28 November 2018

Synopsis

Scroll to read full summaries with links to news articles.

The **Telecom Regulatory Authority** of **India** said that **fiber-based wireline** connectivity could do a lot to improve Trai's service quality.

Internet giant **Google** are seeking to create a **censored search engine** for **Chinese Users**, however more than 200 employees at Google have demanded the company stop developing this.

India and **Russia** have announced plans to increase cooperation on issues such as **Artificial Intelligence** and **Blockchain** after the first **India-Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue** in St. Petersburg.

According to a new study, the EU's **General Data Protection Regulation** is encouraging UK IT Directors to consider paying a **ransom fee** to hackers instead of reporting a **data breach** and risking a major fine. The survey shows that 45% of IT Directors would 'definitely' consider this while 30% would 'possibly' consider paying the ransom if it was less expensive than the fine.

According to a senior official the **Britain's Financial Conduct Authority** will reprimand firms that don't have the 'basics right on cyber defences' and who's IT systems could potentially harm consumers.

Tech London Advocates, a group of influential technology leaders, experts and investors that seek to promote London's emerging tech sector, have called on the industry to employ one million people in tech related roles by 2023 to address the **digital skills** gap.

According to Senator **Richard Blumenthal** the draft **Privacy Bill** which could potentially give the **US Government** the mandate to collect civil penalties if a company mishandles consumer data on the internet or allows it to be stolen could be published at the start of next year.

A number of US technology companies including **Microsoft**, **Facebook** and **Google** have signed an international cyber agreement agreement announced by

President **Emmanuel Macron**. The "Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace" is a new initiative designed to establish international norms for the **internet** and **cybersecurity**.

There was an urgent question in the **UK Parliament** on the **Interpol Presidency Election**, after news that a Russian candidate and alleged former KGB agent, **Alexander Prokopchuk** could be elected. Sir Vince Cable asked what the UK Government were doing to campaign against the Russian candidate Alexander Prokopchuk, amid growing tensions between the UK and Russia. Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said it was 'excellent news' that Mr Prokopchuk's opposition, South Korean Kim Jong-yang was elected as Interpol's president.

A few weeks ago, **Africa** held its **Code Week** which entails a series of coding workshops for hearing impaired children in Mozambique to help bridge the **digital skills** gap. 1.8 million young Africans have already been introduced to coding through these events and it has also trained 28,000 teachers.

According to **Rufus Andrew**, Director of a technology firm, **Corning Incorporated**, 'slow internet connections across **Nigeria** negate productivity' and this is why the Nigerian Government should consider **Fibre-optic connectivity**.

NATO held for its eleventh year, one of the largest cyber defence exercises called the **Cyber Coalition**. The exercise which involves around 700 participants including allies, partners, industry and academia, helps prepare participants to defend NATO and national networks.

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 November 2018

Table of Contents

Europe

Internet governance

14.11.18

Channel NewsAsia

[Germany's Merkel sees digital tax proposal by December: media report](#)

According to the German Chancellor Angela Merkel, the European Union Digital Tax will be 'proposed by December' at the latest, at a meeting with EU Finance Ministers.

"German Chancellor Angela Merkel said a European Union digital tax would be proposed at a meeting of EU finance ministers in December at the latest."

"We are talking about it with France. But note: We are not talking about whether to tax digital companies, we are talking about how to do that," Merkel told German online portal t-online.de in an interview published late on Tuesday."

20.11.18

Computer Weekly

[Jeremy Wright announces Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation board](#)

Jeremy Wright, the UK Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport has announced a new Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation board, Chaired by Roger Taylor, which will advise the Government on the ways to ensure the ethical use of data and AI.

"Secretary of state for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Jeremy Wright, announces make up of Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation board at ODI Summit."

"Jeremy Wright, the digital secretary, will announce on 20 November the make-up of the board of the Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation at the Open Data Institute annual summit."

20.11.18

Hansard

[Interpol Presidency Election](#)

There was an urgent question in the UK Parliament on the Interpol Presidency Election, after news that a Russian candidate and alleged former KGB agent, Alexander Prokopchuk could be elected. Sir Vince Cable asked what the UK Government were doing to campaign against the Russian candidate Alexander Prokopchuk, amid growing tensions between the UK and Russia. Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said it was 'excellent news' that Mr Prokopchuk's opposition, South Korean Kim Jong-yang was elected as Interpol's president.

