



17 January 2018

Synopsis

Scroll to read full summaries with links to news articles.

Japan is becoming a member of the **NATO** Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence in Tallinn, **Estonia**. The aim is to cooperate on issues such as **cyber defence**.

After a series of **security** concerns over India's national identity database, The **Unique Identification Authority of India** announced it would add **facial recognition** and fingerprints into its **national identity** card software for extra security.

For years **Indian telecom** companies have been the only internet providers in **Nepal**. However, the Himalayan nation has collaborated with **China** to provide **internet** to Nepalese citizens, putting an end to India's monopoly.

Chatham House, a defence think tank have warned that Britain's **nuclear weapons systems** are vulnerable to **cyberattacks**, which could inadvertently lead to nuclear launches.

The **European Commission** have confirmed that unless a deal on **data protection** is struck with the **UK**, then businesses will no longer be able to automatically transfer personal data to Britain from the 30 March 2019.

The **European Union** and its member states have announced that it will invest €1bn in **supercomputer infrastructure**, which will be used by public- and private-sector entities across the EU.

A draft version of the **United States** nuclear strategy, if approved, would permit the use of **nuclear weapons** to respond to crippling **cyberattacks** on American infrastructure.

Twenty-one states including, **New York**, **Hawaii** and **Pennsylvania** have collaborated to sue the **Federal Communications Commission's** for its decision to repeal **net neutrality** rules.

Intel, a technology company has warned its customers not to download **security updates** designed to guard against microchip **security threats**, after bugs were found on the patches.

Palestinian cellular providers, **Jawwal** and **Wataniya Mobile** announced that they will be providing **3G**, third generation mobile networks, for customers in Israeli-occupied **West Bank** by the end of January.

Telecommunications operators in **Nigeria** have announced that they will not meet the Government's **broadband** penetration target of 30% by the end of 2018 because state Government agencies are shutting down towers.

Andrus Ansip, the Vice-President of the European Commissioner for the **digital single market** said the **EU** could do a lot to help develop Africa's **digital skills** by promoting science, technology and innovation.

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

17 January 2018

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Europe

Internet governance

10.01.18

Computer Weekly

[EC underlines need for data transfer agreement post-Brexit](#)

The European Commission have confirmed that unless a deal on data protection is struck with the UK, then businesses will no longer be able to automatically transfer personal data to Britain from the 30 March 2019.

“The European Commission has emphasised the importance of having a data transfer agreement in place after the UK leaves the European Union.”

“The UK will be considered a “third country” as soon as it leaves the European Union (EU), which will potentially affect personal data exchanges with the UK, the EC’s consumer directorate has said in a Notice to Stakeholders.”

12.01.18

Euractiv

[EU scrambles to finish digital single market in 2018](#)

The European Commission are struggling to finalise legal negotiations for the digital single market in time, because issues over copyright and intellectual property rights remain contentious issues.

“The European Commission has set a tough goal for 2018 of wrapping up legal negotiations on all 25 of the digital single market proposals that it announced since 2015. It will be an uphill battle: there are 13 files still open and fights are simmering over several contentious issues.”

“One year before the Commission’s current term ends, officials are scrambling to seal agreements on the outstanding legal bills. There are plenty of hard-to-resolve disagreements between national governments and MEPs, running from copyright reform to the so-called ePrivacy regulation.”

Cybersecurity

11.01.18

The Times

Cybersecurity of Nuclear Weapons Systems Threats, Vulnerabilities and Consequences

Chatham House, a defence think tank have warned that Britain's nuclear weapons systems are vulnerable to cyberattacks, which could inadvertently lead to nuclear launches.

"Nuclear weapons systems were first developed at a time when computer capabilities were in their infancy and little consideration was given to potential malicious cyber vulnerabilities. Many of the assumptions on which current nuclear strategies are based pre-date the current widespread use of digital technology in nuclear command, control and communication systems."

