



04 October 2017

Synopsis

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Ireland's high court have referred a **data transfer** case between **Facebook** and activist **Max Schrems** to the European Court of Justice, in a potential test for the future of the **EU-US Privacy Shield**.

The **UK's** National Cyber Security Centre has reported over 1000 incidents of **cyber security** attacks in its first year. A large proportion of the attacks were deemed serious enough to require a cross government response.

A panel of industry experts at the International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners in **Hong Kong** have discussed the impact of the **EU's** General Data Protection Regulation, highlighting the importance of the **data transfer** regulations in countering the growing international trend for data localization.

The **Senate** has passed legislation to tackle deficiencies in **cybersecurity skills** amongst small businesses in a bid to push the government to provide tools to help companies defend their systems against **hackers**.

Social media sites, **Facebook** and **Twitter** have been under the spotlight after disclosing that **Russia** influenced the 2016 US **presidential election** by spreading **propaganda** via their online platforms.

Chinese authorities have moved to restrict the use of **WhatsApp** in the lead up to the National Party Conference to elect the next Chinese President, in an attempt to reduce **political dissension** and the organization of public demonstrations.

Cyber security experts are worried that **North Korea's** new internet connection provided by a **Russian** telecommunications firm will increase the country's ability to stage cyberattacks.

Mark Field, **UK** foreign minister is scheduled to visit **New Delhi** and **Chennai** next week to discuss **internet governance**, and **cyber security**.

The **Potomac Institute** has found that **Saudi Arabia's** Vision 2030 strategy is helping to considerably improve the country's **cyber resiliency**.

ITU Telecom World 2017 has focused on tackling issues on the importance of **cybersecurity** to global economies, highlighting the need for greater cooperation and collaboration between governments and small and large businesses.

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

04 October 2017

Table of Contents

Synopsis	1
Europe	4
Internet governance.....	4
Cybersecurity	4
Privacy.....	5
Internet Inclusion	5
United States of America	6
Internet governance.....	6
Cybersecurity	6
Privacy.....	6
Internet Inclusion	7
Pan-Asia	8
Internet governance.....	8
Cybersecurity	9
Privacy.....	10
Internet Inclusion	10
Rest of the World	12
Internet governance.....	12
Cybersecurity	13
Privacy.....	13
Internet Inclusion	13
Global Institutions	14
Diary Dates	15

Europe

Internet governance

No new items of relevance

Cybersecurity

29.09.17

The Economic Times

[UK minister to visit India next week for cyber security talks](#)

UK foreign minister Mark Field, is scheduled to visit New Delhi and Chennai next week to discuss further cooperation with India on issues of internet governance, and cyber security.

“UK Foreign Office minister Mark Field will embark on a two-day visit to India next week to hold talks on cyber security.

Field will visit New Delhi and Chennai next Tuesday as part of his first tour of the country as the minister for Asia and the Pacific in the UK’s Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).”

03.10.17

BBC News

[Cyber- security: More than 1,000 attacks reported in centre’s first year](#)

The UK’s National Cyber Security Centre has reported over 1000 incidents of cyber security attacks in its first year. A large proportion of the attacks were deemed serious enough to require a cross government response.

“More than 1,000 incidents were reported to the National Cyber Security Centre in its first year of operation.

The centre - part of the intelligence agency GCHQ - says more than half the incidents posed a significant threat.”

Privacy

29.09.17

IAPP

[Is the GDPR a data localization law?](#)

A panel of industry experts at the International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners in Hong Kong have discussed the impact of the EU's General Data Protection Regulation, highlighting the importance of the data transfer regulations in countering the growing international trend for data localization.

"In one of the more animated discussions here at the International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners in Hong Kong, a diverse panel of privacy professionals, policymakers and former regulators debated the future of global data localization law."

03.10.17

Reuters

[Ireland asks Europe's top court to rule on EU-U.S. data transfers](#)

Ireland's high court have referred a data transfer case between Facebook and activist Max Schrems to the European Court of Justice, in a potential test for the future of the EU-US Privacy Shield.

