

Internet Governance BAROMETER (MAY 2016)

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

Global IG architecture



G7 leaders welcomed the report of the UN Group of Governmental Experts in 2015, which reaffirms that no country should conduct or knowingly support ICT-enabled theft of intellectual property, and endorses the G7 Principles and Actions on Cyber. A G7 working group on cyber will be established. [↗](#)

The USA and China have met for the first Senior Experts Group meeting to address international norms of state behaviour and other crucial issues for international security in cyberspace. [↗](#) Details of the discussions were not made available. [↗](#)

The USA has warned against the fragmentation of the Internet as a result of new Chinese regulation on domain names. [↗](#) This comes after the Chinese government decided that all domain names in China must be registered through government-licensed providers in the country. [↗](#)

Sustainable development



Sustainable development and WSIS Action Lines were the underlying themes of WSIS Forum 2016, which also discussed ways in which ICTs can be utilised to attain the goals. The themes were heavily linked to development, including bridging the digital divide and strengthening access, and areas related to infrastructure and the digital economy. [↗](#)

Security



A Chinese committee associated with the country's Internet control bureau is scrutinising US technology products sold in China to the public for potential security threats. US tech companies fear the aim is to extract trade secrets. [↗](#)

Over 1 billion stolen credential records were in possession of an individual operating in the dark market. [↗](#)

US Intelligence claims foreign hackers are spying on presidential candidates. [↗](#)

Google has announced the introduction of HTTPS for every domain blog on blogspot.com, allowing users to access blogspot blogs over an encrypted channel. [↗](#) Its new applications Allo and Duo will also have end-to-end encryption. [↗](#)

Privacy and human rights



Privacy and security issues continue to heighten tensions between Silicon Valley and the US government, as Twitter barred US intelligence agencies from using Dataminr, a service that analyses the entire output of Twitter posts. [↗](#)

On the occasion of World Press Freedom Day (3 May), the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression has warned that the fight against violent extremism could be used as an 'excuse' to curb free speech. [↗](#)

The European Parliament, Council, and Commission agreed on a new set of rules to make public sector websites and mobile apps more accessible, especially for persons with disabilities. [↗](#)

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Infrastructure



The first nationwide network dedicated to the Internet of Things is being deployed in South Korea by Samsung and SK Telecom. [LoRaWAN](#) (Long Range Wide Area Network) will use the 900 MHz frequency band, part of the unlicensed public spectrum. It will be available as a commercial service as of mid-2016.

Facebook and Microsoft plan to build a subsea cable between the USA and Europe. Project 'Marea' will bridge more than 6600 kilometres between Virginia (USA) and Bilbao (Spain), with an initial estimated design capacity of 160 Tbps.

As of 1 June, Apple will require all apps submitted to its App Store to support IPv6-only networking.

New legislation by a US state (Arizona) will require state institutions to migrate their IT resources and operations to the cloud.

Net neutrality



In a letter to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), a number of Internet companies are requesting that the US FCC evaluation of zero-rating plans by several Internet service providers (ISPs) be made public. The FCC's net neutrality rules, passed in 2015, allow the agency to review zero-rating plans on a case-by-case basis.

India's telecom regulator is exploring options to provide free Internet without violating net neutrality rules.

E-commerce and Internet economy



The Greek government has passed a package of tax reforms, including a tax on Internet use. The Nigerian parliament is also considering a new ICT tax.

Estonian legislation will allow residents to open bank accounts remotely. The rules will allow for identification through electronic means; the face-to-face requirement will be replaced by a new digital 'three-stage identification process'.

The European Commission's plans to reshuffle its digital policy department, DG Connect, foresees a new unit dedicated to e-commerce and online platforms, one of the most controversial areas currently under the Commission's scrutiny.

A new report by Google and Temasek - e-economy SEA - estimates that the Internet economy of Southeast Asia has the potential to reach \$200 billion by 2025, a growth driven by the expanding young population, a lack of big-box retail, and a rapidly growing middle class.

Jurisdiction and legal issues



Google has won a legal battle against Oracle over Google's use of Java in its Android smartphone operating system. The San Francisco jury ruled that Google's use of the software amounted to 'fair use' as it was part of a larger system which the tech giant created for a new purpose.

Russia is seeking China's expertise in Internet management, as Chinese and Russian officials discuss China's Internet sovereignty model and content control of the Internet during the 7th International Safer Internet Forum.

Brazil blocked WhatsApp nationwide for 72 hours after the company refused to comply with court requests for user data in a criminal investigation. The suspension, applied across the country, affected millions of Brazilians.

IANA transition



The ICANN Board adopted a new set of ICANN bylaws required as a result of the recommendations contained in the IANA stewardship transition proposal and the accountability proposal. The new bylaws relate to the 'empowered community' (which will be able to exercise powers such as rejecting ICANN budgets and operating plans, and removing Board members), and the creation of a 'Post Transition IANA Entity' (as a separate legal entity that will provide the IANA services).