# **Newsletter March 2019**



# Cyber Policy, Diplomacy & Legal Framework

 <u>Ukraine security service accuses Russia of meddling in</u> election

Ukraine's State Security Service SBU accused Russia on Thursday of meddling in the electoral process in Ukraine by creating illegal structures to help guarantee victory for a certain candidate. The Ukrainian election will be held in late March.



March 13

Milano Digital Week

March 19

Cybersecurity Summit Roma 2019

March 20

Social Media Marketing World



<u>U.S. Cyber Command operation disrupted Internet access of Russian troll factory on day of</u>
 2018 midterms

The U.S. military blocked Internet access to an infamous Russian entity seeking to sow discord among Americans during the 2018 midterms, several U.S. officials said, a warning that the Kremlin's operations against the United States are not cost-free

- Thailand defends cybersecurity law amid concerns over rights, abuse
- Thailand approved the controversial Cybersecurity Act, following an outcry from rights groups and internet users over privacy and surveillance concerns. Activists have called the legislation "cyber martial law" saying it would sacrifice privacy and the rule of law.
- Russia Adopts Digital Rights Law That 'Forms the Basis' of Digital Economy Development
- The new Russian law, approved on March 12th, introduces the concept of 'Digital Rights' in Russian legislation. This marks a step towards the regulation of cryptocurrencies in Russia.

### **Cyber Security**



• Alphabet's Security Start-Up Wants to Offer History Lessons

Dozens of companies promise so-called big data threat intelligence and storage. But many of their customers can't afford to pay to search through huge amounts of information.



- How to secure IoT devices: 6 factors to consider
- While Internet of Things devices can unlock great insights and value from the data collected, cybersecurity must be built in from the start, according to a report from the Indiana IoT Lab.
- <u>Citrix data breach report raises more questions</u>
   Citrix disclosed a potential data breach blamed on poor password security, but a lack of details about the attack leaves only unconfirmed claims from a single cybersecurity firm.
- <u>Kathmandu 'urgently' investigating incident potentially exposing customer info</u>
  Customers of the outdoor clothing retailer may have had their card details, email, shipping and billing addresses, and Kathmandu login details exposed.
- New BitLocker attack puts laptops storing sensitive data at risk
   A security researcher has come up with a new method of extracting BitLocker encryption
   keys from a computer's Trusted Platform Module (TPM) that only requires a \$27 FPGA board
   and some open-sourced code.

## Cyber Warfare, Intelligence and Terrorism



• <u>Venezuela's Maduro: Blackout due to cyber-attack,</u> infiltrators

According to Maduro, the blackout that apparently provoked death in Venezuela, was caused by an 'international cyberattack', in an attempt to destroy its regime.

• <u>Firefox maker fears DarkMatter 'misuse' of browser for hacking</u>

Firefox found out that United Arab Emirates-based firm, DarkMatter, has been involved into a cyber espionage program

- APT40: Examining a China-Nexus Espionage Actor
   FireWye identified a Chinese malevolent actor, named APT 40, that worked since 2013 to support China's naval modernisation effort. The targeting seemed to be focused on States useful for the development of the Belt and Road initiative
- Cyber Warfare: Competing National Perspectives
   Cyberwarfare is transforming from a speculative idea to a possible reality and the lack of understanding among the main actors involved creates an even more dangerous situation and an increased risk of escalation.
- Cyber espionage group behind SingHealth attack
   In 2018, Singapore public healthcare provider were attacked and robbed of 1.5 million patient records. Now, Symantec researchers have identified the cyber espionage group behind the heist.
- Cyber espionage warning: The most advanced hacking groups are getting more ambitious



The most advanced hacking groups are becoming bolder when conducting campaigns, with the number of organisations targeted by the biggest campaigns rising by almost a third.

# Cyber Opportunities: Economy, Research & Innovation

 Competition policy must change to help startups fight 'winner takes all' platforms, says UK report



- Hack Brief: Google Reveals 'BuggyCow,' a Rare MacOS Zero-Day Vulnerability
   The attack takes advantage of an obscure oversight in Apple's protections on its machines' memory to enable so-called privilege escalation, allowing a piece of malware with limited privileges to, in some cases, pierce into deeper, far more trusted parts of a victim's Mac.
- Quantum computing should supercharge this machine-learning technique
   Even though it is not easy to understand the future implications of this technology, quantum computing is clearly an exciting field of experimentation
- How Artificial Intelligence Is Changing Science
   The latest Al algorithms are probing the evolution of galaxies, calculating quantum wave functions, discovering new chemical compounds and more. Is there anything that scientists do that can't be automated?
- How Enterprises Are Using IoT to Improve Business
- Connectivity among people, things, and businesses is increasing exponentially. Enabling
  flexible connectivity and data exchange between billions of assets and processes represents a



tremendous opportunity for businesses. Old business models and processes are being rethought and new ones are emerging.

### **Italian Focus**

• <u>E-billing and cyber threats: how to adopt an efficient security framework</u>

The e-billing revolution has been introduced in Italy to contrast tax evasion. However, it risks to attract the interest of cyber criminality for the quantity and quality of information shared through its system.

 Here's the plan to bring the Italian cyber capabilities worldwide. An interview of Ambassador Talò

Recently the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has organised a workshop in Washington to accelerate the dialogues between Italy and US on cyber and digital topics.



- At PoliMi (Milan), a new calculation system revolutionises the Artificial Intelligence
   Created a new electronic circuit which could outperform the quantum computers. The discovery will most likely change completely the parameters of the Artificial Intelligence
- MISE: new project with IBM to protect Made in Italy
   A new project has been launched by MISE with IBM, in order to use blockchain technology to protect Made in Italy products, by controlling the whole supply chain

## **European Focus**

 MEPs adopt Cybersecurity Act and want EU to counter IT threat from China

With 586 votes to 44 and 36 abstentions, the EU Cybersecurity Act has been approved by the European Parliament on the 12th of March, marking a new step in the development of a shared framework among Member States



- Huawei opens a cybersecurity transparency center in the heart of Europe
   5G kit maker Huawei opened a Cyber Security Transparency center in Brussels yesterday as the Chinese tech giant continues to try to neutralize suspicion in Western markets that its networking gear could be used for espionage by the Chinese state
- Brexit: Foreign far-right Twitter users 'manipulated debate'
   Cyber-security firm F-Secure analysed 24 million tweets published between 4 December 2018 and 13 February 2019. Much "inorganic" activity was discovered including excessive retweeting by bots or fake accounts
- <u>EU Report Proposes Implementation of Blockchain Interoperability Standards</u>
   A recent report by the European Union (EU) gave recommendations on better ways to develop Blockchain technology. These options include the implementation of scalability and interoperability standards