



25 April 2018

Synopsis

Scroll to read full summaries with links to news articles.

China has gained an international lead on **5G mobile technology** after the country announced it would commercialise the service in 2019, a year ahead of its previous schedule.

A new report indicates that the tiny fraction of **North Korea's** ruling class that have access to the **internet** have recently abandoned western websites such as **Facebook, Instagram** and **Google** for **Chinese** sites such as **Alibaba, Tencent** and **Baidu** to 'cloak their internet activity.'

Founder of Fact checking website **Govindraj Ethira**, said that **India** is faced with hundreds of instances of **fake news** everyday which can often cause 'serious harm' and violent outcomes.

Members of the **European Parliament** have argued that the introduction of the **General Data Protection Regulations** in May will not be enough and the **EU** need more legal safeguards in place to protect citizens from **privacy** breaches.

Under new proposals from the **European Commission**, technology companies will be obliged to share the **personal data** of their users with law enforcement authorities from different member states if they request it.

The **UK's** Health Minister **Jeremy Hunt** has threatened **social media** firms including **Google** and **Facebook** with strict regulation if they fail to protect young children on their online platforms. They have until the end of April to create measures to deal with **cyber bullying** and the length of time millennials spend online.

When new **European privacy laws** coming into effect **Facebook** will not let all its users benefit from the new regulation. In fact only 1.9 billion users will be protected while the 1.5 Facebook members in Africa, Asia, Australia and America will not fall under the **General Data Protection Regulations**.

US President **Donald Trump** has published a new **cyber warfare** strategy outlining how to deter and respond to attacks in **cyberspace**.

Technology giant **YouTube** have announced that they have removed over five million videos from its online platform because of **content policy** violations.

80% of the **South African** population are now covered by **4G mobile technology** provided by mobile communications company, **Vodacom**. 99.9% of the population are covered by 3G and 99.97% by 2G.

Tanzania President **John Magufuli** has introduced strict **online content** rules which mean bloggers with **YouTube** Channels have two weeks to register their platforms and pay US\$900 for a license. **Digital activists** argue this is a way for the President to limit free speech.

Internet giant **Facebook** have launched **#shemeansbusiness** which aims to inspire women to be entrepreneurs and to train and help them achieve their goals.

The **Global Book Alliance** which is a partnership of donor agencies from the **United States**, the **UK**, **Norway** and several other countries have announced a new **Global Digital Library** in **Ethiopia** to increase the number of reading resources to children in the country.

Disclaimer: Please note that this monitor is a summary of news sources and does not reflect the official views of IEEE.

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

25 April 2018

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Europe

Internet governance

19.04.18

Euractiv

[After Facebook scandal, MEPs argue the GDPR isn't enough](#)

Members of the European Parliament have argued that the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulations in May will not be enough and the EU need more legal safeguards in place to protect citizens from privacy breaches.

“The EU needs more legal safeguards to prevent massive privacy breaches like the current scandal over Facebook and British political consulting firm Cambridge Analytica, MEPs from different political parties argued on Wednesday (18 April).”

“Even the bloc’s new data protection law known as the GDPR will not be enough to stop major data abuse, a chorus of legislators insisted at the European Parliament’s plenary session in Strasbourg.”

25.04.18

The Straits Times

[WhatsApp raises minimum user age in Europe to 16 ahead of data law change](#)

WhatsApp have banned under 16’s from across Europe from using the messaging app to help it comply with the introduction of GDPR next month.

“WhatsApp, the popular messaging service owned by Facebook, is raising its minimum user age from 13 to 16 in Europe to help it comply with new data privacy rules coming into force next month.”

“WhatsApp will ask European users to confirm they are at least 16 years old when they are prompted to agree to new terms of service and a privacy policy provided by a new WhatsApp Ireland entity in the next few weeks.”

Cybersecurity

20.04.18

SC Media

[Now your brain can be hacked to kill you; neurostimulator implants at risk](#)

It has been found that Neurostimulators which are implanted in the brain can be hacked by cyber criminals and cause 'irreversible damage' and could potentially be 'life threatening.'

