31 October 2018

Synopsis

Scroll to read full summaries with links to news articles.

Facebook have launched their developer community programme – '**Developer Circles'** in **Singapore**. In a press release the internet giant said the programme would help developers "connect, collaborate and encourage community learning and coding through local meet-ups and online groups". Mr Konstantinos Papamiltiadis, Director of Developer Platforms and Programs at Facebook explained that **AR**, **VR** and **artificial intelligence** would be the most likely focus when teaching **tech skills**.

According to the Indian Central bank, companies such as **Mastercard** will be required to store their payments data locally in **India**. Mastercard has begun to comply with these new rules and is storing new Indian transaction data locally.

Singapore's Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Home Affairs **Amrin Amin** has suggested that **ASEAN** countries all send a **cybercrime** expert to be based in **Singapore** by 2019, so they can collectively deal with the growing threats online.

The **UK** Chancellor **Philip Hammond** has announced a new **Digital Services Tax** that will affect internet giants such as **Facebook**, **Amazon** and **Google**. The tax will come into force from April 2020 and will only be applicable to firms which have a global revenue of more than £500 million a year. The **European Commission** are planning to introduce a 3% tax on companies with annual global revenue of at least €750 million ($851 million) and online sales of €50 million ($56.8 million) in the **European Union**.

Giovanni Buttarelli, Europe's Data Protection Supervisor said that data protection was a 'pillar of democracy' because personal data can be manipulated to influence elections. He said, "this is why there is a need to act and why the new **EU** regulation on **data protection** is a fundamental element of the management policy of the technological era."

Apple's Chief Executive **Tim Cook** is expected to praise strong **privacy laws** and describe **GDPR** as an example of how 'good policy and political will can come together to protect the rights of us all' at an event in **Brussels**.

The United States **President Donald Trump** has announced plans to create a **National Spectrum Strategy** to help deliver the next generation of **5G** wireless networks. The President signed a presidential memorandum directing the Secretary of Commerce to work with all agencies and policy makers to deliver this. As part of the strategy a **Spectrum Strategy Task Force** will be created.

California have agreed not to enforce their own state **net neutrality** laws until a final court decision is made on the **FCC's** decision to overturn the 2015 Obama-era open internet rules.

Internet giant **Google** have announced plans to train 100,000 **Kenyan farmers** in partnership with **One Acre Fund**, a nonprofit social enterprise working with more than 500,000 farmers in **Africa**. The project will help farmers digitise their **agribusiness**.

Vodacom Business, a pan-African service provider which offers communication solutions to enterprises and is a subsidiary of **Vodafone Group**, has expanded its services to 19 new countries; Vodacom now covers 47 countries across **Africa**.

According to **Kenya's** Minister for Information the Government has set aside one billion shillings ($9.90 million) to help encourage the growth of **local start-ups** in the domestic **mobile phone** industry.

According to **NATO**, a new **cyber command centre** which would be tasked with deterring **cyber attacks** could be fully operational and staffed by 2023.

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

31 October 2018

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New Europe

[UK moves on introducing digital tax ahead of EU](#)

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"The United Kingdom is moving ahead of the EU as it will introduce a new digital levy that has been dubbed the "Google tax", which was part of Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond's presentation of Britain's 2019 budget – the first "Brexit budget " – which hopes to raise £400 million."

"It is clearly not sustainable or fair that digital platform businesses can generate substantial value in the UK without paying tax here," Hammond said."

25.10.18

Euractiv

[EU digital tax is 'discriminatory', US says](#)

Republican Chairman Orrin Hatch and his Democratic counterpart Ron Wyden jointly signed a letter which was sent to the European Council. The letter stipulated that the EU's proposed Digital Tax was discriminatory 'against US companies' and undermined 'the international tax treaty system creating a significant new transatlantic trade barrier that runs counter to the newly launched US and EU dialogue to reduce such barriers.'

US authorities have criticised the EU's plans to introduce a 'digital tax,' describing the measures as discriminating 'against US companies' in a letter penned to European Council president Donald Tusk and Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, at the close of last week's EU summit.

The communication highlights the fact that many stakeholders on the other side of the Atlantic feel that they may be unfairly targeted by the commission's proposed digital services tax (DST).

Cybersecurity

25.10.18

Channel NewsAsia

[**Wary of crypto, UK government blocks Royal Mint's digital gold**](#)

Britain's Royal Mint, a Government owned mint that produces coins for the UK have scrapped their plans to launch a digital gold token after the UK Government decided it was best to not have the tokens traded on the cryptocurrency exchange. Some claim this highlights the 'wariness of governments to become involved in the largely unregulated world of cryptocurrencies.'

