

# Internet Governance BAROMETER (NOVEMBER 2017)

IG Barometer indicates the presence of specific IG issues in the public policy debate in comparison to the previous month

## Global IG architecture



After the UN Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) ended without consensus, the search for venues to address some cybersecurity issues continues. In Delhi, the Global Cyberspace Conference covered some aspects of global cybersecurity cooperation, especially when it comes to capacity development. At the same meeting, the Global Commission on the Stability of Cyberspace (GCSC) issued a Call to Protect the Public Core of the Internet, [urging](#) state and non-state actors to avoid activity that would intentionally and substantially damage the general availability or integrity of the 'public core' of the Internet.

The GCSC proposes the adoption of the following norm by all stakeholders: 'Without prejudice to their rights and obligations, state and non-state actors should not conduct or knowingly allow activity that intentionally and substantially damages the general availability or integrity of the public core of the Internet, and therefore the stability of cyberspace.' It remains to be seen how the major actors in the cyber field will react to this call.

## Sustainable development



The ITU has announced an increase in its indicators, used to assess and rank ICT development across countries. The new methodology of 14 indicators, instead of 11, is designed to capture recent developments in ICT markets, with the introduction of emerging technologies. The ICT Development Index [is](#) a core feature of the ITU's annual *Measuring the Information Society Report*. [is](#)

## Security



The number of distributed denial of service attacks (DDoS) attacks continues to increase as criminals take advantage of insecure Internet of Things (IoT) devices. A report by Corero Network Security [reveals](#) a 35% increase in monthly attack attempts compared to the previous quarter, and a 91% increase in monthly attack attempts compared to the first quarter of 2017.

A security vulnerability in Ethereum wallets froze 500 000 units of the Ether cryptocurrency. This occurred to multi-signature wallets, i.e., wallets which require more than one owner to 'sign' a transaction. Parity Technologies, the company behind the wallets, said that this occurred due to an accidental global execution of a vulnerability, which permanently locked more than USD\$150 million in cryptocurrency. [is](#)

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## E-commerce and Internet economy



On a global level, the WTO's Ministerial Meeting is not likely to reach consensus on advancing e-commerce agenda. *More in DW newsletter no. 26.* Dynamism in e-commerce shifts at regional level.

Trade ministers from the 11 remaining Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) countries announced they agreed on the core elements of the deal. Nevertheless, a planned meeting to announce the deal was cancelled after the Canadian Prime Minister decided not to attend, due to some remaining concerns. Negotiators from Canada, Mexico, and the USA have concluded their fifth round of talks to modernise the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The negotiations made substantial advances in sectors such as telecommunications, trade facilitation, e-commerce, and technical barriers to trade.

The UK Treasury is preparing for unilateral action on taxing the digital economy. In a position paper on corporate tax and the digital economy, the government will push for international tax reforms, while exploring interim solutions to raise revenue from digital businesses.

Uber is facing more legal woes. In the UK, the ride-sharing company has lost its appeal against a court ruling issued last year by an employment tribunal, which ruled that Uber employees should be classed as workers with minimum-wage rights. Uber plans to continue to challenge the court's decision, and it has yet to decide whether to go through a court of appeal, or straight to the Supreme Court. Uber drivers in Nigeria have initiated a similar case in a Lagos court.

The proposed SegWit2X upgrade of the Bitcoin payment system, known as the New York Agreement, has been postponed. The upgrade failed to gain the widespread support needed among Bitcoin users.

Bitcoin is approaching the next threshold of value of USD\$10 000 per unit.

Uber covered up the leak of data of 57 million users, Bloomberg reports. *More in DW newsletter no. 26.*

Venezuela's Constituent Assembly has passed a law its authors say 'would punish messages of hate in broadcast and social media with penalties reaching 20 years in prison'.

The Council of Europe (CoE) and Russian antivirus software developer Kaspersky Lab, as well as other IT and Internet companies, have pledged to protect human rights and help maintain a secure Internet. They will cooperate on combatting child online sexual exploitation and abuse; countering cybercrime and terrorism; and promoting freedom of expression online, the right to privacy, the protection of personal data, education for democratic citizenship, gender equality online, and culture and digitalisation.

Internet freedom has declined for the seventh consecutive year, Freedom House's *Freedom on the Net 2017* reveals. The use of social media to 'advance an anti-democratic agenda' has brought new challenges, as it is 'more difficult to combat than other types of censorship', the project's director explained.

## Digital rights



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## Jurisdiction and legal issues



A California judge has blocked the Canadian Supreme Court's right-to-be-forgotten ruling from taking effect in the USA. [More in DW newsletter no. 26.](#)

The European Commission is setting up a High-Level Expert Group on fake news and online disinformation, [with representatives of academia, the tech industry, news media, and civil society.](#) It has launched a public consultation to feed into an EU strategy on how to tackle the spread of fake news. [More in DW newsletter no. 26.](#)

## Infrastructure



A new law in Russia restricting the use of proxy tools such as virtual private networks (VPNs) and anonymisers, came into force on 1 November. [More in DW newsletter no. 26.](#)

Microsoft-owned Skype has been removed from several Chinese app stores, including those operated by Apple and Android. [Apple was notified by the Ministry of Public Security that a number of voice over Internet protocol apps do not comply with local law.](#) [More in DW newsletter no. 26.](#)

## Net neutrality



The US FCC is preparing to vote on rolling back the 2015 net neutrality rules. The draft Restoring Internet Freedom order [is expected to replace the 2015 order.](#) [More in DW newsletter no. 26.](#)

## New technologies (IoT, AI, etc.)



The Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) met for the first in Geneva, to discuss the technology, military, legal, and ethical issues surrounding LAWS. [More in DW newsletter no. 26.](#)

In Tokyo, chatbot Shibuya Mirai – programmed to resemble a 7-year-old boy – was granted official residence. [The chatbot is aimed at making the local government more familiar and accessible to residents, allowing officials to hear their opinions.](#)

In Arizona, USA, Alphabet-owned company Waymo has started testing self-driving cars on public roads, with no safety drivers on board. [The UK announced plans for fully self-driving cars, without a human operator, by 2021.](#) [Singapore aims to have driverless buses by 2022.](#) [More in DW newsletter no. 26.](#)

A report published by the Centre for Policy Studies in the UK argues that taxing robots will not protect jobs, and that calls for a universal basic income are premature, as this would distort the labour market. [More in DW newsletter no. 26.](#)