"Sir Vince Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the Interpol presidency election tomorrow."

"Harriett Baldwin: Interpol is currently holding its general assembly in Dubai, and a UK delegation, led by Lynne Owens, the director general of the National Crime Agency, is there at the moment. Interpol is electing a new president at the general assembly after former Interpol president and Chinese Vice-Minister of Public Security, Meng Hongwei, resigned from the position on Sunday 7 October after Chinese authorities confirmed that he had been detained and is being investigated on anti-corruption charges."

Cybersecurity

13.11.18

The Hill

[US tech companies back Paris cyber agreement opposed by Trump administration](#)

A number of US technology companies including Microsoft, Facebook and Google have signed an international cyber agreement agreement announced by President Emmanuel Macron. The "Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace" is a new initiative designed to establish international norms for the internet and cybersecurity.

"Prominent U.S. technology companies are backing an international cyber agreement that would limit the use of certain cyber weapons, even after the Trump administration declined to sign onto the non-binding declaration this week."

20.11.18

Euractiv

[EU equips itself for fight against manipulation at European elections](#)

The European Parliament are preparing themselves for the spread of fake news and cyber attacks that will take place during the European Elections. According to Frans Timmermans, vice-president of the European Commission, "we must not be naïve: there are those who want to disrupt European elections and their tools are sophisticated."

"The European Parliament has been advised about potential attempts to manipulate the European elections from abroad because attacks from hackers and "fake news" campaigns pose a very real risk. What plans are there to combat this in Brussels? EURACTIV Germany reports."

"Will Russia attempt to undermine the May 2019 European elections? This question is currently driving a dark cloud through Brussels, where the election campaigns are slowly beginning."

27.11.18

Channel NewsAsia

[Financial firms not getting basics right on cyber: UK watchdog](#)

According to a senior official the Britain's Financial Conduct Authority will reprimand firms that don't have the 'basics right on cyber defences' and who's IT systems could potentially harm consumers.

"Britain's Financial Conduct Authority will punish firms that are failing to get the basics right on cyber defences, or whose botched IT projects harm consumers, a senior official at the markets watchdog said on Tuesday."

"Outages at banks such as TSB have left thousands of customers without banking services and this month British lawmakers opened an investigation into such incidents."

27.11.18

NATO

[Cyber Coalition helps prepare NATO for today's threats](#)

NATO held for its eleventh year, one of the largest cyber defence exercises called the Cyber Coalition. The exercise which involves around 700 participants

including allies, partners, industry and academia, helps prepare participants to defend NATO and national networks.

"NATO's flagship cyber defence exercise Cyber Coalition, one of the largest in the world, started on Tuesday (27 November 2018) in Tartu, Estonia. The exercise tests and trains cyber defenders from across the Alliance in their ability to defend NATO and national networks. Now in its eleventh year, Cyber Coalition involves around 700 participants from Allies, partners, industry and academia."

"The exercise aims to enhance coordination and collaboration between NATO and Allies, strengthen the ability to protect Alliance cyberspace, and conduct military operations in the cyber domain. It will also test NATO and national procedures on information sharing, situational awareness in cyberspace, and decision-making."

Privacy

27.11.18

Computer Weekly

[GDPR is encouraging UK IT directors to pay cyber ransoms](#)

According to a new study the EU's General Data Protection Regulation is encouraging UK IT Directors to consider paying a ransom fee to hackers instead of reporting a data breach and risking a major fine. The survey shows that 45% of IT Directors would 'definitely' consider this while 30% they would 'possibly' consider this if the ransom was less expensive.

"As predicted ahead of the General Data Protection Regulation enforcement deadline, research shows that fear of fines under the new laws is making some firms more likely to pay cyber ransoms."

"Almost half (47%) of UK IT directors would "definitely" be willing to pay a ransom fee to hackers to avoid reporting a data breach and risking a fine under new EU data protection laws, a study has revealed."

Internet Inclusion

22.11.18

Computer Weekly

[TLA calls on tech industry to hire one million tech workers by 2023](#)

According to the Tech London Advocates, a group of influential technology leaders, experts and investors that seek to promote London's emerging tech sector, have called on the industry to employ one million people in tech related roles by 2023.

"Tech industry network TLA has announced a campaign to encourage one million people into tech sector roles over the next five years."

