



05 September 2018

Synopsis

Scroll to read full summaries with links to news articles.

The **Chinese** President **Xi Jinping** has said the **internet** must be 'clean and righteous' and free of 'vulgar' content at a time when the country is significantly tightening its control over the web.

Singapore launched two new initiatives, '**AI for Everyone Programme**' and the '**national artificial intelligence (AI) initiative**' which seek to help adults and school students as young as 13 years old become more familiar with AI and gain necessary skills for the job market.

China launched a new platform called **Piyao** to give the public an opportunity to report 'online rumours' as the country attempts to police the **internet** and **social media** which is used by people to discuss **politics**. The platform will publish 'real' news from the state-owned media and party controlled local newspapers.

The **Five Eyes** alliance of countries has called on **UK** tech firms to give law enforcement access to **encrypted messages**.

The **European Commission** presented the **United States** with an ultimatum to comply with **Privacy Shield** or risk complete suspension of the EU US data sharing agreement. Despite the 1 September deadline for this, the US seems to have made little changes to comply.

California has passed a **Bill** known as **SB 822** which approves the state's strict **net neutrality** rules, and it now awaits the signature of Governor Jerry Brown, a Democrat, before the Bill becomes law. The Bill would reinstate many of the regulations removed by the Federal Communications Commission in 2017.

Internet giants **Facebook** and **Twitter** will meet with **US lawmakers** on Wednesday, 12 September, to discuss **election interference**, **censorship**, and the accusation that Twitter's operations are influenced by politics.

The **United States** has passed bipartisan legislation to entrench an important **cybersecurity** program, known as **Continuous Diagnostics Mitigation**, within the **Department of Homeland Security**.

Messaging app **Telegram** announced plans to share phone numbers and IP addresses in terror investigations, however, it has outrightly denied the Russian Government investigators access to **decrypted messages**.

British multinational telecommunications conglomerate **Vodafone** launched the '**Vodafone Ghana National Coding Programme**' in partnership with **Accra Digital Centre** to help **Ghanaian youth** with ages between 14 and 18 years to code. This scheme is expected to help 10,000 youth.

Australia announced that **Chinese** telecommunications company **Huawei** will be **banned** from Australia's 5G networks due to the company's links to Beijing.

French President **Emmanuel Macron** has encouraged the EU to 'reconsider' relations with **Russia** by working with Russia to construct new '**security architecture**.' He wants Europe to build its own defenses as well as remaining part of its current alliance with NATO.

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

05 September 2018

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Europe

Internet governance

27.09.18

Euractiv

[Commission to crack down on data misuse ahead of European Elections](#)

The European Commission are set to crack down on personal data retrieved from social networks and will draft an amendment to stop political parties from using online data to influence the 2019 European elections.

“The European Commission is set to announce plans to clamp down on the misuse of personal data retrieved from social networks in the run-up to the 2019 European Elections, the Financial Times reported on Sunday (26 August).”

“The move comes after the Cambridge Analytica scandal made headlines earlier this year with the company’s acquisition of personal data from Facebook users causing outrage.”

28.08.18

Computer Weekly

[Challenge to anti-GDPR immigration exemption in DPA to go ahead](#)

Open Rights Group and the3million digital campaigning groups are challenging an immigration exemption in the EU’s Charter of Fundamental Rights because they claim it conflicts with GDPR.

“Two human rights groups are challenging a controversial clause in new UK data protection legislation that they say is in conflict with the EU’s Charter of Fundamental Rights and undermines the General Data Protection Regulation.”

“Digital campaigning organisation the Open Rights Group and the3million group, representing EU citizens living in the UK, have announced that they are forging ahead with a judicial review challenging an immigration exemption in the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018.”

04.09.18

Computer Weekly

[UK and allies call for backdoors in encryption products](#)

An Intelligence alliance dubbed Five Eyes that consists of the UK, US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand have called on UK tech firms to give law enforcement access to encrypted messages.

