



Internet Policy News Digest

15th May to 30th May

White House eliminates the position of Cyber Security Coordinator

Citing that lower-level officials had already made cyber security issues a “core function” of the president’s national security team, the White House did away with a post central to making policies against digital attacks. The move has sparked criticism from Cyber policy experts and senators in light of penetrations made by North Korea and Russia. Read more [here](#)

New cyber security strategy unveiled by U.S Homeland Security amid threats

With cyber adversaries now threatening the very fabric of the republic itself and non-state actors emerging with capabilities that match those of sophisticated nation-states, the DHS unveiled a new national strategy for addressing cyber security risks to reduce vulnerabilities. Read more about this amid concerns about the security of the 2018 U.S. midterm congressional elections [here](#)

Rollback of FCC’s net neutrality ruling approved by United States’ Senate

By a vote of 52 to 47, senators voted to overturn the FCC’s Restoring Internet Freedom Order, via the Congressional Review Act. Net neutrality, however still faces an uphill battle toward restoration with the House not intending to take similar action and President Trump agreeing with the FCC’s policy. With concerns about consumers being forced to pay more for slower or less consistent service, Democrats say the fight is still on going into the 2018 elections. Read more about it [here](#)

APAC organisations could lose \$1.75tn from cyber attacks

A study by Frost and Sullivan has found that losses from cyber security incidents could account for 7% of the region’s GDP in 2017. Read more about this report [here](#)

Debates on Cyber-Security Impact of WHOIS suspension as EU Privacy Law dooms

The controversy is about the consequences of the so-called Internet address book or WHOIS directory, which up to now has been a public database identifying the owners of websites and domains but will become largely private under the forthcoming General Data protection Regulation set to take effect. Read more about it [here](#)

Cyberpirates a new problem for manufacturers using ocean shipping

Cyberpirates have taken to attacking freight ships and ocean-based shipping companies. An administrator can see a vessel’s location, condition, maintenance issues e.t.c. The root problem is that these systems are connected not just to a local and private network, but a more open one. By taking advantage of vulnerabilities or holes in security, they can tap into those data streams. Read the entire piece [here](#).



Women Freelancers Find Diverse Benefits In Digital Economy, But Payment Transaction Fee Barriers Remain

According to the *Digital Women Survey*, conducted by Transpay, women freelancers in the United States and India who sell their products or services using digital channels identify this type of self-employment as beneficial. However, respondents claim transaction fees as a barrier and currency conversion issues prevalent among traditional cross-border payment channels are diminishing digital entrepreneurs. Read more about the survey [here](#)

India

How Can Service Providers Help Government Attain 100% Rural Teledensity

One of the key objectives of the National Digital Communications Policy 2018 is to enhance the rural teledensity from the current 57.4% to 100%. However, the task ahead looks steep with traditional high-capex approach unlikely to bear fruit in the rural segment because the return on investment is spread over a long period. Read more [here](#)

Village Level Entrepreneur's to take Digital Economy to new heights

Under the Digital India Mission, the CSE's (Common Service Centres) are training auto drivers for using BHIM and encouraging them for a Cashless movement. The IT minister claimed that VLE's (Village Level Entrepreneurs) have played a major role in revolutionizing CSE's. Read more about this [here](#)

Google India Tax Ruling May Trigger Litigation 'Boom'

The ruling shows that judicial forums tribunals and courts are willing to look more at the substance of transactions to see what exactly is happening and then interpret the law in light of that understanding. Conflicts in opinion arise as it is claimed that it should be laws that draw the lines around value creation, not court judgments and that there is no legal benchmark to compare to. Read more on the aspect of Unilateral Action [here](#)

850 mn internet users key to India's \$1 trillion digital economy according to report by IBM and Kalaari Capital

The government is aiming to create a trillion dollar economy through the Digital India campaign. Both government and private sector are making contributions to improve internet infrastructure in order to implement digital initiatives. Apart from the internet infrastructure, through the BharatNet project 2.5 lakh gram panchayats are expected to have internet connectivity in the next 3 years boosting the use of digital initiatives for people. Read the full article [here](#)



41% of cyber-security apps contain high-risk open source vulnerabilities

78 percent of the audited codebases contained at least one open source vulnerability from over 1100 automated codebases in a 2018 Open Source Security and Risk Analysis (OSSRA) report. This accumulation of vulnerabilities within codebases must be of concern. Read about Tim Mackey, technical evangelist at Black Duck by Synopsys' statement [here](#)

Peer-to-peer lending expected to go up in India

Value of P2P lending to be generated in India over next five years will be around \$ 4 billion. P2P lending book in China currently is around \$100 billion. The main drivers for the growth of the Indian P2P lending industry is the recent budget allocation to the digital India scheme that has been doubled to Rs 3,073 crore. Read more [here](#)

Keeping payments data in India will instill customer confidence for digital transactions

Reserve bank of India (RBI) has mandated all system providers to ensure that the entire data relating to payments operated by them are stored in systems only in India. There should be no data replication outside the country as the geographical spread of India provides enough room for creating alternate infrastructure and ensure business continuity. Read the entire article [here](#)

Hyderabad to get India's first cyber security cluster

The Hyderabad Security Foundation (HSF) — India's first cyber security cluster — will be formally in the city, with the Mayor of Hague and the head of the Hague Security Delta (HSD) signing a 'program of corporation' on cyber security. The delegation will include cyber security companies from the Netherlands. The visit is aimed at intensifying Indo-Dutch cooperation in the cyber security sector and strengthening ties to focus on counter-terrorism and information sharing. Read more [here](#)

Nod to 237 state schools for digital literacy project

An amount of Rs 1,185 lakh has been approved for 237 schools by the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development for implementing the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) scheme. The ICT scheme in schools is a component of the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan and is a major catalyst in bridging the digital divide between students of various socio-economic backgrounds and other geographical barriers. Read more [here](#)

Cash is still the king, claims CTO of PayPal

Cash remains the preferred mode of payment across Asia, despite the fact that the region is becoming increasingly digitally connected according to a PayPal study. While cash is expected to remain the king, Sweden is on the track to leave cash behind completely by 2023 researchers, Niklas Arvidsson and Jonas Hedman have claimed. Read more [here](#)



Digital payments industry divided over data order

Local companies including the country's largest digital payment provider Paytm and Flipkart-owned PhonePe have welcomed the move while others such as payment provider PayU, has sought 'data mirroring' or data storage in other locations besides India, to avoid global payment networks from being disrupted. Read more [here](#)

One more digital plaza launched in China by NASSCOM to provide market access to Indian IT firms

The platform in Guiyang intends to create online and offline presence to promote a "co-create culture" between two large neighbours in the Big Data space. China expects that that the two sides will strengthen practical cooperation and build a special class for the project. Read more [here](#)

National Informatics Centre to hire 800 professionals in 2018, including 355 cyber security experts

The hiring will be both at entry level and lateral, that is, from the industry. The data centre will host new as well as existing applications of central and state governments and has ability to support 35,000 virtual servers. Read more [here](#)