



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

US Government Accountability Office recommends developing GDPR-like regulations

The GAO, based its recommendations on [this study](#), citing Facebook's 'Cambridge Analytica' scandal and other incidents involving the misuse of consumer's personal information as its motivation. The study assessed how Internet privacy in the U.S is currently overseen and recommends how such measures can be enhanced.

UK Parliamentary enquiry calls for antitrust and data abuse probe of Facebook

The British Parliamentary committee released its final report on disinformation and fake news. The enquiry looked into Facebook's own use of personal data, and also examined Facebook's claims of 'abuse' of its platform by Cambridge analytica. The enquiry concluded with a call for a probe into Facebook's abuse of personal data and anti-competitive practices.

Data leak flagged by Dutch Internet expert reveals Chinese surveillance firm tracking millions in Xinjiang

Victor Gevers, founder of an NGO 'GDI.Foundation' first noticed an online database containing names, ID card numbers, birth dates and location data left unprotected by Shenzhen-based facial recognition technology company SenseNets Technology Ltd. Exposed data also showed about 6.7 million location data points linked to people, which were gathered within 24 hours.

Global Cyber Alliance and Mastercard released free Cybersecurity tool designed for small and medium businesses.

The free online resources are available worldwide and provide actionable guidance and tools with clear directions to combat high volumes of cyber attacks. Small businesses account for 99% of businesses globally, and on average 70% of jobs.

Investigative report uncovers the travails of being Facebook's content moderators

Facebook's efforts for content moderation on its site are contracted to professional services vendors both overseas and in the U.S. Moderators, or 'process executives' as they are called, suffer from grave personal consequences as a result of prolonged exposure to the vicious content posted on Facebook.

ICANN warns of ongoing and significant attacks against Internet's domain name system infrastructure

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) issued a notice stating that the domain name system has been a victim of 'multifaceted attack utilizing different methodologies'. ICANN is calling on domain owners to deploy DNSSEC, a more secure version of DNS, but adoption has been sparse.

Ireland's data regulatory lists details of 16 investigations into BigTech companies for violation of EU's GDPR

Facebook, Twitter, Apple, and LinkedIn all have their headquarters in Ireland, making Ireland's data protection commissioner, Helen Dixon, the main regulator for enforcing the GDPR. The commissioner has 10 inquiries underway into Facebook and its Whatsapp and Instagram units, three at Twitter, two at Apple and one at LinkedIn.

INDIA

Indian government to launch public DNS server to protect users from malware or phishing attacks

MeitY aims to launch the server in three months and is set to do a 'proof of concept' in March. The new DNS (Domain Name System) will be placed across the country to minimize outage and will be available round the clock. The new public system will warn users with a pop-up alert when users access a malicious site.

Nokia's broadband traffic index clocks 109% growth in data traffic in India

Nokia's annual Mobile Broadband India Traffic Index study of mobile broadband performance in India showed that average data usage grew 69% in 2018 is touching 10 GB per user per month in December 2018. The study also finds that there were five times as many 4G subscribers as there were 3G subscribers.

India releases its draft National e-commerce policy for stakeholder comments

The draft policy focuses on six broad issues of e-commerce ecosystem, such as data, infrastructure development, e-commerce marketplaces, regulatory issues, stimulating domestic digital economy, and export promotion through e-commerce. The draft policy also stated its aim to set up a legal and technological framework to enforce restrictions on cross-border data flows and lays out conditions for businesses regarding collection or processing of sensitive data locally and storing it abroad.

Twitter plans on liaising with India's election commission and boost hiring to prepare for India's elections

Twitter's global head of public policy stated that Indian elections are a top priority for the company, which aims to prevent political misuse of its platform during the election period. The executive also stated Twitter's readiness to hire an officer to liaise with India's Election Commission.

Google and sister company Verily launch India program to screen diabetics for eye condition that can cause blindness

Google and Verily aim to target the widespread incidence of diabetic retinopathy and diabetic macular edema, and a shortage of eye doctors in India using their medical imaging technology. The technology uses algorithms that sift through piles of images to detect at risk patients and prioritize treatment.

PhonePe becomes first UPI app available at Walmart India's B2B stores

Walmart and Flipkart owned PhonePe entered into a partnership to launch PhonePe as a payment option at Walmart India's 23 Best Price B2B cash & carry stores. These stores target resellers, including 'kiranas' alongside offices, institutions, hotels, caterers and restaurants.

Microsoft unveils its white paper on India's readiness of AI

The whitepaper highlights key sectors in India that have AI potential, such as Healthcare, Education, Public Sector, and highlights the various sectoral challenges in deploying AI.

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