“The Five Eyes intelligence alliance is calling on tech firms to include backdoors in their encrypted products to give access to law enforcement authorities or face various measures.”

“The governments of the UK, US and other Five Eyes alliance partners Canada, Australia and New Zealand say government authorities should be able to seek access to otherwise private information.”

04.09.18

Diginomica

[Europe's Privacy Shield threat deadline has passed and no-one in Washington has blinked](#)

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“One of the challenges with issuing threats is having to weigh up the risk of your bluff being called and whether you're prepared to follow through on talking tough.”

“That's pretty much where we are now with the Privacy Shield transatlantic data transfer arrangement – and that's got serious implications for US tech providers and their users.”

Cybersecurity

30.08.18

The Express

[Macron's BLOW to NATO amid plans to 'team up' with Russia's defense](#)

French President Emmanuel Macron has encouraged the EU to 'reconsider' relations with Russia by working with the country to construct new 'security architecture.' He wants Europe to build its own defenses as well as remaining part of its current alliance with NATO.

"FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron has urged European states to work with Russia and construct new security architecture, in a bid to strengthen defense capabilities within the European Union."

On Thursday, Mr Macron told a joint news conference in Helsinki the EU must rebuild European security architecture and "reconsider" relations with Russia, as well as pursue "strategic relations" with Turkey and other neighbouring countries.

Privacy

30.08.18

Computer Weekly

[Machine identity management crisis looming](#)

According to a new survey by research company Forrester and security company Venafi, several firms are struggling to deliver basic machine identity protections and therefore this problem is emerging as the next big security challenge.

"Managing machine identities is looming as the next big security challenge, a study reveals, with few organisations capable of protecting them as they increasingly form the basis of online communications."

"The majority of global IT decision makers believe protecting machine identities is as important to security as protecting human identities – and potentially even more important, a survey shows."

Internet Inclusion

23.08.18

Computer Weekly

More girls take GCSE computing in 2018, but will they carry on with Stem?

Research by the Institute for Fiscal Studies found that the number of girls taking GCSE computing rose in 2018, 74,621 students took the course compared to 66,751 in the previous year. The report also found that girls who have achieved high grades in STEM subjects often do not go on to study this at a higher level.

“The number of girls who chose to take GCSE computing rose in 2018, but concerns remain over whether they will continue to study Stem subjects later on.”

“The number of young people who chose to take the computing GCSE in 2018 rose year-on-year, and the number of girls taking the subject is steadily going up. Overall in 2018, 74,621 students took the full-course computing GCSE, an increase from 66,751 in the previous year.”

27.08.18

Computer Weekly

DCMS launches fund to increase diversity in tech

The UK Department of Culture, Media and Sport are investing £1m to increase diversity in technology related roles and help disabled people gain the digital skills they need to enter the industry.

“More than £1m is being put aside to increase the amount of diversity in technology, and to teach disabled people digital skills.”

“The government is to invest £1m in a Digital Skills Innovation Fund that will aim to increase the amount of diversity in digital and technology roles.”

27.08.18

Medium

Cyberbalkanization and the Future of the Internets

Cyberbalkanization is the ‘fragmentation of the global internet into a number of smaller, national-administrated internets aligned along geopolitical boundaries.’ In today’s society the internet is ‘balkanizing’ into several cyber-kingdoms which

are led by China, Russia and Europe. The problem with this is that left unchecked this could ‘radically shape the online world.’

“Balkanization” was first used to describe the fragmentation of the Balkan peninsula in Europe into a collection of smaller, mutually hostile countries drawn along religious and ethnic boundaries.”

“Cyberbalkanization (also termed ‘internet balkanization’) describes the fragmentation of the global internet into a number of smaller, nationally-administered internets aligned along geopolitical boundaries.”

30.08.18

Computer Weekly

[Local councils should have a digital leader at board level, says TechUK](#)

TechUK has published a new guide ‘Council of the future: A digital guide for councillors’ that urges Local Councils to employ a digital leader at board level to drive digital transformation in local authorities.