"Ireland's High Court on Tuesday said it would ask the EU's top court to decide whether to ban the way in which Internet firms such as Facebook ([FB.O](#)) transfer users' data to the United States in a case with major implications for companies."

The case is the latest to question whether methods used by large tech firms such as Google ([GOOGL.O](#)) and Apple ([AAPL.O](#)) to transfer data outside the 28-nation European Union give EU consumers sufficient protection from U.S. surveillance."

Internet Inclusion

No new items of relevance

United States of America

Internet governance

No new items of relevance

Cybersecurity

28.09.17

The Hill

[Senate passes small business cybersecurity legislation](#)

The Senate has passed legislation to tackle deficiencies in cybersecurity skills amongst small businesses in a bid to push the government to provide tools to help companies defend their systems against hackers.

“The Senate passed legislation Thursday that would require the federal government to offer more tools to small businesses to guard their networks from cyber threats.”

Privacy

27.09.17

The New York Times

[Twitter, With Accounts Linked to Russia, to face Congress Over Role in Election](#)

Social media sites, Facebook and Twitter have been under the spotlight after disclosing that Russia influenced the 2016 US presidential election by spreading propaganda via their online platforms. Twitter has now terminated over 200 Russian linked accounts.

“After a weekend when Americans took to social media to debate President Trump’s admonishment of N.F.L. players who do not stand for the national anthem, a network of Twitter accounts suspected of links to Russia seized on both sides of the issue with hashtags such as #boycottnfl, #standforouranthem and #takeaknee.”

03.10.17

Reuters

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03.10.17

Sky News

[Equifax data breach worse than first thought](#)

US firm, Equifax has found that an additional 2.5 million US citizens have had their personal information breached after a major cyber-attack on its computer systems.

"Credit report company Equifax has admitted that 2.5 million more Americans than previously thought were potentially affected by a cyber attack that breached its systems.

It takes the total number of people who had their personal information compromised to 145.5 million."

[Internet Inclusion](#)

No new items of relevance

Pan-Asia

Internet governance

26.09.17

The Independent

[WhatsApp down in China as Government tries to stop people talking ahead of ruling party meeting](#)

Chinese authorities have moved to restrict the use of WhatsApp in the lead up to the National Party Conference to elect the next Chinese President, in an attempt to reduce political dissension and the organization of public demonstrations.

“[WhatsApp](#) is breaking in China as the government tightens censorship ahead of a major meeting.

New WhatsApp accounts are unable to connect to the service, and other established ones aren't able to send pictures or videos.”

02.10.17

ETTelecom.com

[Pakistan overhauling communications system with help from China](#)

A new communications system is being developed in Pakistan with the help of China. Outlined in a report, e-governance, fibre optic and control of internet traffic flow are at the heart of the new system, which allows for a reduced dependence on India and the US.

“[Pakistan](#) is working on a massive project with [China](#) as part of the USD 55-billion [CPEC](#) project to develop a communications system which is not routed through [India](#) and the US, a media report said today.

The roadmap of the Long Term Plan (LTP) for the [China Pakistan Economic Corridor](#) (CPEC) was developed from November 2013 to December 2015 by officials and experts from both countries, the Dawn reported.”

03.10.17

Reuters

[Russian firm provides new internet connection to North Korea](#)

Cyber security experts are worried that North Korea's new internet connection provided by a Russian telecommunications firm will increase the country's ability to stage cyberattacks.

"North Korea has opened a second internet connection with the outside world, this time via Russia, a move which cyber security experts said could give Pyongyang greater capability to conduct cyber attacks."

North Korea has been blamed by Western governments for several major cyber attacks in recent years, including against banks and Sony Pictures ([6758.T](#)), as well as the WannaCry ransomware attack that froze computers unless their owners sent cash. Pyongyang has denied any involvement."

Cybersecurity

29.09.17

The Economic Times

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Privacy

03.10.17

Computer Weekly

[Singapore-Listed firms among the world's least exposed to cyber threats](#)

The new Cyber Exposure Index report from Kinkayo has found that amongst companies in the ASEAN region, Singapore firms have the least exposure to cyber threats, with 60% having had slight or no exposure to cyber threats.

