an investigation in which the Mexican Government are accused of using spyware intended for surveillance of terrorists to spy on human rights lawyers, activists and journalists.

"Nine months after the Mexican government was found to be using spyware intended for surveillance of terrorists and criminals to spy to journalists, activists and human rights lawyers, U.S. lawmakers have sent a letter to Mexico's U.S.

Ambassador Geronimo Gutierrez, calling for a comprehensive and transparent probe into the operation."

"We believe that it is imperative that the Government of Mexico carry out a serious, transparent, thorough, and impartial investigation into the illegal use of spyware, and bring to justice any public official or government agency involved in the matter."

Internet Inclusion

23.03.18

US Department of Education

[Cybersecurity Workforce Development](#)

The US Department of Education have published a document seeking industry advice on how to train, retain and track its cybersecurity workforce. They aim is to 'update position descriptions to capture the work employees should be doing as well as develop positions descriptions for future workforce needs.'

"The Education Department knows it needs a strong cybersecurity workforce. It even has a framework for what constitutes "strong." The only problem: officials aren't sure who they need to hire to get there."

"The department issued a request for information seeking industry input on how to organize its cybersecurity workforce, identify talent gaps and provide the right kind of training to all employees."

27.03.18

IT News Africa

[Skills gaps to cause 75% of organisations to experience disruptions by 2020](#)

According to Gartner, Inc., a leading research and advisory company have predicted that by 2020, 75% of digital businesses will experience disruptions in their businesses because of the infrastructure and operations skills gap.

"Organisations are not adequately addressing the infrastructure and operations (I&O) skills gaps that will impede their digital business initiatives, according to Gartner, Inc. Successful I&O organisations will need to implement vastly different roles and technologies during the next five years."

"Gartner forecasts that, by 2019, IT technical specialist hires will fall by more than 5 percent. Moreover, by 2021, 40 percent of IT staff will hold multiple roles, most of which will be business-related rather than technology-related."

28.03.18

Open Gov

[Dubai Future Foundation collaborates with 9 global firms under One Million Arab Coders initiative](#)

The Dubai Future Foundation, a network of global partners signed a partnership agreement with nine global firms including internet giants Facebook, Microsoft to support the One Million Arab Coders initiative by providing training opportunities, internships, infrastructure and tech jobs for the Arab youth.

"The 9 international firms will provide training opportunities, internship opportunities, infrastructure services and even job opportunities for Arab youth."

"The Dubai Future Foundation (DFF) has announced the signing of partnership agreements with several major international firms to support the One Million Arab Coders initiative launched in October last year."

Pan-Asia

Internet governance

26.03.18

Computer Weekly

[UK government publishes export strategy for UK cyber security](#)

UK government have unveiled a new strategy to help UK cybersecurity firms to sell their products and services overseas. According to the Department for International Trade five key export markets have been identified. These include the US, Singapore, the Gulf, India and Japan.

"The government has published a guide for UK cyber security firms on how it plans to support their efforts to find and secure opportunities to export their products and services."

"The accelerated pace of digital change brings a great opportunity to promote the UK's cyber security expertise to international markets, according to Liam Fox, secretary of state for international trade."

26.03.18

Open Gov

[Minister-in-Charge of Smart Nation outlines Singapore's approach to IoT](#)

Dr Vivian Balakrishnan the Singapore Minister for Foreign Affairs said with the emergence of platform technologies such as robotics and artificial intelligence, security must be built into products by design rather than rolled out after so that threats are successfully mitigated.

"Minister-in-Charge of Smart Nation Dr Vivian Balakrishnan outlines Singapore's approach to IoT in the current technological and digital revolution."

"On Mar 21, speaking at the IoT Asia 2018 Conference, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister-in-Charge of Smart Nation Dr Vivian Balakrishnan outlined Singapore's approach to Internet of Things (IoT)."

28.03.18

Channel NewsAsia

[Intention is key in distinguishing fake news from honest opinion, says TOC co-founder Andrew Loh](#)

Addressing the Singapore Parliament's Select Committee on Online Deliberate Falsehoods, Mr Andrew Loh a blogger suggested the creation of an independent body to monitor fake news and deal with cases.

"In his written representation, Mr. Loh also suggested forming an independent body to deal with alleged fake news cases, as any new legislation will "add to the already-present perception that the Government is killing a fly with a hammer".

"When deciding if one should be guilty of spreading falsehoods online, the intention behind the content should be one of the basic guiding principles so as not to stifle free speech."

Cybersecurity

24.03.18

Open Gov

[Initiatives on cybersecurity, digital trade and smart cities announced at inaugural ASEAN-Australia Summit](#)

During an inaugural ASEAN-Australia Summit, Australia and ASEAN, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations agreed to cooperate closer on issues such as cybersecurity.

The A$30 million ASEAN-Australia Smart Cities initiative aims to enhance collaboration between ASEAN and Australia on smart and sustainable city design, while another initiative seeks to develop Digital Trade Standards for the region.

The inaugural ASEAN-Australia Special Summit concluded on March 18, with the regional leaders agreeing on the Sydney Declaration.