“Industry body calls on local councillors to have a digital-first mindset, drive transformation and ensure local authorities have digital leadership in place.”

“TechUK has set out guidance for local councillors on how to ensure the right leadership is in place to drive digital transformation in local authorities.”

31.08.18

Computer Weekly

[UK partners with African countries to boost innovation](#)

The UK Prime Minister, Theresa May has announced new partnerships with South Africa, Kenya and Nigeria to help tech startups flourish in these regions.

“UK government has launched partnerships in South Africa, Kenya and Nigeria to help startups grow and boost technology innovation in the region.”

“Prime minister Theresa May announced a series of innovation partnerships across several African countries during her trip to the continent.”

31.08.18

Computer Weekly

[DfE enrolls BCS to deliver computer science teacher training programme](#)

The UK Department for Education has awarded the British Computer Society, a professional body that represents those working in information technology with a three-year contract to encourage more teachers and to train them in STEM subjects.

“Initial Teacher Training Scholarship Programme aims to encourage more people to train to teach science, technology, engineering and maths (Stem) subjects.”

“BCS has been awarded a three-year contract by the Department for Education (DfE) to deliver a scholarship programme for computer science teachers.”

04.09.18

Computer Weekly

[Government confirms West Midlands to become home to UK's first large-scale 5G test bed](#)

The West Midlands will be the first place in the UK where fifth generation mobile network technology will be tested. Trials will commence in its health, construction and automotive sectors.

“The government has confirmed the West Midlands will be used to carry out the UK's first large-scale test of 5G technology, with trials centred on its use in the health, construction and automotive sectors.”

“The West Midlands is set to become home to the UK's first round of 5G trials, with connectivity hubs planned in Birmingham, Coventry and Wolverhampton.”

United States of America

Internet governance

29.08.18

Reuters

[White House investigating Google after Trump accuses it of bias](#)

United States President Donald Trump has lambasted internet giant Google for promoting negative news articles and being politically biased by purposefully muting conservative voices. Google has denied these claims and stated that their search engine is 'not used to set up a political agenda and we don't bias our results towards any political ideology.'

"U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday accused Google's search engine of promoting negative news articles and hiding "fair media" coverage of him, vowing to address the situation without providing evidence or giving details of action he might take."

"Trump's attack against the Alphabet Inc unit follows a string of grievances against technology companies, including social media Twitter Inc and Facebook Inc, which he has accused of silencing conservative voices, and Amazon.com Inc, which he has said is hurting small businesses and benefiting from a favourable deal with the U.S. Postal Services. He frequently berates news outlets for what he perceives as unfair coverage."

01.09.18

Reuters

[California lawmakers send strict 'net neutrality' laws to governor](#)

California has passed a Bill known as SB 822 which approves the states strict net neutrality rules, it now awaits the signature of Governor Jerry Brown, a Democrat before the Bill becomes law. The Bill would reinstate many of the regulations removed by the Federal Communications Commission in 2017.

"California lawmakers sent to the governor's desk for final approval strict "net neutrality" laws on internet providers that would defy sweeping Federal Communications Commission rules seen as a boon for the companies."

"The Democrat-controlled California Senate voted 27-12 to pass the bill, known as SB 822, with just hours left in the legislative session. The measure was approved by their colleagues in the state Assembly one day earlier."

04.09.18

Computer Weekly

[UK and allies call for backdoors in encryption products](#)

The Five Eyes alliance of countries have called on UK tech firms to give law enforcement access to encrypted messages.

“The Five Eyes intelligence alliance is calling on tech firms to include backdoors in their encrypted products to give access to law enforcement authorities or face various measures.”

“The governments of the UK, US and other Five Eyes alliance partners Canada, Australia and New Zealand say government authorities should be able to seek access to otherwise private information.”

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“That’s pretty much where we are now with the Privacy Shield transatlantic data transfer arrangement – and that’s got serious implications for US tech providers and their users..”