"Britain's Royal Mint has frozen plans to launch a digital gold token after a partnership with U.S. exchange group CME failed and the government vetoed a plan to have the tokens trade on a cryptocurrency exchange, three sources told Reuters."

"The demise of the potentially ground-breaking project, named Royal Mint Gold (RMG), highlights the wariness of governments to become involved in the largely unregulated world of cyptocurrencies, which exploded into the public eye last year with the stellar rise of bitcoin."

Privacy

23.10.18

Reuters

[**Apple's Cook set to back strong privacy laws in Europe, US at Brussels event**](#)

Apple's Chief Executive Tim Cook is expected to praise strong privacy laws and describe GDPR as an example of how 'good policy and political will can come together to protect the rights of us all' at an event in Brussels.

"Apple Chief Executive Tim Cook is expected to praise new European privacy rules and to voice the company's support for strong laws in Europe and the United States to protect the use of data, according to prepared remarks for delivery at a Brussels event."

"Cook will describe Europe's General Data Protection Regulation, or GDPR, as an example of how "good policy and political will can come together to protect the rights of us all," according to the remarks, seen by Reuters ahead of a gathering of international privacy regulators on Wednesday."

24.10.18

Euractiv

[EU's Buttarelli says personal data protection is "a pillar of democracy"](#)

Giovanni Buttarelli, Europe's Data Protection Supervisor said that data protection was a 'pillar of democracy' because personal data can be manipulated to influence elections. He said, "this is why there is a need to act and why the new EU regulation on data protection is a fundamental element of the management policy of the technological era"

"Europe's Data Protection Supervisor Giovanni Buttarelli warned that the Cambridge Analytica scandal of earlier this year was a warning to the public that the use of personal data was no longer a simple question of privacy, but one that also concerns the security and durability of democratic norms."

"It is essential to eliminate the slightest doubt about the use of data. Their protection becomes a pillar of democracy," said Buttarelli. "Digitalisation is not the answer, as responsibility is left to the machines", adding, "digitisation does not respect geographical boundaries."

25.10.18

Channel NewsAsia

[UK regulator upholds Facebook fine in Cambridge Analytica row](#)

The Information Commissioner's Office, a UK regulator, fined Facebook, £500,000 after the internet giant breached data protection laws during the Cambridge Analytica scandal.

"Britain's information regulator on Thursday upheld a small but symbolic 500,000 pound (US$645,000) fine for Facebook for breaches of data protection law related to the harvesting of data by consultancy Cambridge Analytica."

"Confirming its initial decision on the fine in July, the Information Commissioner's Office said data from at least one million British users had been among that harvested by Cambridge and used for political purposes."

Internet Inclusion

26.10.18

Gov.uk

DASA Hackathons coming soon

The UK Ministry of Defence has announced a "hackathon" competition as part of their Defence and Security Accelerator programme, in which participants from academia, industry and government will be invited to participate in a simulated response to a real-world hacking incident and a defence logistics exercise. The purpose of the hackathon is to explore how AI can enable better decision-making in defence, with a view to inviting participants to submit applications for funding to develop the project further.

"The Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA) will soon be seeking participants for two hackathons in Central London."

The first hackathon will focus on real-world incident response and take place on 26-27 November 2018.

United States of America

Internet governance

26.10.18

Channel NewsAsia

[Trump signs order to set US spectrum strategy as 5G race looms](#)

The United States President Donald Trump has announced plans to create a National Spectrum Strategy to help deliver the next generation of 5G wireless networks. The President signed a presidential memorandum directing the Secretary of Commerce to work with all agencies and policy makers to deliver this. As part of the strategy a Spectrum Strategy Task Force will be created.

"U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday signed a presidential memorandum directing the Commerce Department to develop a long-term comprehensive national spectrum strategy to prepare for the introduction of next-generation 5G wireless networks."

"Trump is also creating a White House Spectrum Strategy Task Force and wants federal agencies to report on government spectrum needs and review how spectrum can be shared with private sector users."

30.10.18

The Epoch Times

[California Will Not Enforce State Net Neutrality Law Pending Appeal](#)

California have agreed not to enforce their own state net neutrality laws until a final court decision is made on the FCC's decision to overturn the 2015 Obama-era open internet rules.