"Academic researchers have discovered that brain implants, known as neurostimulators, can be hacked and could prevent patients from "speaking or moving, cause irreversible damage to his brain, or even worse, be life-threatening."

"According to a paper published by the Catholic Univery of Leuven, titled Securing Wireless Neurostimulators, and presented at the Eighth ACM Conference on Data and Application Security and Privacy last month, such implants can accessed using off-the-shelf equipment."

23.04.18

Reuters

[UK finance firms urged to work together to fight cyber crime](#)

According to a new report by Audit company KPMG, Britain's financial firms should work together with the UK Government and law enforcement to deal with cybersecurity attacks on infrastructure that cripple their businesses. This is because the cyber threat cannot be countered by just spending money, a revamped approach is required.

"Britain's financial firms need to pull together to fight cyber-crime, working with government and law enforcement to attack criminals' infrastructure and put them out of business, a report by KPMG and industry body UK Finance said on Monday."

"The report argues the growing threat cyber-crime poses to the financial sector cannot be countered just by spending more money, and that a revamped approach is needed."

25.04.18

The Straits Times

[Cyber-crime website behind 4 million attacks taken down](#)

A cyber attacking website known as webstresser.org was removed last week after a successful British and Dutch-operation found it had been involved in more than four million cyber- attacks across the world.

“A British and Dutch-led operation on Wednesday (April 25) brought down a website linked to more than four million cyber-attacks around the world, with banking giants among the victims, Britain's National Crime Agency said.”

"Authorities in five countries including the Netherlands, Serbia, Croatia and Canada, with support from Police Scotland and Europol, targeted six members of the crime group behind webstresser.org," the NCA said in a statement."

Privacy

18.04.18

[EU proposes 'revolutionary' fast-track system for police data access](#)

Under new proposals from the European Commission, technology companies will be obliged to share the personal data of their users with law enforcement authorities from different member states if they request it.

“A new EU proposal will force tech companies to share their users’ personal data with law enforcement authorities from different member states upon request.”

“One European Commission official close to the file called the legal overhaul “revolutionary” because it will give police and prosecutors the power to demand data directly from companies that operate messaging apps, social media platforms and other digital services even if they are headquartered in another country.”

19.04.18

Reuters

[German lawmakers to grill Facebook manager on data privacy](#)

German lawmakers are set to question Facebook over its handling of personal data and privacy after allegations that political consultancy Cambridge Analytica had gained access to millions of user’s data and used it to influence the Brexit vote and the US Presidential elections.

“German lawmakers will question a senior Facebook Inc manager about data privacy in the wake of revelations that the personal information of millions of users wrongly ended up in the hands of political consultancy Cambridge Analytica.”

“Lawmakers in the Bundestag lower house of parliament will grill Joel Kaplan, Facebook’s vice president for global public policy, during a closed-door session on Friday morning.”

22.04.18

Channel News Asia

[Britain says web firms 'turning blind eye' to children, threatens regulation](#)

The UK’s Health Minister Jeremy Hunt has threatened social media firms including Google and Facebook with strict regulation if they fail to protect young children on their online platforms. They have until the end of April to create measures to deal with cyber bullying and the length of time millennials spend online.

“Britain’s health minister Jeremy Hunt threatened to impose new regulations on social media firms unless they do more to protect young people using their services.”

“Hunt said the groups were “turning a blind eye” to the effect social media had on children’s well-being - an accusation that comes as Facebook and others face heightened scrutiny worldwide over their impact and influence.”

25.04.18

Channel News Asia

[Twitter improves user data policy ahead of new European privacy laws](#)

Social networking service Twitter have updated their privacy policy in line with the new European data privacy laws coming into effect next month. Users sharing information on the online platform will now be able to see how it is being used.

“Twitter Inc said on Tuesday it is updating its privacy policy to allow users to view information they share with the microblogging service and show how it’s being used, ahead of new regulatory guidelines on European data privacy laws.”