"There are a number of vulnerabilities and pathways through which a malicious actor may infiltrate a nuclear weapons system without a state's knowledge. Human error, system failures, design vulnerabilities, and susceptibilities within the supply chain all represent common security issues in nuclear weapons systems."

15.01.18

SC Media

Japan to Join the NATO CCDCOE in Tallinn

Japan is becoming a member of the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence in Tallinn, Estonia. The aim is to cooperate on issues such as cyber defence.

"Japan is to join the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence (CCDCOE) in Tallinn, Estonia which the organisation said in a statement will further strengthen the knowledge base and reach of the 20-nation-strong centre."

"The Prime Minister of Japan announced Japan's decision to join the organisation."

Privacy

12.01.18

BBC News

[Leicester council sent care children list to taxi firms](#)

Leicester City Council has accidentally leaked sensitive information of potentially thousands of children with special needs, to twenty-seven taxi firms.

“Details of “hundreds, potentially thousands” of vulnerable people, including children, have been emailed to taxi firms by a council.”

“Leicester City Council accidentally sent the spreadsheet to 27 companies while getting tenders to transport people in care or with special needs.”

Internet Inclusion

13.01.18

Public Technology

[EU unveils €1bn supercomputing scheme](#)

The European Union and its member states have announced that it will invest €1bn in supercomputer infrastructure, which will be used by public- and private-sector entities across the EU.

“The European Union and its member states are to invest €1bn in a small fleet of supercomputers for use by public- and private-sector entities across the EU.”

“The European Commission is to invest €486m in the newly created EuroHPC Joint Undertaking, a programme dedicated to providing Europe with “a world-class high-performance computing (HPC) infrastructure”. This funding is expected to be matched by contributions from individual member states and other “associated countries.”

15.01.18

Public Technology

[Government superfast broadband plans will suffer ‘minimal impact’ from Carillion collapse](#)

The UK Government announced that the liquidation of British construction giant Carillion, will not affect the rollout of superfast broadband across the UK.

“The liquidation of Carillion will have minimal impact on the rollout of superfast broadband across the UK, according to the government and the collapsed company’s technology partners.”

“The embattled construction firm owns a 60% stake in a joint venture (JV) with telecoms and network services company telent, dubbed Carillion telent (Ct). The JV – which is a separate legal entity to the liquidated Carillion business – is involved in various projects across the UK to roll out broadband connections.”

16.01.18

SC Media

Girls give up on STEM subjects after A-level despite subject rise

Unifrog, an online university and careers advice platform have found that while more girls are taking A-levels science, technology and maths, a small percentage of them are studying the same subjects at university.

“A higher percentage of girls are taking A-levels in the three sciences, technology and maths, yet they are still avoiding going on to study the same subjects at university, a study of 100,000 sixth formers by The Times has found.”

“According to Unifrog, an online university and careers advice platform, the ten most popular subjects for boys were economics, law, medicine, computer science, maths, history, accounting and finance, mechanical engineering, psychology, and physics.”

16.01.18

Euractiv

EU urged to help expand internet domain names in different languages

EU institutions have come under increasing pressure from internet governance officials to make the internet more multilingual by expanding internet domain names in different languages.

“Researchers and officials working on internet governance have urged EU institutions to help expand the use of internationalised domain names, which contain letters from alphabets including Cyrillic or Greek, or accented letters like in the word “café.”

“Advocates for internationalised domain names want the European Commission and MEPs to urge technology companies to make more software that recognises those characters, which could increase the amount of internet content in languages other than English.”

17.01.18

African Business

[‘Digital should be a given for everyone, no matter where,’ says Andrus Ansip, VP of EC digital single market](#)

Andrus Ansip, the Vice-President of the European Commissioner for the digital single market said the EU could do a lot to help develop Africa’s digital skills by promoting science, technology and innovation.

“The vice-president of the European commissioner for the digital single market Andrus Ansip discusses how the EU can help Africa develop its digital economy.”