"Tech London Advocates (TLA) has pledged to close the digital skills gap by encouraging firms to employ one million people into tech jobs by 2023."

United States of America

Internet governance

15.11.18

Channel NewsAsia

[US lawmaker says Facebook cannot be trusted to regulate itself](#)

United States Democrat, David Cicilline has said that internet giant Facebook should have regulations imposed on them by the United States because they seem to be incapable of regulating themselves.

"Democratic U.S. Representative David Cicilline, expected to become the next chairman of House Judiciary Committee's antitrust panel, said on Wednesday that Facebook cannot be trusted to regulate itself and Congress should take action."

"Cicilline, citing a report in the New York Times on Facebook's conduct, said on Twitter: "This staggering report makes clear that @Facebook executives will always put their massive profits ahead of the interests of their customers.""

Cybersecurity

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"Prominent U.S. technology companies are backing an international cyber agreement that would limit the use of certain cyber weapons, even after the Trump administration declined to sign onto the non-binding declaration this week."

"The United States was one of just several Western countries that chose not to sign the "Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace," which French President Emmanuel Macron released on Monday during the Paris Peace Forum."

16.11.18

Channel NewsAsia

[US, Singapore to collaborate on cybersecurity for ASEAN](#)

Singapore and the United States have signed a new declaration of intent to cement their desire to cooperate on a cybersecurity programme for ASEAN member states and 'further strengthen partnerships in regional cybersecurity capacity building.'

"The United States and Singapore will collaborate on a cybersecurity programme for ASEAN member states, said the Cyber Security Agency of Singapore (CSA) in a news release on Friday (Nov 16)."

"Both countries signed a declaration of intent on Friday for the Singapore-US Cybersecurity Technical Assistance Programme for ASEAN Member States."

27.11.18

Channel NewsAsia

[Google workers push to stop censored Chinese search project](#)

Internet giant Google are seeking to create a censored search engine for Chinese Users, however more than 200 employees at Google have demanded the company stop developing this.

"More than 200 employees comprising engineers, designers and managers at Alphabet Inc's Google published an open letter on Tuesday (Nov 27), demanding that the company end development of a censored search engine for Chinese users, escalating earlier protests against the secretive project."

"Google has described the search app, known as Project Dragonfly, as an experiment not close to launching. But as details of it have leaked since August, current and former employees, human rights activists and US lawmakers have criticised Google for not taking a harder line against the Chinese government's policy that politically sensitive results be blocked."

27.11.18

Channel NewsAsia

[Russia opens civil case against Google over search results](#)

According to the Communications Watchdog, Russia is suing internet giant Google for failing to remove certain entries from its search results after they were banned in Moscow on grounds that they contained 'illegal' information.

"Russia has launched a civil case against Google, accusing it of failing to comply with a legal requirement to remove certain entries from its search results, the country's communications watchdog said on Monday."

"If found guilty, the U.S. internet giant could be fined up to 700,000 roubles (US$10,450), the watchdog, Roscomnadzor, said."

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Privacy

28.11.18

Channel NewsAsia

[US senator says privacy bill draft could come early next year](#)

According to Senator Richard Blumenthal the draft Privacy Bill which could potentially give the US Government the mandate to collect civil penalties if a company mishandles consumer data on the internet or allows it to be stolen could be published at the start of next year.

"A much-anticipated bill that may give the US government the ability to collect civil penalties if a company misuses consumer data on the internet or allows it to be stolen could be drafted early next year, a lawmaker said on Tuesday (Nov 27)."

"A subcommittee of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee discussed elements of the bill on Tuesday, including the possibility that the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) could be given the authority as enforcer to oversee telecommunications companies and non-profits, exact civil penalties and create regulations."

Internet Inclusion

19.11.18

Channel NewsAsia

[Internet economy to create 1.7 million full-time jobs in Southeast Asia by 2025: Study](#)

According to a new survey commissioned by internet giant Google and Temasek, the internet economy is set to create 1.7 million jobs in Southeast Asia by 2025, this is three times more than in 2018.

"The Internet economy is set to create 1.7 million full-time jobs in Southeast Asia by 2025, three times the number in 2018."

"This is according to research findings commissioned by Google and Temasek which were released on Monday (Nov 19)."

