



Internet Policy News Digest
April 15th to April 30th

Ranking Digital Rights Index finds companies fall short on privacy, security

The Ranking Digital Rights ‘Corporate Accountability Index’ finds that 22 of the world’s most powerful Internet, mobile and telecommunications fail to disclose enough about what user information is collected, measures for protecting information, and fail to prioritize privacy rights and user expressions as part of corporate governance. Read the detailed report, data and methodology used, [here](#).

App developers won’t be able to use Google to get around censorship

Google app engine is discontinuing ‘domain fronting’, a trick used to get around state-level Internet blocks. A change in Google’s network architecture will disable this and services for a number of anti-censorship tools. Read more about how ‘domain fronting’ is deployed, adopted and built on by developers and digital rights groups, [here](#).

Unintended consequences of Kremlin’s Telegram blockade: scores of small businesses

In an attempt to shut down Telegram, Russia initiated blocking of ‘subnets’-enormous blocks of addresses, which inadvertently created financial losses for a range of small businesses. Read more about Russia’s ‘Digital war’ with Telegram, the politics surrounding it, and the dangerous precedents it might set off, [here](#).

Facebook will not include the 1.5 billion users out of reach of EU GDPR

Facebook aims to include only its EU members, on whom the GDPR is binding, thus excluding its 1.5 billion users from Africa, Asia, Australia and Latin America, and reducing potential liability. Read more about reactions to EU’s GDPR, and how other online platforms with global presence are responding, [here](#).



California Senate Panel clears a strong net neutrality bill of objections

California Senate panel approved a net neutrality bill, arguing, against AT&T and a cable lobby, for the necessity of net neutrality rules. This [article](#), highlights the key arguments presented on both sides, the scope of proposed bill and next steps for the bill.

India

American giants look to gain from booming Indian e-commerce

An E-commerce showdown is set to emerge as Amazon pledges more than \$5 billion to Indian markets, and its rival Walmart is inching closer to a deal to buy Flipkart. Read more about the forces driving the strategic decisions of these global giants in Indian markets, [here](#), and a taster of competition issues emerging from E-commerce giants, [here](#).

Time Stamping: Telecom networks to be synced with IST

All Indian telecommunication networks and Internet Service Providers will be synchronized with Indian Standard time with the aim to increase efficiency and quality. Read more about this procedure of ‘time stamping’ and what Indian communications stand to gain from it, [here](#).

India get's its first fully Wi-Fi enabled Gram Panchayat in Uttarkhand's Dudhli

Back in 2016, An RTI activist Ajay Kumar, initiated Dudhli Gram Panchayat's digital transformation when he wrote to the PMO demanding internet connectivity. Now, under the Digital India scheme, Dudhli is set to become India's first Wi-Fi enabled Gram Panchayat. Read more about this Gram Panchayat's digital capabilities and Digital India initiative, [here](#).



Central Cybersecurity Agency approves a \$5 million blockchain project for E-Governance

India's National Cyber Security Coordinator endowed IIT-Kanpur with \$5million to develop indigenous blockchain architecture to facilitate E-governance. This [article](#) further highlights the different ways in which blockchain is being experimented with by different state governments, and across different countries.