"The state of California on Oct. 26 agreed not to enforce its own state net neutrality law until a final court decision on the Trump administration's decision to overturn the 2015 Obama-era open internet rules."

"The move likely means the California net neutrality law, which was set to take effect on Jan. 1, now will be on hold for a year or longer. The law has been challenged by the U.S. Justice Department and trade groups representing providers including AT&T Inc., Verizon Communications Inc., and Comcast Corp."

Cybersecurity

18.10.18

Channel NewsAsia

[Facebook launches 'war room' to combat manipulation](#)

Internet giant Facebook have created a 'War Room' which is occupied by a team of twenty people who are tasked with constantly monitoring screens for any signs of suspicious activity. According to Nathaniel Gleicher, a former White House cybersecurity Policy Director for the National Security Council who is now Head of Cybersecurity policy for Facebook, "our job is to detect ... anyone trying to manipulate the public debate."

"United States: In Facebook's "War Room," a nondescript space adorned with American and Brazilian flags, a team of 20 people monitors computer screens for signs of suspicious activity."

"The freshly launched unit at Facebook's Menlo Park headquarters in California is the nerve center for the fight against misinformation and manipulation of the largest social network by foreign actors trying to influence elections in the United States and elsewhere."

31.10.18

IT News Africa

[South Africans "third most likely" to fall for online scams-study](#)

According to internet giant Microsoft's latest global research, South Africans are the "third most likely" to be affected by online scams, in 2018 71% of South Africans suffered from tech support scams.

"Tech support scams affected 71% of South African consumers in 2018, down seven points from figures in 2016, according to Microsoft's latest global research into the phenomenon."

"The Global Tech Support Scam Research report examined the incidence and consequences of tech support scams worldwide. The Web-based survey of 16,048 adult internet users in 16 countries (1 000 per country), sampled an equal number of male and female users 18 and older, proportional to the internet user population in each country."

Privacy

22.10.18

Channel NewsAsia

[Japan tells Facebook to improve data protection](#)

Internet giant Facebook has been reprimanded by the Japanese Government over its handling of data protection. The Japanese Government has urged the network to alert their users to any data breaches, increase surveillance on its platforms and alert the Government if they make any alterations to their security measures.

"Japan's government on Monday told U.S. technology firm Facebook Inc to better protect its users' personal data following lapses this year affecting tens of millions of people globally."

"The government asked the world's largest social media network to fully communicate security issues to users, increase surveillance of providers of applications on its platform, and inform regulators of any change in security measures."

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Reuters

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24.10.18

Channel NewsAsia

[Facebook report shows backers of US political ads](#)

Facebook have published a new report called the Ad Archive Report for 'ads in the US related to politics and issues of national importance' according to Facebook Product Manager Arti Kulkarni. In the excel spreadsheet it shows that in May – October of this year, the Trump Make America Great Again Committee was the second biggest spender of ads, paying 3.1 million for 50,148 ads.

"Facebook on Tuesday (Oct 23) released the first of what it promised will be routine reports showing who is behind US political ads seen at the social network or its Instagram service."

"An Ad Archive Report launched online at www.facebook.com/ads/archive/report provided information including numbers of ads and how much money was spent."

Internet Inclusion

21.10.18

IT News Africa

[Google donates KES 100 mln to train Kenyan farmers on digital skills](#)

Internet giant Google have announced plans to train 100,000 Kenyan farmers in partnership with One Acre Fund, a nonprofit social enterprise working with more than 500,000 farmers in Africa. The project will help farmers digitise their agribusiness.

"Google, in partnership with One Acre Fund, will train 100,000 Kenyan smallholder farmers in digital skills through a KES 100 million grant. Google Kenya Country Manager Charles Murito said the training skills program will help smallholder farmers digitize their agribusiness operations and tasks."

"The project will provide training as well as products and services to smallholder farmers aimed at digitising their agribusiness operations and tasks. Farmers in low-income and rural parts of the country will benefit from the grant and training taking effect over the next one year."

22.10.18

Channel NewsAsia

[Singapore AR, VR creators welcome Facebook's launch of local developer programme](#)

Facebook have launched their developer community programme - Developer Circles in Singapore. In a press release the internet giant said the programme would help developers "connect, collaborate and encourage community learning and coding through local meet-ups and online groups". Mr Konstantinos Papamiltiadis, Director of Developer Platforms and Programs at Facebook explained that AR, VR and artificial intelligence would be the most likely focus when teaching tech skills.