“Tech companies are under intense scrutiny about how they protect customer data after Facebook Inc was embroiled in a huge scandal where millions of users’ data were improperly accessed by a political consultancy.”

Internet Inclusion

26.04.18

GOV.UK

[Tech sector backs British AI industry with multi-million-pound investment](#)

The UK Government and more than fifty leading businesses and organisations have contributed to the development of a £1 billion deal to make the UK a leader in artificial intelligence. £300 million of the Government funding will be used for artificial intelligence research.

“£1 billion deal to put the nation at the forefront of the artificial intelligence industry.”

“More than 50 leading technology companies and organisations have contributed to the development of an AI Sector Deal worth almost £1 billion, including almost £300 million of private sector investment into UK sector.”

United States of America

Internet governance

25.04.18

The Straits Times

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Cybersecurity

19.04.18

The Hill

[Trump sends cyber warfare strategy to Congress](#)

US President Donald Trump has published a new cyber warfare strategy outlining how to deter and respond to attacks in cyberspace.

"President Trump has sent to Congress a long-awaited report on U.S. policy for deterring and responding to attacks in cyberspace."

"The policy was sent to the House and Senate committees with oversight of the departments of State, Homeland Security, Defense and Justice, according to a letter released Thursday by the White House."

Privacy

19.04.18

Reuters

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19.04.18

Reuters

[Facebook to put 1.5 billion users out of reach of new EU privacy law](#)

When new European privacy laws come into effect internet giant Facebook are making that case that only 1.9 billion European users will be protected while the 1.5 billion Facebook members in Africa, Asia, Australia and America will not fall under the General Data Protection Regulations.

"If a new European law restricting what companies can do with people's online data went into effect tomorrow, almost 1.9 billion Facebook Inc users around the world would be protected by it. The online social network is making changes that ensure the number will be much smaller."

"Facebook members outside the United States and Canada, whether they know it or not, are currently governed by terms of service agreed with the company's international headquarters in Ireland."

20.04.18

Reuters

[Indonesia demands more answers from Facebook on data misuse](#)

Along with several other countries Indonesia is demanding more answers from internet giant Facebook over its handling of personal data after revelations that 1,096,666 people in the country potentially had their data shared with political consultancy Cambridge Analytica via a personality quiz.

“Indonesia has given Facebook a week to provide more information on how personal data of about one million of its citizens was misused and on the steps the company is taking to prevent such breaches, the country's communications ministry said.”

“More than 115 million Indonesians use Facebook and authorities in the Southeast Asian country have been pressing the firm to explain how personal data was harvested by political consultancy Cambridge Analytica via a personality quiz.”

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“Hunt said the groups were "turning a blind eye" to the effect social media had on children's well-being - an accusation that comes as Facebook and others face heightened scrutiny worldwide over their impact and influence.”

24.04.18

Channel News Asia

[Facebook unveils appeal process for when it removes posts](#)

Social media giant Facebook have announced that if they remove photos, videos or written posts they deem to be inappropriate from their online platform, users will retain the power to appeal their decision.

“Facebook said on Tuesday (Apr 24) it will give users the right to appeal decisions if the social network decides to remove photos, videos or written posts deemed to violate community standards.”

“Plans to roll out an appeals process globally in coming months came as Facebook provided a first-ever look at internal standards used to decide what posts go too far in terms of hateful or threatening speech.”

24.04.18

Reuters

[YouTube deletes 5 million videos for content violation](#)

Technology giant YouTube have announced that they have removed over five million videos from its online platform because of content policy violations.

“YouTube, owned by Alphabet Inc’s Google (GOOGL.O), deleted about 5 million videos from its platform for content policy violations in last year’s fourth quarter before any viewers saw them, it said in a new report that highlighted its response to pressure to better police its online community.”

“YouTube has been criticized by governments that say it does not do enough to remove extremist content, and by advertisers, such as Procter & Gamble Co (PG.N) and Under Armour Inc (UAA.N) that briefly boycotted the service when they unwittingly ran ads alongside videos the companies deemed inappropriate.”

