

Internet Governance BAROMETER (APRIL 2017)

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

Global IG architecture



Microsoft has published three additional papers in support of a Digital Geneva Convention: key clauses which should form part of the convention, [a tech sector accord](#), [and the setting up of an independent attribution organisation to identify wrongdoing](#).

The G7 Foreign Ministers' Joint Communiqué expressed support for the work of the UN Group of Governmental Experts, but invited states 'to publicly explain their views on how existing international law applies to States' activities in cyberspace to the greatest extent possible'. The Foreign Ministers' Declaration on Responsible States Behaviour in Cyberspace underlines that 'customary international law of state responsibility supplies the standards for attributing acts to States, which can also be applicable to activities in cyberspace'.

The G20 ministers responsible for the digital economy reiterated concerns brought about by digitalisation, and reaffirmed a commitment to the multistakeholder approach to Internet governance.

Sustainable development



The World Bank has published an *Atlas of Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs), containing maps and visualisations which show progress made by countries around the world towards achieving the 17 SDGs.

The President of the UN General Assembly convened a high-level event on financing for the SDGs, which looked at how countries can approach the financing of different SDGs.

Security



Cybersecurity and cyber issues were among the issues which China's and the US President discussed in April. A report released by China said that both sides should make use of high-level dialogue mechanisms.

Cybercrime syndicate Lazarus Group, thought to have been behind major incidents including the 2014 Sony hack and last year's \$81 million Bangladesh Central Bank heist, is described as 'one of the most successful in large scale operations against the financial industry' in Kaspersky Lab's new report.

Executives of some of the largest US companies were possible victims of cyber-espionage, while hackers hit Amazon.com's third-party sellers, after bank-deposit information for sellers was maliciously changed.

E-commerce and Internet economy



Uber continues to face legal woes. An Italian court has banned Uber over unfair competition. The chair of a UK parliamentary committee has criticised Uber, Deliveroo, Amazon, and Hermes over the 'unintelligible' self-employment contracts these companies are offering their contractors. Law-makers in Brazil's lower house of Congress have approved a bill that would require local authorities to regulate ride-hailing services like Uber. In the USA, a federal judge in Seattle has temporarily blocked the application of a law allowing drivers to unionise. Meanwhile, a Brazil court has ruled that Uber drivers are employees.

As of 1 April, Japan recognises Bitcoin as a legal method of payment, although not a currency.

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Digital rights



A 93-day shutdown of the Internet in Cameroon's English-speaking regions has ended, returning Internet access to some 20% of the country.[\[1\]](#)

The European Parliament has identified several privacy-related concerns regarding the Privacy Shield.[\[2\]](#) The Article 29 Working Party (WP29) also outlined points of concern related to the proposed ePrivacy Regulation,[\[3\]](#) as did the European Data Protection Supervisor over the proposed directive related to contracts for the supply of digital content.[\[4\]](#)

US President Donald Trump signed a bill repealing the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Internet privacy rules,[\[5\]](#) and Facebook announced the launch of new tools to combat the sharing of intimate images without permission, usually reported as 'revenge porn'.[\[6\]](#)

Jurisdiction and legal issues



Twitter has filed a complaint against the US government's attempt to force Twitter to release user information related to an account tweeting against the Trump administration.[\[7\]](#) The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) will also file papers on behalf of the user.[\[8\]](#) Facebook faced criticism over a violent video posted by one of its users,[\[9\]](#) especially the long time it took for the video to be removed.

Infrastructure



gTLDs .com and .net are among those with the most webpages hosting child sexual abuse material, according to the latest Internet Watch Foundation report.[\[10\]](#)

Research by the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence and the Tallinn University of Technology shows that the IPv6 transition opens a wide scope for potential cyber-attacks.[\[11\]](#)

AFRINIC, the regional Internet numbers registry for Africa, will discuss a proposal to stop allocating IP addresses to governmental entities in countries that shut down Internet access.[\[12\]](#)

Net neutrality



US FCC Chairman Ajit Pai is planning to replace net neutrality rules with voluntary agreements through which telecom providers would adhere to open Internet principles.[\[13\]](#) The Internet Association has told the chair that the rules should stay.[\[14\]](#) Media reports on a second meeting, with Facebook, Cisco, Oracle, and Intel, stated that companies were willing to find common ground.[\[15\]](#) In a new framework for assessing the differential pricing practices of Internet service providers,[\[16\]](#) the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission reinforced its commitment to net neutrality.

New technologies (IoT, AI, etc.)



Google has proposed 'federated learning' to address privacy concerns in artificial intelligence (AI) solutions. Although AI algorithms involve the centralisation of users' data in a data centre for machine-learning, federated learning would only require encrypted updates to be sent to Google.[\[17\]](#)

Facebook is developing helicopter drones to provide Internet access to disaster areas where infrastructure is damaged but fibre lines still work.[\[18\]](#)