"Local companies working on augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) content have welcomed Facebook's decision to launch its developer community programme - Developer Circles - in Singapore."

"They said the programme would allow them early access to developer tools and build a relationship with one of the main development platforms for AR and VR content."

25.10.18

Channel NewsAsia

[Google abandons planned Berlin office hub](#)

Internet giant Google had to scrap their plans to open a campus in Berlin, after local protesters claimed their presence would drive up rents in the area. An anti-gentrification campaign slogan said, 'Google is not a good neighbour.'

"Campaigners in a bohemian district of Berlin celebrated Wednesday (Oct 24) after Internet giant Google abandoned strongly-opposed plans to open a large campus there."

"The US firm had planned to set up an incubator for start-up companies in Kreuzberg, one of the older districts in the west of the capital."

25.10.18

Digital News Asia

[Facebook launches scholarship programmes in Indonesia](#)

Internet giant Facebook have launched two scholarship programmes available for members of the internet giant's developer community programme - Developer

Circles. Mr Konstantinos Papamiltiadis, Director of Developer Platforms and Programs at Facebook explained that Indonesia was the first country to receive these scholarship programmes. He said, "we see a gap between academia and the industry. These developers are able to pick up some skills through the programme and are ready to be hired by start-ups, tech companies, and even unicorns."

"To support the local developer community's growth in Indonesia, Facebook launched two scholarship programmes for its Developer Circles (DevC) community."

"DevC is a global community-driven programme for developers to connect, learn, and collaborate with each other online and offline. A total of 2,500 scholarships will be offered for qualified DevC members to be trained through Facebook's Javascript Development course. Upon completion of the free course, participants will be certified."

Pan-Asia

Internet governance

30.10.18

Channel NewsAsia

[Mastercard says storing India payments data locally in face of new rules](#)

According to the Indian Central bank, companies such as Mastercard will be required to store their payments data locally in India. Mastercard has begun to comply with these new rules and is storing new Indian transaction data locally.

"Global card payments giant Mastercard is storing its new Indian transaction data locally, the company said on Tuesday, as it starts to comply with a regulatory directive which U.S. companies unsuccessfully lobbied hard to dilute."

"The Indian central bank in April said companies such as Mastercard, Visa and American Express will from October need to store their payments data "only in India" so that the regulator could have "unfettered supervisory access"."

Cybersecurity

No new items of relevance

Privacy

22.10.18

Channel NewsAsia

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"The government asked the world's largest social media network to fully communicate security issues to users, increase surveillance of providers of applications on its platform, and inform regulators of any change in security measures."

30.10.18

Channel NewsAsia

[**Australia spy chief says 5G risks high, in nod to China firms' exclusion**](#)

Australia's Head of the domestic intelligence agency explained that Australia had restricted some firms from providing the 5G mobile communications network including Chinese Huawei because of the critical nature of the infrastructure.

"Australia must restrict foreign firms with government ties from its 5G mobile communications network because it is critical infrastructure, the head of one of the country's intelligence agencies said, helping to explain why China's Huawei was banned."

"Australia expanded its national security rules in August to exclude telecommunication equipment suppliers that it believes have ties to foreign governments. Huawei Technologies Co Ltd said after the policy announcement that it would be prohibited from Australia's new broadband network."

31.10.18

Channel NewsAsia

[**Singapore invites ASEAN neighbours to send experts to collectively tackle online threats**](#)

Singapore's Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Home Affairs Amrin Amin has suggested that ASEAN countries all send a cybercrime expert to be based in Singapore by 2019, so they can collectively deal with the growing threats online. Mr Amrin said, "in terms of networks formed, where we have fully staffed teams come together from different countries ... this gives that network that ability to respond effectively as a unit."

"Singapore on Wednesday (Oct 31) suggested its Association of Southeast Asian (ASEAN) neighbours each send a cybercrime expert to be based in the

country by 2019 in order to collectively tackle online threats that target the region."

"The call was made by Singapore's Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Home Affairs Amrin Amin at the 12th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime held in Nay Pyi Taw."

Internet Inclusion

19.10.18

Channel NewsAsia

[First air taxi trials to take place in Singapore in 2019](#)

According to Volocopter, a German aircraft manufacturer, air taxi trials could become a reality in Singapore in the second half of 2019. The trials are supported by the Singapore's Ministry of Transport, the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore and the Economic Development Board.

"Trials for air taxis will take off in Singapore in the second half of 2019, with German company Volocopter to conduct flight tests."