Internet Inclusion

23.04.18

It News Africa

[Facebook launches #SheMeansBusiness in Nigeria](#)

Internet giant Facebook have launched #shemeansbusiness which aims to inspire women to be entrepreneurs and to train and help them achieve their goals.

“Technology Times Nigeria, SheMeansBusiness, a platform launched by Facebook, aims to train Nigerian female entrepreneurs and help them grow their businesses.”

“Ebele Okobi, Facebook’s Public Policy Director for Africa, said that SheMeansBusiness was designed to inspire women to start and grow their own businesses.”

Pan-Asia

Internet governance

25.04.18

The Straits Times

[North Korea's elite quitting Facebook, concealing internet activity](#)

A new report indicates that the tiny fraction of North Korea's ruling class that have access to the internet have recently abandoned western websites such as Facebook, Instagram and Google for Chinese sites such as Alibaba, Tencent and Baidu to 'cloak their internet activity.'

"North Korea's ruling class has in recent months abandoned Western social media sites such as Facebook, Instagram and Alphabet's Google and dramatically increased its use of tools that cloak internet activity, according to cyber security research published on Wednesday (April 25)."

"The reclusive country's small percentage of internet-connected leaders is preferring to use Chinese services such as Alibaba, Tencent and Baidu, US-based cyber intelligence firm Recorded Future said in a report."

25.04.18

Channel News Asia

[Police in Chinese city seize 600 computers used to mine bitcoin](#)

In North China in the city of Tianjin, Police forces seized 600 computers that criminals were using to mine Bitcoin Cryptocurrency after a local power grid operator had reported a large abnormal amount of electricity usage.

"Police in the north China city of Tianjin confiscated 600 computers used to mine bitcoin cryptocurrency after the local power grid operator reported abnormal electricity usage, Xinhua reported Wednesday."

"Eight high-power fans were also seized," Xinhua said, quoting local police and added that it was the "largest power theft case in recent years."

Cybersecurity

No new items of relevance

Privacy

19.04.18

Reuters

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23.04.18

Channel News Asia

[Online myth busters fight tide of fake news in India](#)

Founder of Fact checking website Govindraj Ethira, said that India is faced with hundreds of instances of fake news everyday which can often cause 'serious harm' and violent outcomes that do not happen in other countries.

"As grief and outrage over the rape and murder of an eight-year-old crescendoed in India last week, a wrenching video of the supposed victim singing "her last song" lit up phones across the country."

"But it was a hoax. The clip was nearly a year old and the girl someone entirely different, a lie that was discovered by a team of fact checkers who debunk the "fake news" shared by millions of Indians every day."

[Internet Inclusion](#)

19.04.18

China Daily

[Nation gains advantage in 5G race](#)

China has gained an international lead on 5G mobile technology after the country announced it would commercialise the service in 2019, a year ahead of its previous schedule.

"As China aims to commercialize 5G services in 2019, one year ahead of its previous schedule, a new report shows that the country is already slightly ahead of South Korea and the United States in the race to develop fifth generation wireless networks."

"The study released by the CTIA, a US-based industry association of wireless carriers, suggested that the US is lagging in the effort to deploy the superfast wireless systems that will be needed for self-driving cars, telemedicine and other technologies."

24.04.18

Channel News Asia

[Chinese tech giants, government under fire for 'men only' job ads](#)

According to a new Human Rights Watch report top Chinese technology firms have been guilty of discriminatory hiring practices and deterring women from

applying for jobs. This is because in many of their job adverts they display 'beautiful girls' as a selling point.

"Top Chinese tech firms and some government departments have been singled out in a report that says discriminatory hiring practices based on gender are widespread in China and are linked to a shrinking proportion of women in the labour force."

"Job ads posted by Alibaba Group Holding Ltd, Baidu Inc and Tencent Holdings Ltd were among those that deterred female applicants or objectified women, said Human Rights Watch in a report released on Monday."