04.09.19

The Hill

[House passes bill to allow DHS to ban foreign contractors over supply chain concerns](#)

The United States passed a Bill which if becomes law would grant the Homeland Security Secretary the power to block foreign technology that could potentially

pose a threat to the US without notifying contractors about the ban or giving them the opportunity to appeal.

“The House on Tuesday passed a bill that would allow the Homeland Security secretary to block the agency from working with foreign tech companies whose products or services are believed to pose a potential threat to the U.S.”

“The legislation, sponsored by Rep. Pete King (R-N.Y.), would give the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) chief the authority to review and ban agreements with foreign contractors over supply chain concerns.”

05.09.18

Channel NewsAsia

[Facebook, Twitter face US Congress over politics and the internet](#)

Internet giants Facebook and Twitter will meet with US lawmakers on Wednesday 12th September to discuss election interference, censorship and the accusation that Twitter’s operations are influenced by politics.

“Top Twitter Inc and Facebook Inc executives will defend their companies before U.S. lawmakers on Wednesday, with Facebook insisting it takes election interference seriously and Twitter denying its operations are influenced by politics.”

“Facebook Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg will acknowledge to the Senate Intelligence Committee that the company was too slow to spot Russian efforts to manipulate social media to influence the 2016 U.S. election and vow to improve.”

Cybersecurity

04.09.18

The Hill

[House passes bill to codify key DHS cybersecurity program](#)

The United States passed bipartisan legislation to entrench an important cybersecurity program known as Continuous Diagnostics Mitigation, within the Department of Homeland Security. John Ratcliffe Chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee said the CDM program "has proven to be an indispensable tool for DHS and its National Protection and Programs Directorate in identifying and defending against cyber threats to our federal networks."

“The House on Tuesday passed bipartisan legislation to codify a key cybersecurity program at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).”

“The bill grants Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen the ability to establish the Continuous Diagnostics Mitigation (CDM) program at the agency. The program aims to protect federal networks from cyberattacks.”

Privacy

04.09.18

The Hill

[Federal agency to establish privacy framework](#)

The National Institute of Standards and Technology, a non-regulatory agency of the US Department of Commerce announced that they will create a framework for businesses to use as a guide to help them protect the personal data of individuals who use their products or services.

“The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) announced Tuesday that it will begin to create a framework to guide organizations on how they can protect the information of individuals using their products or services.”

“The non-regulatory agency, responsible for setting scientific standards and housed in the Commerce Department, said in a release that the privacy framework would be based off the framework it previously established for cybersecurity issues.”

06.09.18

The Times

[West faces relentless threat to democracy, say Facebook and Twitter](#)

According to internet giant Facebook and Twitter who appeared before the Senate Intelligence Committee in Washington, the West will continue to face relentless threats from hackers who seek to undermine elections

“Western democracies face a relentless threat from hackers determined to undermine elections, social media leaders warned US senators yesterday.”

“Senior company executives appeared before the Senate intelligence committee in Washington to address fears of misinformation campaigns being conducted in the US midterm elections in November.”

Internet Inclusion

No new items of relevance

Pan-Asia

Internet governance

22.08.18

Channel NewsAsia

[China's Xi says internet must be 'clean and righteous'](#)

The Chinese President Xi Jinping has said the internet must be 'clean and righteous' and free of 'vulgar' content at a time when the country is significantly tightening its control over the web.

"The internet must be "clean and righteous" and vulgar content must be resisted in the field of culture, Chinese President Xi Jinping told a meeting of senior propaganda officials, state media said on Wednesday (Aug 22)."

"The government has been tightening controls over internet content as part of what it says are efforts to maintain social stability, taking on "vulgar" and pornographic content as well as the unauthorised dissemination of news."

30.08.18

Channel NewsAsia

[China launches platform to stamp out 'online rumours'](#)

China launched a new platform called Piyao to give the public an opportunity to report 'online rumours' as the country attempts to police the internet and social media which is used by people to discuss politics. The platform will publish 'real' news from the state-owned media and party controlled local newspapers.

