

Internet Governance BAROMETER (SEPTEMBER 2016)

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

Global IG architecture



At their annual summit, G20 leaders adopted the Blueprint on Innovative Growth, [emphasising](#) the role of the digital economy and the new industrial revolution. The leaders, who met in Hangzhou, China, committed to a series of policies and actions, including bridging the digital divide; leveraging opportunities and coping with the challenges brought by emerging technologies; fostering favourable conditions for achieving trust and security in the digital environment; protecting and enforcing IPR; and improving training and skills for science, technology, and innovation.

China and India are now the world's largest Internet markets, according to new country-by-country data released by the UN Broadband Commission. The *State of the Broadband 2016* [also reveals](#) that 55% of the total population still offline is from just six nations.

Preparations for the 11th IGF are under way: registrations for participation and remote hubs are open.

Sustainable development



Sustainable development goals cannot be achieved without affordable and universal access to ICTs and broadband connectivity, members of the Broadband Commission said during their annual meeting. The Commission addressed two issues: how broadband can support the equitable provision of health and education in all countries, and how the investment levels required for the rollout of global broadband infrastructure that connects everyone, everywhere, can be achieved.

Security



The fifth UN Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security (UN GGE) [met](#) in New York; the next meeting is in November.

The USA is investigating whether recent hacks of the Democratic National Committee are part of a covert Russian operation to influence the upcoming US elections. The US Democratic presidential candidate, Hillary Clinton, confirmed concerns that Russia could be interfering with the US electoral process.

Following a meeting with the Russian President at the side lines of the G20 meeting in China, the US President warned of the cyber-arms race by the countries that have significant cyber capacity, which could turn cyberspace into a 'wild Wild West'.

Officials from Nordic and Baltic states and the USA gathered for joint cyber-consultations [in](#) which they agreed that states have the responsibility to promote cybersecurity and human rights online, and affirmed that no state should conduct or knowingly support industrial cyber-espionage. They also endorsed the reports of the UN GGE.

Associated Press, Vice Media, and the USA Today have sued the FBI for not disclosing the Apple exploits it used. The news organisations are requesting the FBI to disclose details about the vulnerability and to report how much the US government paid for it.

Privacy and human rights



The theft of massive amounts of user account information from Yahoo! is believed to have been performed by a state-sponsored actor. More than 500 million users were affected.

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Infrastructure



The European Commission is proposing an ambitious overhaul of EU telecoms rules. President Jean-Claude Juncker announced a WiFi4EU programme, [5G Action Plan](#), [and Electronic Communications Code](#) (which will introduce new legal obligations for over-the-top service providers), [during the annual State of the Union 2016 address](#).

Major Chinese telecom companies are assessing opportunities to enter the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) market, where the Internet penetration rate is low. This could be part of China's One Belt One Road initiative, [a \\$40 billion initiative launched in 2014 to recreate the legendary Silk Road](#).

In the USA, AT&T revealed plans to deliver low-cost, high-speed Internet access using power lines. Project AirGig will install plastic antennae, which deliver data signals, on already existing power lines, creating an electromagnetic field to guide the signals across the wires.

Net neutrality



The new EU guidelines on the implementation of net neutrality rules, issued by the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC), are welcomed by net neutrality advocates (join our webinar on the BEREC guidelines, on 6 October).

E-commerce and Internet economy



The European Commission's ruling which ordered Apple to pay Ireland up to €13 billion in taxes over unlawful state aid, has sent shockwaves through the technology market, as debates continued this month. Both Apple and Ireland are expected to appeal. The Indonesian government is also expected to launch an investigation into Google, accusing it of owing unpaid taxes from its advertising revenue to the Indonesian state. There may be more than \$400 million in unpaid taxes in 2015 alone.

Jurisdiction



The Electronic Frontier Foundation argues that law enforcement authorities (LEA) are increasingly misusing and misunderstanding IP addresses as electronic evidence to investigate crimes, and offer suggestions on using addresses responsibly.

The European Commission has published a set of proposals to modernise copyright rules. The rules may have an impact on the way online services, such as video-on-demand and news aggregators, handle copyrighted material.

The Court of Justice of the European Union has ruled that a business offering free Wi-Fi to customers cannot be held liable for copyright infringements by users, following an earlier advice issued by the Advocate General.

IANA transition



The transition of the US Government's stewardship role over the IANA functions is set to expire on 30 September. Will it be delayed? Uncertainty looms. Organisations including the Internet Society and the Internet Architecture Board, and tech companies including Google, Yahoo!, Amazon, and Facebook are urging the US Congress to support the transition; US Presidential candidate Donald Trump is opposing it. (Read more: the next steps; arguments for and against; the transition in detail).