25.04.18

China Daily

[Industrial internet to get boost from government](#)

Li Guanyu Deputy Director from the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology division announced that the Government will help develop the industrial internet and publish a new guideline to promote the internet powered development of the nation's manufacturing sector.

"China will accelerate steps to develop the industrial internet and publish a guideline to promote the digitalized, intelligent and internet-powered development of the nation's manufacturing sector, said a leading official on Monday."

"We will release a guideline to promote the construction of the industrial internet including fostering industrial apps," said Li Guanyu, deputy director of the information and software service division of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology."

25.04.18

The Straits Times

[Students visit aerospace companies in drive to raise interest in growing industry](#)

In Singapore new student outreach initiatives have been planned for the aerospace sector put together by the Association of Aerospace Industries (Singapore), aerospace companies, as well as the polytechnics and ITE College Central. Students will be given the opportunity to visit aerospace companies to inspire their interest in the growing industry.

“For motorheads, it may be burnt rubber but for aeronautical engineering student Aretha Chanokporn Law Hwee Cih, it is a thrill to get an up-close view of plane parts being welded, and smell the heated metal.”

“Aretha, 20, has always wanted to be an engineer. The third-year Singapore Polytechnic student has been trying out the profession during her 22-week internship at General Electrics Aviation, which will end on Aug 10 this year.”

Rest of the World

Internet governance

20.04.18

The Hill

[Twitter bans Kaspersky Lab from buying ads](#)

Social media giant Twitter has banned Kaspersky from purchasing advertisements on their internet platform after allegations the Russian cybersecurity firm is connected to the Kremlin.

“Twitter has banned the Russian cybersecurity company Kaspersky Lab from advertising on its platform over its purported relationship with the Kremlin.”

“Twitter said Friday its decision was “based on our determination that Kaspersky Lab operates using a business model that inherently conflicts with acceptable Twitter ad practices.”

24.04.18

Channel News Asia

[Tanzania sets two-week deadline for bloggers amid internet crackdown](#)

Tanzania President John Magufuli has introduced strict online content rules which mean bloggers with YouTube Channels have two weeks to register their platforms and pay US\$900 for a licence. Digital activists argue this is a way for the President to limit free speech.

“Tanzania's communications regulator has given bloggers two weeks to register their platforms under strict new online content rules, amid concerns that the government is cracking down on internet users.”

“Regulations passed in March make it mandatory for bloggers and owners of other online forums such as Youtube TV channels to register with the government and pay up to US\$900 for a license.”

Cybersecurity

No new items of relevance

Privacy

19.04.18

Reuters

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Internet Inclusion

19.04.18

IT News Africa

[MENA Innovation 2018: Official Ministerial Summit for ICT Innovation in Education & Digital Inclusion](#)

MENA Innovation 2018, an event which gathers Government officials, technology companies, educational experts and countries including Iraq, Jordan, Ghana, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia, Uganda to discuss pressing issues such as developing digital skills and advancing innovation in science and research has been announced.

“Government are looking forward with anticipation to MENA Innovation 2018 which will see the gathering of ministers and government officials, under the patronage of HE Yasser El Kady, Egyptian Minister of Communications & Information Technology. The summit will take place over three days at the Dusit Thani, Cairo, 29 – 31 July. Up to 25 Middle Eastern and African countries will be

represented at the summit, with invitations already sent to regional ministers of ICT, education and higher education; allowing captains of industry and investors to engage in pre-scheduled meetings with ministers and officials.”

“Confirmed participating countries already include, Cyprus, Ethiopia, Ghana, Greece, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Uganda, UAE.”

19.04.18

IT News Africa

[Vodacom exceeds 80% population coverage on 4G](#)

80% of the South African population are now covered by 4G mobile technology provided by mobile communications company, Vodacom. 99.9% of the population are covered by 3G and 99.97% by 2G.

“Vodacom has just reached a new milestone. Despite “vanishing data” problems in recent times, the network service provider has just become the first African mobile network to exceed 80% population coverage on 4G.”