“Yes, digital technology can achieve a lot: it can improve efficiency and integrate renewables into energy supply; it can improve public services like transport and waste disposal and help create smart cities or it can allow a faster and better data processing in order to raise industrial productivity.”

United States of America

Internet governance

12.01.18

Channel NewsAsia

[Intel asks some customers to delay security updates: Report](#)

Intel, a technology company has warned its customers not to download security updates designed to guard against microchip security threats, after bugs were found on the patches.

“Intel Corp is asking some of its customers to hold off installing patches that address new security flaws that affect nearly all of its processors as the patches have bugs of their own, The Wall Street Journal reported on Thursday (Jan 11).”

“Intel has identified three issues in updates released over the past week for “microcode,” or firmware, the newspaper reported, citing a confidential document the company had shared with some customers that it had reviewed.”

16.01.18

The Hill

[Senators unveil bipartisan push to deter future election interference](#)

Two Senators have introduced the, ‘Defending Elections from Threats by Establishing Redlines act’ which seeks to stop foreign Governments from interfering in US elections.

“A pair of senators from each party is introducing legislation meant to deter foreign governments from interfering in future American elections.”

“The bill represents the latest push on Capitol Hill to address Russia’s meddling in the 2016 presidential election and counter potential threats ahead of the 2018 midterms.”

16.01.18

Nextgov

[45 Percent of Federal Email Domains Miss Security Deadline](#)

The US Department of Homeland Security announced that nearly half of federal email domains missed the deadline to download an anti-spoofing email security tool which would make their systems more cyber resilient.

“The Homeland Security Department, which ordered the security upgrade, is only 15 percent compliant.”

“Just under half of federal email domains missed a Homeland Security Department deadline this weekend to install a new anti-spoofing email security tool, according to a tally maintained by an email security firm.”

16.01.18

Ars Technica

[21 states sue FCC to restore net neutrality rules](#)

Twenty-one states including, New York, Hawaii and Pennsylvania have collaborated to sue the Federal Communications Commission’s for its decision to repeal net neutrality rules.

“Twenty-one states and the District of Columbia today kicked off a lawsuit to overturn the Federal Communications Commission’s repeal of net neutrality rules. Advocacy groups are also suing the FCC.”

“The states suing the FCC are New York, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington.”

[Cybersecurity](#)

11.01.18

Nextgov

[Pentagon Thwarts 36 Million Email Breach Attempts Daily](#)

New Statistics have revealed that the US Department of Defence deal with 36 million emails every day containing malware and viruses from hackers seeking to infiltrate their systems.

“Every day, the Defense Department thwarts 36 million emails full of malware, viruses and phishing schemes from hackers, terrorists and foreign adversaries trying to gain unauthorized access to military systems.”

11.01.18

SC Media

[US fails to stand up for democracy in face of Russian online assault](#)

According to a report released by US Democratic Senator Ben Cardin, the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the US President has failed to reprimand Russia for their interference in US elections.

"The US Trump administration has failed to take an aggressive stance against Russian interference in democratic processes that have grave implications for the safety and security of the US, and thus democracy globally."

"Never before has a US president so clearly ignored such a grave and growing threat to US national security."

15.01.18

Reuters

[BlackBerry launches cybersecurity software for self-driving cars](#)

BlackBerry a Canadian software maker have launched a new cybersecurity software called BlackBerry Jarvis, designed to make autonomous vehicles cyber resilient from hijackers.

"Canadian software maker BlackBerry Ltd on Monday launched a new cybersecurity software, which identifies vulnerabilities in programs used in self-driving cars."

"The product, called BlackBerry Jarvis, is being marketed first to automakers - a group of customers the former smartphone maker is hoping will power its turnaround efforts - but could also have applications in healthcare and industrial automation."

16.01.18

The New York Times

[Pentagon Suggests Countering Devastating Cyberattacks With Nuclear Arms](#)

A draft version of the United States nuclear strategy, if approved, would permit the use of nuclear weapons to respond to crippling cyberattacks on American infrastructure.