27.03.18

Open Gov

[**NTU joins force with industry partner to develop cybersecurity solutions for automotive sector**](#)

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore signed a memorandum of understanding to create solutions to the cybersecurity threat faced by the automotive industry with automotive electronics developer Desay SV Automotive.

"Today, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to partner leading automotive electronics developer Desay SV Automotive (Desay SV) to develop innovative solutions for mitigating cyber security threats faced by the automotive industry."

"The MoU was signed by Prof Thambipillai Srikanthan, Executive Director of the Cyber Security Research Centre @ NTU (CYSREN), and Mr Azmoon Ahmad, Senior Vice-President and Member of the Executive Management of Desay SV, at the CyberTech Asia Conference 2018."

Privacy

24.03.18

Channel NewsAsia

[**To tackle deliberate online falsehoods, look also to non-legislative efforts**](#)

The Singaporean Select Committee on Deliberate Online Falsehoods debated the role legislation could play in combating the problem. Several experts argued that while legislation can play a role it cannot be the only solution because legislation will always be behind the technological tools used to produce online falsehoods.

"In the first two weeks of public hearings by the Select Committee on Deliberate Online Falsehoods, the role of legislation in countering deliberate online falsehoods was debated by academics and experts."

"Several experts agree that legislation can play a role in the fight against deliberate online falsehoods, but there are gaps in existing legislation due to rapid advancements in technology which need to be plugged."

28.03.18

Channel NewsAsia

[Airbnb to start sharing Chinese host information with government](#)

US home rental service Airbnb has announced it will comply with China's privacy and information disclosure laws and will start disclosing host information to the Chinese Government.

"US short-term rental service Airbnb Inc said it would start disclosing host information to Chinese government agencies starting on Friday (March 30), as the San Francisco-based company complies with regulations in China."

"China's strict regulations on residency require citizens and tourists to register their addresses with the police when they arrive in the country or stay at a hotel, within 24 hours."

Internet Inclusion

22.03.18

China Daily

[5G devices set to mature soon](#)

China have announced that they are likely to license fifth generation mobile technology to telecom carriers by the second half of 2019.

"China is likely to issue 5G licenses to telecom carriers in the second half of next year at the earliest as the nation scrambles to commercialize next-generation mobile communication technology, Wang Zhiqin, an expert with the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, told China Daily on Wednesday."

"5G devices will be mature for commercial applications in China in 2019. We will be among the first batch of countries to issue 5G licenses in the world, most likely between the second half of 2019 and the first half of 2020," said Wang, vice-president of the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology, a government think tank affiliated with the ministry."

28.03.18

Open Gov

[Dubai Future Foundation collaborates with 9 global firms under One Million Arab Coders initiative](#)

The Dubai Future Foundation, a network of global partners signed a partnership agreement with nine global firms including internet giants Facebook, Microsoft to support the One Million Arab Coders initiative by providing training opportunities, internships, infrastructure and tech jobs for the Arab youth.

"The 9 international firms will provide training opportunities, internship opportunities, infrastructure services and even job opportunities for Arab youth."

"The Dubai Future Foundation (DFF) has announced the signing of partnership agreements with several major international firms to support the One Million Arab Coders initiative launched in October last year."

Rest of the World

Internet governance

28.03.18

Channel NewsAsia

New Zealand privacy commissioner joins criticism of Facebook data handling

New Zealand's Privacy Commissioner has openly condemned Facebook for 'breaking the law' by denying a citizen access to private data belonging to other users.

"New Zealand's privacy commissioner joined international criticism against Facebook Inc, saying on Wednesday it has broken the law by declining a citizen access to personal information held on the accounts of other users."

"In a statement, the commissioner said that after being notified of its complaint, Facebook responded that it did not have to comply with the body's demand for the information."

28.03.18

The Guardian

ICT is critical to governance, says Ekuwem

The Secretary to the Akwa Ibom State Government, Emmanuel Ekuwem stressed the importance of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) to Nigeria. He said it was integral for the development of several sectors including law enforcement, health, education, transport and even the Government.

"Emmanuel Ekuwem is the Secretary to the Akwa Ibom State Government (SSG). Prior to the new appointment, he was the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Teledom Group, a leading Information and Communications Technology (ICT) firm."

"An alumnus of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife (formerly University of Ife), Ekuwem holds a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering Physics, double Master's in Physics, Electronic & Electrical Engineering (Microcomputer-based Instrumentation and Control Engineering) as well as a doctorate in Electronic and Electrical Engineering (Computer-based Instrumentation and Control Engineering)"

Cybersecurity

22.03.18

Euractiv

[EU leaders back UK on Russia, hold off on trade](#)

Twenty-eight-member states have shown their support for the UK after Theresa May denounced Russia as the culprits in the poisoning attack in Salisbury. One of the options they are considering is cyberwarfare with Russia.

Leaders of the 28 EU member states are meeting in Brussels on 22-23 March for high-level talks on issues ranging from the Salisbury poisoning attack to relations with Turkey, US and Russia, and visions for a reform of the eurozone.

The agenda highlights include: Poisoning/Russia: EU leaders backed Britain in the night of 22 March in blaming Moscow over a nerve agent attack on a former Russian spy in England and agreed to recall their ambassador to Moscow for consultations.