"China has launched a platform, which includes a mobile app, that lets the public report "online rumours" and even uses artificial intelligence to identify reports that are false, as Beijing cracks down on what it views as socially destabilising content."

"The platform, launched on Wednesday, comes as Beijing steps up efforts to police the internet, especially social media used by people to discuss politics and other sensitive subjects, despite stringent censorship."

Cybersecurity

29.08.18

Computer Weekly

Cyber Security Forum Singapore 2018

Singapore will hold its cybersecurity forum on the 8-9 October, the speakers which include Ronald Psaila- CIO, Government of Malta and Dr. Malcolm Shore-CISO, Huawei will share their knowledge of cyber compliance and data integrity.

“Free of corporate norms and societal frameworks, hackers do not have to worry about your organizational cyber security. But what could worry a CIO more than cyber security being at stake? Now- a boardroom agenda, and if its your job to execute and create a secured cyber environment, then the Cyber Security Forum: Data Governance and Transformation Success is for you.”

“You will be equipped with a platform to select the right technologies, develop your people and ensure business resilience through the forum.”

Privacy

No new items of relevance

Internet Inclusion

23.08.18

The Guardian

China’s Huawei, ZTE blocked from Australia’s 5G network

Australia has announced that Chinese telecommunications company Huawei will be banned from Australia’s 5G networks due to the company’s links to Beijing.

“Chinese telecom giants Huawei and ZTE have effectively been banned from rolling out Australia’s 5G network after Canberra warned of security risks with companies beholden to foreign governments, prompting Beijing to denounce “ideological biases”

“Huawei — one of the world’s largest telecommunications equipment and services providers — has been under scrutiny in some countries, including the United States and Australia, over its alleged close links to Beijing.”

23.08.18

Channel NewsAsia

[Drones offer high-tech help to Japan's aging farmers](#)

Aging Farmers in Japan have been using drones to help them apply pesticides and fertilizer across paddy fields. It takes the drone approximately 15 minutes to complete this task whereas it takes more than an hour if a human was to do the same job.

“The next generation farmhand in Japan's aging rural heartland may be a drone.”

“For several months, developers and farmers in northeast Japan have been testing a new drone that can hover above paddy fields and perform backbreaking tasks in a fraction of the time it takes for elderly farmers.”

27.08.18

Medium

[Cyberbalkanization and the Future of the Internets](#)

Cyberbalkanization is the ‘fragmentation of the global internet into a number of smaller, national-administrated internets aligned along geopolitical boundaries.’ Today the internet is ‘balkanizing’ into several cyber-kingdoms which are led by China, Russia and Europe. The problem with this is that left unchecked this could ‘radically shape the online world.’

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30.08.18

Computer Weekly

[Singapore broadens access to AI skills](#)

Singapore has launched two new initiatives, 'AI for Everyone Programme' and the 'national artificial intelligence (AI) initiative' which seek to help adults and school students as young as 13 years old become more familiar with AI and gain the necessary skills for the job market.

"A national artificial intelligence initiative in Singapore is being extended to the general population to dispel fears that machines will take over people's jobs."

"Singapore's national artificial intelligence (AI) initiative has been extended to the country's wider population, including school students and working adults, in an effort to broaden access to AI skills."

Rest of the World

Internet governance

29.08.18

SC Media

[Telegram agrees to share data with terror investigators, but won't help Russia decrypt messages](#)

Messaging app Telegram announced plans to share phone numbers and IP addresses in terror investigations, however, they have outrightly denied the Russian Government investigators access to decrypted messages.

"Revising its privacy policies, encrypted messaging service Telegram this week announced on its website that moving forward it will cooperate with terror investigations by providing relevant authorities with suspects' IP addresses and phone numbers, pending a court order."

"So far, this has never happened. When it does, we will include it in a semiannual transparency report published at: <https://t.me/transparency>," the policy states."

