

Internet Governance BAROMETER (OCTOBER 2017)

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

Global IG architecture



Countering terrorist content was a special focus of the G7 Interior Ministers' meeting (Ischia, Italy, 19–20 October).[\[1\]](#) The ministers discussed the issue with representatives of Facebook, Google, Microsoft, and Twitter, and agreed that the private sector should find solutions for removing content within 1–2 hours,[\[2\]](#) thus reiterating a call by the Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May last month.[\[3\]](#) Emphasising the importance of 'building mutual trust' with the Internet industry, the G7 also committed to 'explore the design and implementation of a global law enforcement platform, hosted by Interpol' to investigate terrorist content. This was the first time that the Internet industry was invited to a G7 meeting.[\[4\]](#)

Sustainable development



In a joint meeting of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and Second Committee of the UN General Assembly, the UN Deputy Secretary-General warned that despite profound potential for accelerating progress on the SDGs, technology risks exacerbating existing inequalities if technological progress is not managed well.[\[1\]](#)

Security



A new ransomware, Bad Rabbit, spread around the globe using the help of a leaked NSA exploit exposed by a hacking group, security researchers confirmed.[\[1\]](#)

A new report has said that 'basic IT security' could have prevented British hospitals – who had been earlier warned to patch their systems – from being attacked by the WannaCry ransomware outbreak in May.[\[2\]](#) Meanwhile, the British security minister said that 'it was widely believed in the community and across a number of countries' that North Korea was behind WannaCry.[\[3\]](#)

Yahoo! has confirmed that all 3 billion accounts were hacked in 2013. Last December, the company had said that data from over 1 billion accounts were compromised back then; this month's confirmation triples the number of the largest breach in history.[\[1\]](#)

The security protocol used to protect the majority of Wi-Fi connections around the world – known as the WPA2 protocol – has been broken. This has exposed 'all Wi-Fi networks to malicious eavesdroppers and attacks', researchers confirmed.[\[1\]](#)

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E-commerce and Internet economy



Several countries have tabled a number of papers in preparation for the 11th Ministerial Conference (MC11) of the WTO, taking place in December, in Buenos Aires.[↗](#)

Russia is proposing a regulatory framework for cryptocurrency.[↗](#) Concerns with money laundering and tax evasion are the main reasons for the proposed regulation, which is expected to be introduced by the end of the year. In Ukraine, a new proposal aims to legalise all cryptocurrency transactions in the country.[↗](#)

At a meeting of the European Council, EU leaders agreed that companies needed to pay their fair share of taxes, and referred to the need for a global level playing field 'in line with the work currently underway at the OECD'. This is considered a setback for the French President, who is planning to secure an EU agreement on revenue tax, independent of the OECD.[↗](#) Meanwhile, the OECD has received public comments on new international tax rules.[↗](#) The comments will contribute to an interim report, to be launched in April 2018 at the G20 Finance Ministers' meeting.

The European Commission has found that Luxembourg provided illegal tax benefits to Amazon of around €250 million. The company needs to repay the sum as back taxes. It is expected to appeal.[↗](#)

Following a decision by Transport for London not to renew Uber's licence in the UK capital,[↗](#) the company has filed an appeal, which is expected to take months to be decided.[↗](#) In Norway, Uber decided to suspend its unlicensed service UberPOP in Oslo, to give time for new regulations to be introduced in the country.[↗](#)

PwC's Young Workers Index 2017 revealed that 30% of jobs in OECD countries are at risk of automation.[↗](#)

Digital rights



The pan-European data regulator, the Article 29 Working Party (WP29), has set up a taskforce to tackle concerns over user data sharing by Facebook and WhatsApp.[↗](#) Meanwhile, the regulator issued new guidelines on personal data breach notification under the GDPR.[↗](#)

The Dutch registries for .amsterdam and .frl gTLDs have decided not to provide public access to Whois records containing information about the registrants of domain names, as this would go against Dutch privacy law.[↗](#)

Cameroon faced another Internet shutdown amid renewed protests in its Anglophone regions.[↗](#)

Jurisdiction and legal issues



The US Supreme Court has decided to review Microsoft's search warrant case,[↗](#) while Ireland's High Court announced it would ask the CJEU to determine whether the Standard Contractual Clauses introduced in the EU-US Privacy Shield provided enough data protection to European users.[↗](#)

In Australia, Google lost its appeal of an Australian court decision which held that Google had defamed a user by 'publishing defamatory material about her in its search results'.[↗](#) Once Google was notified with a request to remove the defamatory material from its search results, it was duty-bound to act within a reasonable time.[↗](#)

London is planning a new cyber court to tackle cybercrime and fraud in the financial sector.[↗](#)

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Infrastructure



North Korea established a new Internet connection via the Russian TransTeleCom's network, which now handles around 60% of North Korea's traffic. The new connectivity makes the country's network more resilient against attacks and increases bandwidth capacity. Until now, the country was connected to the global Internet solely through China Unicom.[\[1\]](#)

The ICANN Board has issued a new resolution on .amazon, asking the Governmental Advisory Committee whether it has any new or additional information regarding its previous advice that the applications for .amazon should not proceed.[\[2\]](#)

Net neutrality



The European Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC) has announced new initiatives on net neutrality.[\[1\]](#) It decided to develop a net neutrality opt-in measurement tool, to be used by national regulatory authorities (NRAs) and end-users to measure the quality of fixed or mobile Internet access services and detect potential illegal traffic management practices. It also adopted a net neutrality regulatory assessment methodology,[\[2\]](#) aimed to assist NRAs in monitoring and supervising the implementation of the new neutrality provisions outlined in EU's Open Internet Regulation adopted in 2015.

The Federal Network Agency in Germany decided that Deutsche Telekom's StreamOn service partially violates net neutrality rules, since the company does not treat video and audio services equally in consumers' mobile phone tariffs.[\[3\]](#)

New technologies (IoT, AI, etc.)



Estonia is working on legislation aimed to address the legal status of AI systems.[\[1\]](#)

An independent report commissioned by the UK government estimates that AI could add £630 billion to the country's economy by 2035, and outlines recommendations to transform the UK into 'the best place in the world for businesses developing and deploying AI to start, grow, and thrive'.[\[2\]](#)

The United Arab Emirates has launched an AI strategy^[1] and appointed a State Minister for Artificial Intelligence^[2] – as part of a new cabinet – whose task is to 'make the UAE the world's best prepared for AI and other advanced technologies'. In its second annual report,^[3] the AI Now Institute at the New York University has called for more accountability in AI systems. The report paid particular attention to the use of AI algorithms in areas such as criminal justice, healthcare, welfare, and education, and drew attention to the dangers of bias and inaccuracy in such algorithms.

In its Policy Principles on AI,^[1] the Information Technology Industry Council, representing leading technology companies such as Apple, Amazon Facebook, Google, and Microsoft, advises governments to 'use caution before adopting new laws, regulations, or taxes that may inadvertently or unnecessarily impede the responsible development and use of AI'.