“A newly drafted United States nuclear strategy that has been sent to President Trump for approval would permit the use of nuclear weapons to respond to a wide range of devastating but non-nuclear attacks on American infrastructure, including what current and former government officials described as the most crippling kind of cyberattacks.”

16.01.18

The Hill

[DHS giving ‘active defense’ cyber tools to private sector, secretary says](#)

The US Department of Homeland Security have announced that they will provide private companies with the tools and resources to protect their systems from cyber-attacks.

“The Department of Homeland Security is providing tools and resources to private companies to engage in “active defense” against cyber threats, its secretary said Tuesday, a practice that has drawn scrutiny from some legal and cybersecurity experts.”

“Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen told a Senate panel that “active defense” is part of the department’s engagement with the private sector.”

[Privacy](#)

No new items of relevance

[Internet Inclusion](#)

No new items of relevance

Pan-Asia

Internet governance

11.01.18

Reuters

[South Korea plans to ban cryptocurrency trading, rattles market](#)

The South Korean Government announced that they plan to ban cryptocurrency trading as policymakers struggle to regulate it.

South Korea's government said on Thursday it plans to ban cryptocurrency trading, sending bitcoin prices plummeting and throwing the virtual coin market into turmoil as the nation's police and tax authorities raided local exchanges on alleged tax evasion.

The clampdown in South Korea, a crucial source of global demand for cryptocurrency, came as policymakers around the world struggled to regulate an asset whose value has skyrocketed over the last year.

15.01.18

Channel NewsAsia

[India to add facial authentication for Aadhaar card security](#)

After a series of security concerns over India's national identity database, The Unique Identification Authority of India announced it will add facial recognition and fingerprints into its national identity card software for extra security.

"India will build facial recognition into its national identity card in addition to fingerprints after a series of breaches in the world's biggest biometric identification programme, the government said on Monday."

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Cybersecurity

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Privacy

No new items of relevance

Internet Inclusion

11.01.18

China Daily

[China seeks 5G mobile-tech lead](#)

Richard Yu, the CEO of the consumer products division at technology giant Huawei, said that China wants to become a leader and not a follower in the generation of 5G mobile networks.

“The 5G ambitions of China's top telecom-equipment makers — Huawei and ZTE — are on display at CES 2018. ZTE rolled out its 5G Future Tunnel to show visitors how the technology will change people's lives.”

“For Huawei, 5G innovations made it into a keynote speech that launched the Mate 10 Pro smartphone, which features the world's fastest “4.5G or pre-5G experience.”

12.01.18

Channel NewsAsia

[With new Chinese link, Nepal ends India's internet monopoly](#)

For years Indian telecom companies have been the only internet providers in Nepal. However, the Himalayan nation has collaborated with China to provide internet to Nepalese citizens, putting an end to India's monopoly.

"Nepal has joined hands with China to offer internet services to its citizens, officials said on Friday, ending India's decades-long monopoly of the Himalayan nation's cyber connectivity network."

"For years, Nepal depended on Indian telecom companies, such as Bharti Airtel and Tata Communications Ltd, for access to the worldwide web, which Nepali officials said made connections vulnerable to network failures."

15.01.18

Channel NewsAsia

[More women needed in science, technology sectors: Josephine Teo](#)

Josephine Teo, the Second Minister for Home Affairs and Manpower in Singapore said that only one in four women in Singapore are involved in sectors such as science and technology.

"As Singapore continues to develop as a Smart Nation, there is a need to include more women in building a strong core of Singaporeans in all growth sectors such as science and technology."

"Second Minister for Home Affairs and Manpower Josephine Teo said this at the launch of the inaugural Women in Technology and Design conference at the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD) on Monday (Jan 15)."

15.01.18

Channel NewsAsia

[Samsung aims to double Africa's share of its revenues in five years](#)

South Korea's Samsung Electronics which accounts for nearly half of mobile handsets sold in Africa said it plans to open shops and other retail channels in the country to double its revenue from African markets.