04.09.18

Computer Weekly

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Cybersecurity

30.08.18

The Express

Macron's BLOW to NATO amid plans to 'team up' with Russia's defense

French President Emmanuel Macron has encouraged the EU to 'reconsider' relations with Russia by working with the country to construct new 'security architecture.' He wants Europe to build its own defenses as well as remaining part of its current alliance with NATO.

"FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron has urged European states to work with Russia and construct new security architecture, in a bid to strengthen defense capabilities within the European Union."

On Thursday, Mr Macron told a joint news conference in Helsinki the EU must rebuild European security architecture and "reconsider" relations with Russia, as well as pursue "strategic relations" with Turkey and other neighbouring countries.

Privacy

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Internet Inclusion

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29.08.18

IT News Africa

Vodafone launches coding programme for youth in Ghana

British multinational telecommunications conglomerate, Vodafone launched a new programme called ‘Vodafone Ghana National Coding Programme’ in partnership with Accra Digital Centre, to help Ghanaian youth aged between 14 and 18 years to code. This scheme is expected to help 10,000 youth.

“The Vodafone Ghana National Coding Programme launched in partnership at the Accra Digital Centre with the government will benefit 10 000 youth in the next five years. The programme is part of Vodafone’s unique strategy to ignite Ghana’s digital revolution.”

“The initiative, which uses Vodafone’s employees as trainers, is targeted at Ghanaian youth aged between 14 and 18 years who have a passion for technological innovation and will typically last for five days in each region.”

31.08.18

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“Prime minister Theresa May announced a series of innovation partnerships across several African countries during her trip to the continent.”

31.08.18

IT News Africa

[I-Innovate brings Artificial Intelligence to South African school](#)

I-Innovate and educational company has launched a new scheme called AI Family Challenge in South Africa. The aim is to teach 20,000 learners in disadvantaged communities about AI technologies such as machine learning and autonomous vehicles.

“STE(A)M educational company, I-Innovate has partnered with U.S. developers, Curiosity Machine to bring the AI Family Challenge to South Africa.”

“The project aims to ultimately reaching 20 000 learners in disadvantaged communities around the world.”

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31.08.18

Channel NewsAsia

[Russia tries more precise technology to block Telegram messenger](#)

Russia is attempting to shut down messaging app Telegram because of their refusal to give the Russian Government access to its user's encrypted messages. Russia is currently using more precise technology to block Telegram but has for the moment been unsuccessful.

“Russia is experimenting with more precise technology to block individual online services after an attempt to shut down banned messaging service Telegram failed, but Moscow has yet to find a way to shut it down without hitting other traffic.”

“Telegram, which has 200 million global users and has been popular in countries including Russia and Iran, has been banned in Russia because it refused to comply with a court order to give security services access to users' encrypted messages.”

05.09.18

The Guardian

[Experts to discuss challenges hindering PoS adoption in Nigeria](#)

Experts in Nigeria are expected to gather soon to discuss the challenges facing the deployment of Point of Sales (PoS) and the importance this technology plays in society.

“Challenges confronting the deployment of Point of Sales (PoS) will be a major discussion at the third quarter edition of the PoS Innovation Summit, scheduled for September 19, in Lagos.”

“This edition, with the theme “Expanding Retail Merchants' Possibilities” will also highlight the various opportunities available to retail merchants for payment processing in light of the various ingenious solutions being rolled-out almost on a daily basis.”

Global Institutions

30.08.18

The Express

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On Thursday, Mr Macron told a joint news conference in Helsinki the EU must rebuild European security architecture and "reconsider" relations with Russia, as well as pursue "strategic relations" with Turkey and other neighbouring countries.

Diary Dates

Women in Tech Council – 20.09.18

London England

5th Annual Industrial Control Cyber Security USA – 18.09.18 – 19.09.18

Sacramento, USA

ISC2 Secure Summit Toronto – 01.10.18

Toronto, Canada

**MESCON Cybersecurity Conference (Middle Eastern Security Conference)
Muscat – 02.10.18 – 03.10.18**

Muscat, Oman