Pan-Asia

Internet governance

27.11.18

Gadgets Now

[Fibre backbone to improve service quality: TRAI chief](#)

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India said that fiber-based wireline connectivity could do a lot to improve Trai's service quality.

"New Delhi: India's telecom regulator said that fibre-based wireline connectivity would drastically help in improving telecom operators' service quality, given the limitations of the wireless medium."

"it is difficult to ensure service quality in wireless medium that has its own limitations related to bandwidth quality and upload and download issues. India."

Cybersecurity

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13.11.18

Channel NewsAsia

[Japan cybersecurity and Olympics minister - "I've never used a computer"](#)

The Japanese cybersecurity and Olympics minister admitted to Japanese Parliament that he had never used a computer before, despite being in charge of overseeing cybersecurity during the 2020 Tokyo Summer Games.

"Two days after saying he never used a computer, Japan's cybersecurity and Olympics minister Yoshitaka Sakurada has now contradicted himself, claiming he uses a computer at work."

"The 68-year-old is responsible for overseeing cybersecurity preparations for the 2020 Tokyo Games and his comment on Wednesday at a parliamentary committee meeting has caused embarrassment and concern over Japan's preparations for the high-profile global sporting event."

Privacy

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Gadgets Now

[India, Russia to increase cooperation in AI, blockchain system](#)

India and Russia have announced plans to increase cooperation on issues such as Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain after the first India-Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue in St Petersburg.

"New Dheli: India and Russia Tuesday agreed to increase cooperation in the field of Artificial Intelligence AI, blockchain system, and explore the possibility of joint work in healthcare, an official statement said."

"The two sides also decided to increase cooperation in the field of toruism, digital front, financial technology and quantum computing."

Rest of the World

Internet governance

20.11.18

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Privacy

No new items of relevance

Internet Inclusion

14.11.18

Africa.com

[**Africa Code Week Drives Inclusive Education With Coding Workshops For Hearing-impaired Children In Mozambique**](#)

A few weeks ago, Africa held its Code Week which entails a series of coding workshops for hearing impaired children in Mozambique to help bridge the digital skills gap. 1.8 million young Africans have already been introduced to coding through this event and it has also trained 28,000 teachers.

"Is coding a universal language that can bridge not only the gender and income gaps but enable also inclusive access to 21st century education? For the passionate team of Africa Code Week ambassadors in Mozambique, the answer is a resounding yes."

"Coding is a language that everyone can – and should – speak in order to be active participants in the global digital economy," says Sonia Santos, local coordinator for Africa Code Week."

21.11.18

The Guardian

[**'Slow Internet connections across Nigeria negate productivity'**](#)

According to Rufus Andrew, Director of a technology firm, Corning Incorporated, 'slow internet connections across Nigeria negate productivity' and this is why the Nigerian Government should consider Fibre-optic connectivity.

"Rufus Andrew is a director at Corning Incorporated, a technology firm with focus on connectivity through fibre connections. Andrew has 30 years in the ICT sector, including telecommunications, information technology and broadcasting, spanning different environments, including engineering, Project Management, Regulatory Affairs, Business Development, among others."

"He spoke to adeyemi adepetun, on how slow Internet connectivity can negatively impact productivity in the country, among other germane industry issues."

25.11.18

IT News Africa

[**The rise of the millennial workforce has driven the evolution of tech**](#)

According to James O'Connor Managing Director at Direct Distribution Services, an IT distribution company in Southern Africa, "the rise of the millennial workforce has driven the evolution of tech" because "millennials are digital natives, so it's natural that tech has shaped many of their personal characteristics; often, very positively."

"With the war for eyeballs, attention spans and airtime ongoing, the media has taken to broadly denouncing this group in clickbait articles; generous with accusations yet economical on facts. Millennials are scathingly labelled as flaky, cellphone-obsessed navel-gazers; unwilling to pay their dues but wanting all of the participation medals."

"This view is myopic and ignores context, says James O'Connor, Managing Director at Direct Distribution Services (DDS). "Millennials are digital natives, so it's natural that tech has shaped many of their personal characteristics; often, very positively.

28.11.18

Gadgets Now

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Global Institutions

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Diary Dates

Cyber Security Industry Roundtable - Brazil **– 27.11.19**

London, England

Women in Defence Technology **– 12.02.19**

London England

Mobile World Congress **– 25.02.19**

London England