"The company announced this at the Autonomy and the Urban Mobility Summit in Paris on Thursday (Oct 18)."

22.10.18

Channel NewsAsia

[Singapore AR, VR creators welcome Facebook's launch of local developer programme](#)

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Rest of the World

Internet governance

No new items of relevance

Cybersecurity

31.10.18

IT News Africa

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Internet Inclusion

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23.10.18

Reuters

[Kenya sets aside funds to develop domestic mobile phone industry](#)

According to Kenya's Minister for Information the Government has set aside one billion shillings to help encourage the growth of local start-ups in the domestic mobile phone industry.

"Kenya's minister of information, communication and technology said on Tuesday that the government had set aside 1 billion shillings (US$9.90 million) to help local start-ups in the mobile telephone software and hardware segments to grow."

"Joe Mucheru, the ICT minister, told the annual meeting of the ICT industry in the capital Nairobi that he was concerned by the country's imports of 50 million telephone handsets every two years, challenging local firms to start making them locally."

29.10.18

IT News Africa

[Mastercard hosts African Debit Forum to discuss role of technology](#)

Mastercard Incorporated an American multinational financial services corporation hosted the African Debit Forum to discuss the evolving nature of the African retail banking sector and the role digital technology can play in this. Currently 95% of retail transaction in Africa are made with cash.

"In its journey to build a stronger payment ecosystem across Africa, Mastercard recently hosted its first African Debit Forum, as part of its Connecting Tomorrow 2018 Forum in Barcelona."

"Topics discussed included the strategic role that current accounts and debit cards play in shaping consumer relationships, trends and insights into how African retail banking is evolving, as well as how digital and mobile channels are changing the habits of consumers and what this means for the banking industry."

29.10.18

IT News Africa

[Vodacom Business expands its fixed connectivity network in Africa](#)

Vodacom Business, a pan-African service provider which offers communication solutions to enterprises and is a subsidiary of Vodafone Group, has expanded its

services to 19 new countries, overall Vodacom covers 47 countries across Africa.

"Vodacom, a subsidiary of Vodafone Group, has added 19 new countries to its already extensive 28 markets footprint, in so doing increasing its overall coverage to 47 countries across Africa."

"Through its strategic partnerships, Vodacom Business, the leading fixed communication services provider in Africa has to date increased its fixed connectivity reach to cover most of the countries in Africa."

31.10.18

IT News Africa

[Cyber attacks on educational institutions on the rise](#)

According to a new survey, cyber attacks are ranked the number one problem that educational institutions facing, and this is unlikely to change in the foreseeable future.

"Cyber threats are no longer a rarity, they are expected. With recent ransomware attacks such as WannaCry and NotPetya, the potential theft or leakage of data, particularly confidential information in an educational setting, should be top of the list in risk planning."

"In Aon's 2018 global risk management survey, cyber risk was ranked as the #1 risk facing educational institutions and is likely to remain so for the foreseeable future," says Kerry Curtin, Cyber Risk Expert at Aon South Africa. "The need to strengthen institutional resiliency against potential damage, compromising hacks and downtime is crucial," she adds."

31.10.18

IT News Africa

[Five things Absa learnt as the first large corporate to adopt the .Africa domain](#)

Absa Group Limited, a financial services group in South Africa formerly known as Barclays Africa Group, were the first large corporation to adopt the .Africa domain. One of the challenges they found was the fact that there are only 16,445 registered .Africa domains in comparison to 130 million .com sites, in Africa.

"On 11 July this year, Absa Group became the first large corporate to embrace the .Africa domain by changing its website address to www.absa.africa. Launched just more than a year ago, the .Africa domain is

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widely promoted by the African Union, intended to support and develop business and corporates on the African continent."

"Adopting the new – mostly unknown and distinctly African – domain was not without its challenges, but it underscored Absa Group's efforts to establish its new identity as an independent, digitally led African bank."

Global Institutions

17.10.18

Euractiv

[NATO sees new cyber command centre by 2023 as Europe readies for cyber threats](#)

According to NATO, a new cyber command centre which would be tasked with deterring cyber attacks could be fully operational and staffed by 2023.

"A new NATO military command centre able to deter cyber-attacks should be fully staffed and operational in 2023, but the alliance still lacks ground rules for doing so, a senior general announced at NATO's annual cyber conference in Mons, Belgium on Tuesday (16 October)."

"Meanwhile, the EU is considering sanctions against cyber perpetrators as fears of outside meddling are growing in the run-up to the European elections next May."

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