



NEWS DIGEST

MEITY Chair on Internet Policy

ICRIER's Internet Policy News Digest is your fortnightly update on Indian and global developments in cyber-security, digital economy, and Internet governance. The archives for this news digest are available at www.internetpolicy.in. Please email your valuable feedback and comments to internet.news@icrier.res.in.

GLOBAL

Severe data breach, private data of 500 million Marriot Customers leaked

For 327 million of the 500 million affected, data stolen include passport numbers, emails, date of birth, gender and mailing addresses. Marriot is also 'not ruling out' that credit card information had been exposed. The breach had been ongoing since 2014 but the hotel company confirmed on November 19th, 2018.

ITU estimates more than half of the world will be using Internet by end of 2018

Its 2018 global and regional ICT estimates also find that the strongest growth in people using the Internet was reported from Africa, which witnessed a jump from 2.1% in 2005 to 24.4.% in 2018. The data reports estimates across various categories such as telephone and mobile subscriptions, gender ICT statistics, among others.

Australia passes bill that allows law enforcement to access encrypted communications

The 'Anti-Encryption Bill' requires companies to provide law enforcement agencies access to encrypted communications. The bill was passed despite significant opposition from technology companies, businesses, and civil society members, who worry that the law might set a damaging precedent for privacy and surveillance.

European Commission launches 'Women in Digital' scoreboard

The scoreboard assesses EU countries' performance across 13 indicators that capture the magnitude of women's inclusion in the EU's digital economy. The first edition shows that women earn 20% less in the ICT sector than men, and those only 1 in 6 ICT specialists, and only 1 in 3 STEM graduates are women.

New York City passes first of its kind in the U.S. minimum pay rate for Uber and Lyft drivers

Starting January 2019, ride-hailing companies will pay its drivers an average of \$17.22 per hour, \$5 more per hour than current average \$11.90. The new rules will effectively include erstwhile excluded Uber and Lyft drivers within the minimum wage ambit. The change is considered to be a larger effort to regulate Uber and Lyft.

EU agree to toughen draft rules on electronic evidence stored in EU based cloud servers

The 'e-evidence' draft rules was formed in light of terrorist attacks across Europe and allows EU law enforcement to get electronic evidence directly from companies within its ambit. The move received wide array of criticism, and will require EU governments to negotiate a common stance for it to become legislation.

Symantec unveils AI based cyber-security resource that aims to protect critical infrastructure from cyber-attacks

The Industrial Control System Protection Neural uses AI to detect and stop potential cyber-attacks on operational technology in energy and transportation industries. Such legacy industries are prone to malware attacks with potential for significant damage.

New York Times report shows how companies extract personal data from smartphone location

The New York Times investigation uncovers practices of companies tracking consumers' location data and how it's sold, used or analyzed. It delves deep into the concerns surrounding privacy, awareness, and monetization. It also includes links to the methodology of the investigation and ways to prevent apps from tracking your location.

Google CEO testifies before U.S. House Judiciary Committee on Google's data collection, use and filtering practices

Google's CEO was questioned over whether Google's search results were biased against conservative viewpoints, whether or not Google plans to launch a censored search engine in China, and on Google's efforts towards transparency in data collection and use.

INDIA

Sebi prescribes regulatory framework on cyber security and cyber resilience for Market Infrastructure Institutions

The cybersecurity framework covers stockbrokers and depository participants among others, and is issued amid concerns over data breaches in the securities market. The framework includes measures, tools, and processes that are intended to improve cyber resilience of market institutions.

ISRO's heaviest satellite, GSAT-11, launched from French Guiana

The high-throughput satellite is capable of providing high bandwidth connectivity, up to 14 gigabytes per second data transfer speed. The GSAT-11 carries 40 transponders in the Ku- and Ka-band frequencies, with a lifespan of 15 years, weighing 5,854 kg.

TRAI extends deadline for comment period for discussion paper on OTT regulation

Earlier, TRAI issued a consultation paper to discuss regulatory imbalance between Telecom Service Providers (TSP) and Over-The-Top (OTT) service players, and whether OTT services should be regulated. Following requests from stakeholders, the comment period for the paper has been extended to January 7, 2019, and counter-comments by January 21, 2019.

RTI highlights procedural lapses in how Rajasthan carried out its Internet shutdowns

Rajasthan ordered 56 Internet Shutdowns since 2015, including 30 in 2018 alone. An RTI filed by Software Freedom Law Center India (SFLC) revealed that out of the 40 times Rajasthan issued an Internet shutdown, it held only 11 review committee meetings, under the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services Rules, 2017.

Indian Bank fined Rs. 1 Crore by RBI for violating cybersecurity norms

The RBI imposed a monetary penalty of Rs. 10 million on Indian Bank for being in contravention of the circular on Cyber Security Framework in banks. The RBI also clarified that the action is based only on the Indian Bank's deficiency in regulatory compliance.

Google unveils 'Google Shopping' in India

Google partnered with e-commerce players such as Flipkart, Pepperfry, Snapdeal, in addition to partnerships with registered small and medium enterprises to enable consumers to shop on its platform. Google also launched 'Merchant Center' in Hindi, which will also allow sellers to list products without paying for ad campaigns.

2,388 social media URLs blocked or removed in 2018: Minister of State for Electronics and IT

Parliament was further informed that Section 69A of IT Act, 2000 provides basis for blocking URLs. The minister added that the number of social media URLs blocked/removed in the last 3 years under the act is 587 in 2015, 964 in 2016, 1329 in 2017.

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