“Vodacom now provides 80.12% 4G coverage in South Africa, with 99.78% of the population covered by 3G and 99.97% covered by 2G.”

20.04.18

IT News Africa

[Africa’s journey to overcoming educational barriers to technology adoption](#)

IT News Africa have announced they will hold a summit on the 31st May 2018 which will bring together school principals, academics, University Chancellors and other influencers in the education sector in South Africa to discuss the problems they have faced in overcoming the lack of technology in the classroom.

“Integration of technology in the classroom is inevitable as technology continues to dominate in all industries including healthcare, finance as well as retail to name a few.”

“It is clear however that schools in Africa are lagging behind when it comes to adopting new technologies in the classroom. Educators and learners are faced with hurdles and there is a general lack of support for education technology initiatives.”

23.04.18

The Guardian

[Abuja hosts Africa at the 2018 Internet Freedom Forum](#)

The city of Abuja, Nigeria will host the annual Internet Freedom Forum which will help bring attention to Africa's digital rights, privacy and access to the internet issues at a time when African's fear their freedom online.

"From April 24 to April 26, 2018, the city of Abuja will play host to the annual Internet Freedom Forum organized by Paradigm Initiative. The forum comes at an important time when many Africans fear for their freedom online. According to Paradigm Initiative, the Lagos-based organisers of the Forum, "the Forum helps bring attention to important issues confronting digital rights such as data privacy, internet shutdown, access to the internet, among others."

"The Forum, over the years, has gained the reputation as the platform where experts deliberate on issues relating to digital rights and inclusion."

23.04.18

It News Africa

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23.04.18

IT News Africa

[Investing in STEM skills crucial to South Africa's development](#)

Richard Firth, CEO of MIP Holdings said South Africa needs to invest in institutions that solely focus on STEM subjects to help deal with the ever-growing skills gap.

“The basic education sector in South Africa needs to increase the number of institutions that focus on critical subjects such as science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM). So says Richard Firth, CEO of MIP Holdings, adding that it is crucial for South Africa to change its education strategy from one where pupils get a diploma after grade 12, to one where pupils get a job.”

“Improving STEM and computer subjects is essential, and we need to look at what can be done to fast-track growth in the economy.”

25.04.18

IT News Africa

[Ethiopia selected as the first country to launch Global Digital Library](#)

The Global Book Alliance which is a partnership of donor agencies from the United States, the UK, Norway and several other countries have announced a new Global Digital Library in Ethiopia to increase the number of reading resources to children in the country.

“The Global Book Alliance, which is comprised of donor agencies from the United States, Norway, the UK, and other countries, is launching a new Global Digital Library in Ethiopia to increase the availability of high-quality reading resources for children and youth across the country.”

“Ethiopia was selected as the first country to launch the Global Digital Library, which is a worldwide effort to provide children with the books and learning materials they need to learn to read.”

25.04.18

IT News Africa

[CapaCiti to train 3000 unemployed youth for #yourdigitalfuture](#)

Technology company CapaCity have announced they are training 3,000 young individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds with technology skills and helping them get on the employment ladder in leading South African companies.

“Over the next three years, CapaCiTi is scaling up to equip 3000 previously disadvantaged young individuals with industry-demanded technology and business skills, placing them in permanent jobs in South Africa’s leading companies.”

“This hugely impactful programme roll-out has been enabled through the generous support from South African corporate businesses, R100m from BCX, and also R75m from the National Treasury Jobs Fund.”

Global Institutions

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Diary Dates

[Africa Internet Summit](#) – 29.04.18-11.05.18

Dakar, Senegal

[Cyber in the Digital Economy](#) – 17.05.18

London, England

[2018 Digital Festival](#) – 21.05.18

London, England

[Diversity in Technology](#) – 24.05.18

London, England

[EuroDIG](#) – 05.06.18-06.06.18

Tbilisi, Georgia

[Data Centres Risk Radar](#) – 24.06.18

London, England