23.03.18

Open Gov

[New joint cyber security centre launched in Sydney](#)

A new joint cybersecurity centre has opened in Australia which aims to improve the cybersecurity of businesses in all sectors and the Australian Government by creating a trusted environment where they can share information on cyber threats and develop collaborative solutions.

"The new Sydney centre is part of the Australian Government's A$47m Joint Cyber Security Centre program. Currently, there are JCSCs located in Brisbane, Perth, Melbourne and Sydney, with the Adelaide centre due to open later in 2018."

"A new joint cyber security centre that promotes collaboration across government, business and academia has launched in Sydney on 21 March by the Minister for Law Enforcement and Cyber Security, Angus Taylor."

24.03.18

Open Gov

[Initiatives on cybersecurity, digital trade and smart cities announced at inaugural ASEAN-Australia Summit](#)

During an inaugural ASEAN-Australia Summit, Australia and ASEAN, The Association of Southeast Asian Nations agreed to enhance regional on complex threats such as cybersecurity.

"The A$30 million ASEAN-Australia Smart Cities initiative aims to enhance collaboration between ASEAN and Australia on smart and sustainable city design, while another initiative seeks to develop Digital Trade Standards for the region."

"The inaugural ASEAN-Australia Special Summit concluded on March 18, with the regional leaders agreeing on the Sydney Declaration."

Privacy

No new items of relevance

Internet Inclusion

21.03.18

The Guardian

[Accenture to mentor eight technology entrepreneurs](#)

Niyi Yusuf, Managing Director of Management Consulting firm, Accenture in Nigeria have announced that they will mentor eight tech entrepreneurs to address the skills gap.

"Following the Nigerian Economic Summit (NESG) #23 Startups pitching event held recently, Accenture Nigeria has expressed its readiness to mentor eight selected tech entrepreneurs chosen by a team of investor experts for startups."

"The eight tech entrepreneurs are L&L Foods, Accounteer, My Padi, Academix, Piggy Bank, Insight Africa, Ojoro Kitchen and Edusko."

21.03.18

The Guardian

[Operator brings 10,000 wi-fi hotspots to Lagos for broadband](#)

Telecommunications firm, Swift Networks said they will provide ten thousand internet hotspots to Lagos between now and the next six months.

"Facilities based telecommunications firm, Swift Networks, will bring 10, 000 wi-fi hotspots to Lagos between now and the next six months."

"To achieve this, Swift Network will partner with leading global brands to offer the service, which is going to be free, at designated places in the state."

21.03.18

The Guardian

[$408m Internet access funds idle in Nigeria, others](#)

The Nigerian Government are failing to utilise a $408 million internet access fund to be spent on increasing internet connectivity and access opportunities in Nigeria.

"About $408 million expected to help Nigeria, and other sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries expand Internet access and reach on the Continent, is said to be lying idle. The fund is otherwise known as Universal Service and Access Funds (USAFs)."

"USAFs are communal public funds dedicated to expanding Internet connectivity and access opportunities for the populations and other underserved communities who are least likely to be connected through market forces alone."

26.03.18

IT News Africa

[Samsung set to enhance learning with School in a Box](#)

Technology company Samsung Electronics in South Africa have created the 'School in a Box' solution, a tablet which encompasses digital learning programmes to deal with the digital skills gap.

"Anyone entering the workforce today must have at the very least a basic knowledge of technology and how to navigate a digital world."

"Depending on the industry or type of job, the level of knowledge required differs."

29.03.18

IT News Africa

University of Cape Town now offers FinTech short course for business

The University of Cape Town have announced that they are now offering short courses on Financial Technology (FinTech) for businesses to address the skills gap.

"According to the recent Finnovating for Africa report released by media and research company Disrupt Africa, Africa is already home to more than 300 Fintech startups, having raised almost $100 million over the last 2.5 years. But the industry is crying out for skilled professionals who understand the technology and are able to capitalise on its potential."

"So says Dr. Co-Pierre Georg, Associate Professor at the African Institute of Financial Markets and Risk Management (AIFMRM) at UCT and convener of a brand new course on Facing the Fintech Challenge at the UCT Graduate School of Business (GSB)."

Global Institutions

23.03.18

ITU

[Mobile Learning Week 2018 to focus on digital skills needed to live, work and learn in a connected world](#)

The five-day Mobile Learning Week event started last week addressed the digital skills required to create a connected global economy and society with experts in the field.

"Mobile Learning Week 2018 takes place 26-30 March in Paris, France, under the theme "Skills for a connected world".

"Organized by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in partnership with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the five-day event will examine the digital skills needed to create a connected global economy and society. It will also focus on opportunities to leverage information and communication technologies (ICTs) towards expanded educational opportunities for all."

Diary Dates

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

Cyber in the Digital Economy – 17.05.18

London, England

2018 Digital Festival – 21.05.18

London, England

Diversity in Technology – 24.05.18

London, England

EuroDIG – 05.06.18-06.06.18

Tbilisi, Georgia

Data Centres Risk Radar – 24.06.18

London, England