“South Korea's Samsung Electronics plans to double the annual revenue contribution from its African markets to 20 percent of the firm's global total in the next five years, the head of its business on the continent said on Monday.”

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Rest of the World

Internet governance

No new items of relevance

Cybersecurity

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"The US Trump administration has failed to take an aggressive stance against Russian interference in democratic processes that have grave implications for the safety and security of the US, and thus democracy globally."

"Never before has a US president so clearly ignored such a grave and growing threat to US national security," according to the report, which did not carry a single Republican signature and comes out ahead of a bipartisan report expected from the Senate Intelligence Committee."

16.01.18

The Hill

[Senators unveil bipartisan push to deter future election interference](#)

Two Senators have introduced the 'Defending Elections from Threats by Establishing Redlines act' which seeks to stop foreign Governments such as Russia from interfering in US elections.

"A pair of senators from each party is introducing legislation meant to deter foreign governments from interfering in future American elections."

"The bill represents the latest push on Capitol Hill to address Russia's meddling in the 2016 presidential election and counter potential threats ahead of the 2018 midterms."

Privacy

No new items of relevance

Internet Inclusion

12.01.18

The Guardian

[Spectranet 4G LTE leads ISP market in Nigeria](#)

Spectranet 4G LTE, has been acknowledged as the leading Internet Service Provider of the Internet Broadband market in Nigeria.

“Spectranet 4G LTE, foremost 4G LTE and Internet Service Provider, has been recognized as the leading Internet Service Provider of the internet broadband market in Nigeria.”

“In the most recent report compiled by the country’s telecommunication regulator, Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) on happenings and operations in Nigeria’s telecommunication landscape, Spectranet was adjudged the leading Internet Service Provider (ISP) beating 36 other ISPs to the feat.”

12.01.18

The Guardian

[Operators doubt 30% broadband penetration target for this year](#)

Telecommunications operators in Nigeria have announced that they will not meet the Government’s broadband penetration target of 30% by the end of 2018 because state Government agencies are shutting down towers.

“Telecommunications operators that are expected to deploy telecom infrastructure for the realization of government broadband penetration target of 30% by the end of this year have described the target as a mere wish.”

“They explained that the operating environment and policies of government in relation to deployment and protection of telecommunications infrastructure does not encourage investment.”

16.01.18

Channel NewsAsia

[Palestinians to get 3G mobile services in West Bank - official](#)

Palestinian cellular providers, Jawwal and Wataniya Mobile announced they will be providing 3G, third generation mobile networks, for customers in Israeli-occupied West Bank by the end of January.

“Palestinian cellular providers Jawwal and Wataniya Mobile will launch 3G mobile networks for customers in the Israeli-occupied West Bank by the end of January, an official said on Monday.”

“Suleiman al-Zuhairi, Deputy Minister of Telecommunication in the West Bank-based Palestinian Authority (PA), told Reuters the two companies will be launching the service simultaneously having recently received a green light from Israel.”

17.01.18

African Business

[‘Digital should be a given for everyone, no matter where,’ says Andrus Ansip, VP of EC digital single market](#)

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“Yes, digital technology can achieve a lot: it can improve efficiency and integrate renewables into energy supply; it can improve public services like transport and waste disposal and help create smart cities or it can allow a faster and better data processing in order to raise industrial productivity.”

Global Institutions

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“The Prime Minister of Japan announced Japan's decision to join the organisation.”

Diary Dates

GDPR Summit – 30.01.18

London, England

Manusec Europe – 07.02.18-08.02.18

Munich, Germany

Global Internet and Jurisdiction Conference 2018 – 26.02.18-28.02.18

Ottawa, Canada

RSA – 16.04.18–20.04.18

San Francisco, USA

Africa Internet Summit – 29.04.18-11.05.18

Dakar, Senegal