“Singapore-listed companies ranked third globally in average cyber exposure, with 60% of them having little or no exposure to cyber threats, according to a cyber exposure index (CEI).

Developed by Kinkayo, a Singapore-based [cyber intelligence](#) company, the CEI assessed listed companies through data collected from publicly available sources, such as the [dark and deep web](#), and from data breaches.”

Internet Inclusion

30.09.17

Economic Times

[On-board Internet- TRAI looking at rolling out WI-FI in Indian Skies](#)

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has moved closer to allowing internet access on Indian aircraft.

“Taking [Indian flyers](#) a step closer to the government's almost two-year-old promise of allowing on-board internet, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) on Friday issued a consultation paper on In-Flight Connectivity (IFC) to frame rules for the same.

The regulator is examining whether on-board internet should be allowed to flyers from the moment they board aircraft to when they alight, or when the aircraft has reached an altitude of 3 km. And finally, whether Indian flyers should have access to both internet services and mobile communication services.”

03.10.17

New Straits Times

[Malaysia crafts digital economy initiatives](#)

The Malaysian Government has announced plans to develop a new Digital Free Trade Zone in a bid to develop the country's digital economy, so that it can compete on the world stage.

"The government is already laying down the groundwork for Malaysia to become a major player in digital economy.

"The government is closely monitoring this evolving landscape with heightened interest and it is our sincere belief that the digital economy can in fact be our new economic 'forte'," said Second Finance Minister Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani during his closing remarks at the Khazanah Megatrends Forum 2017 (KMF17) today."

Rest of the World

Internet governance

03.10.17

Reuters

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02.10.17

Namibia Economist

[Information is the currency of transparency](#)

An internet Governance Forum hosted by Namibia for the first time has discussed the importance of access to information.

"Namibia hosted its first ever Internet Governance Forum in collaboration with International Day and Access to Information in a two day workshop last week at the Safari Court Conference Centre, under the theme "Shape your digital Future".

This event was organised by the Namibia Internet Governance Committee in partnership with several stakeholders such as, Namibia Media Trust (NMT), Friedrich Erbert Stiftung (FesMedia) Africa, the Ministry of ICT and UNESCO among others."

Cybersecurity

25.09.17

SC Media

[Saudi Arabia strives to improve its cyber-readiness: Potomac Assessment](#)

The Potomac Institute has found that Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 strategy is helping to considerably improve the country's cyber resiliency.

“Saudi Arabia's efforts to achieve cyber-readiness are well underway, following a range of external threats, from the 2012 Aramco attack to the more recent Iranian hacking team APT33, as well as significant attacks in 2016 (see below) in addition to internal cyber-threats faced by the regime – including perceived ‘moral’ threats.”

Privacy

No new items of relevance

Internet Inclusion

No new items of relevance

Global Institutions

28.09.17

Telecom World

[Innovative tech and ICT private-public partnerships advanced at ITU Telecom World 2017](#)

ITU Telecom World 2017 has focused on tackling issues on the importance of cybersecurity to global economies, highlighting the need for greater cooperation and collaboration between governments and small and large businesses.

"ITU Telecom World 2017 wrapped up today in Busan following a full four-day programme of tech innovation showcases, debate, networking and awards. The annual event brought together representatives of nations, leading industry players and small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from around the world – fostering valuable support for innovation and business partnerships, and facilitating knowledge exchanges and networking.

"The insightful debates and cutting edge showcases we have experienced this week have shown how the smart digital transformation is reshaping not just our ICT industry, but the world around us," said ITU Secretary-General, Houlin Zhao. "Conversations have also stressed the importance of collaboration between governments, leading ICT players and SMEs, to help guide this transformation. ITU Telecom World 2017 has provided the platform for this, connecting SMEs with key players and governments, for meaningful dialogue."

Diary Dates

[ITU WTDC-17](#) – 09.10.17–20.10.17

Buenos Aires, Argentina

[ICANN 60](#) – 28.10.17-03.11.17

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

[IGF 2017](#) – 18.12.17–21.12.17

Geneva, Switzerland