

23rd June [Global Digital Excellence Award 2020](#)

25-26th June [19th European Conference on Cyber Warfare and Security](#)



Center for Cyber Security and International Relations Studies

Cyber Policy, Diplomacy & Legal Framework

- [Senate passes surveillance bill without ban on web history snooping](#)

The USA Freedom Reauthorization Act restores government powers that expired in March with Section 215 of the Patriot Act. While the Senate adopted an amendment to expand oversight, it shot down a proposal that would have restricted warrantless collection of internet search and web browsing data.



- [In land of big data, China sets individual privacy rights](#)

China is poised to enshrine individuals' rights to privacy and personal data for the first time, a symbolic first step as more of the country of 1.4 billion people becomes digitised - and more vulnerable to leaks and hacks.

- [Shanghai speeds up privacy protection law](#)

Shanghai is speeding up its data security and privacy protection legislation with a new law expected to be in force by the end of the year or early next. The protection level will be higher than Europe's GDPR, or General Data Protection Regulation, according to Hui Zhibin, director of the Internet research institute under the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences.

- [African countries need 'startup acts' more than ever to support innovation](#)

National legislation that creates clear frameworks and operational support for startups are one of the best ways to help Africa's digital companies survive and thrive through the coronavirus crisis — and improve their environment over the long term

- [ICC joins the United Nations Secretary-General to launch Roadmap for Digital Cooperation](#)

For years, business has advocated for the potential of digital technologies to act as catalysts for accelerated implementation of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) supports Mr Guteres's call for multistakeholder cooperation to harness the power of digital technology to chart a digital future that works for everyone.

- [Thailand gears up for 5G](#)



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Chaired by Thai prime minister Prayut Chan-o-cha, the committee will look to address roadblocks related to the recall of unused spectrum from state agencies for the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC), in exchange for compensation.

Cyber Security

- [Top ten cyber hygiene tips for SMEs during covid-19 pandemic](#)

Crises like the current COVID-19 pandemic have a serious impact on the European as well as the International society and economy. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are often coping with difficult times. Unfortunately, cybercriminals often see such crises as opportunities. Phishing and ransomware attacks are on the rise.



- [Facebook contest reveals deepfake detection is still an 'unsolved problem'](#)

Facebook has announced the results of its first Deepfake Detection Challenge, an open competition to find algorithms that can spot AI-manipulated videos. The results, while promising, show there's still lots of work to be done before automated systems can reliably spot deepfake content, with researchers describing the issue as an "unsolved problem."

- [How to secure your phone before attending a protest](#)
People are taking to the streets to organize for justice and protest against systemic racism and police brutality. That's why it's important to keep your digital footprint as small as possible — any evidence placing people at protests could be enough to get them arrested.
- [The obscure Indian hackers for hire who spied on global elites](#)
A little-known Indian IT firm offered its hacking services to help clients spy on more than 10,000 email accounts over a period of seven years. Delhi-based BellTroX InfoTech Services targeted government officials in Europe, gambling tycoons in the Bahamas, and well-known investors in the United States

Cyber Warfare, Intelligence and Terrorism

- [Security News This Week: China and Iran Tried to Hack the Biden and Trump Campaigns](#)
Google's Threat Analysis Group said on Thursday that a China-linked hacking group known as APT 31 or Zirconium has targeted Joseph Biden's presidential campaign staff with phishing attacks, and that the Iran-linked actor APT 35 or Charming Kitten has been launching phishing attacks against Donald Trump's campaign.
- [The border spat between India and China is turning into an all-out media war](#)



China and India's latest border dispute may have mainly involved scuffles and troop maneuvers on the ground, but it has been all-out war in the respective countries' media.

- [6 facilities said hit in Iran's cyberattack on Israel's water system in April](#)

At one of the Israel Water Authority facilities, an "irregularity due to an unplanned change in data" was recorded, the report said. At another station, a pump went into continuous operation, prompting operators to shut off its automatic mode.

- [UK Armed Forces Cyber Regiment launched to protect frontline operations](#)

A new Cyber Regiment - The 13th Signal Regiment - has been launched to protect frontline operations from digital attack Defence Secretary Ben Wallace today announced today.

- [George Floyd: Anonymous hackers re-emerge amid US unrest](#)

The hacker collective was once a regular fixture in the news, targeting those it accused of injustice with cyber-attacks. After years of relative quiet, it appears to have re-emerged in the wake of violent protests in Minneapolis over the death of George Floyd, promising to expose the "many crimes" of the city's police to the world.

- [War machines: DOD's ethical principles for battlefield AI](#)

The DOD's principles for ethical adoption of AI layout a framework of factors that must be taken into consideration when designing AI solutions for defense, and they highlight elements that are critical for keeping ethics at the forefront when implementing AI solutions.

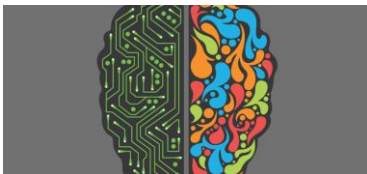
Cyber Opportunities: Economy, Research & Innovation

- [Swarms of autonomous insect robots could prove key to future planetary exploration](#)

While we're preparing to launch a six-wheeled robotic rover roughly the size of a car to explore Mars, future planetary exploration and science missions could employ much smaller hardware.

- [MIT's tiny artificial brain chip could bring supercomputer smarts to mobile devices](#)

The research team created what are known as "memristors" — essentially simulated brain synapses created using silicon, but also using alloys of silver and copper in their construction



- [Intel aiming for carbon-neutral PC within the next decade](#)

As part of its new environmental strategy, Intel is aiming to build a carbon-neutral PC that eliminates waste in its design and use. Intel has published its annual corporate responsibility report, revealing how it performed in its targets for 2020 and what it hopes to achieve by 2030.

- [Use these first principles to succeed with robotic process automation In 2020](#)

The market for robotic process automation (RPA) has been in hyper growth for a while now, but rational, pragmatic advice is needed for organizations to succeed with RPA. Here are some important considerations to keep in mind, whether you are starting out or looking to scale your RPA program.

Italian Focus

- [Contact tracing: Italy's open-source app finally lands, taking the Google-Apple model](#)
Italy's contact-tracing app, Immuni, has finally been made available to the country's citizens on Apple's App Store and Google Play. As with other similar apps deployed across Europe, Immuni is supposed to help government and healthcare institutions fight the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, by making it easier to track how the contagion spreads.
- [Unlock PA to launch the country: three key points](#)
Incentives to use Spid through the introduction of new services for the citizens, complete digitalization of the payment system, and easier access to institutional websites.
- [Transition Plan 4.0: that's how the state can sustain education and competences](#)
With the Transition Plan 4.0, the Minister for Economic Development aims at creating a starting plan for a new industrial strategy based on innovation and automation. However, the endemic weaknesses of the Italian digital structure.
- [The role of DPO in checking accountability and compliance post COVID 19](#)
During the current emergency, the role of DPO appears scaled down. Still the article proposes two check list concerning accountability and compliance to track the conformity to GDPR in the aftermath of COVID-19
- [Cyberterrorism in the time of COVID-19](#)
The COVID-19 pandemic has forced many workers to start smart-working. As a consequence, the risk of cyberattacks has skyrocketed. An analysis of the challenges posed by the current situation to Nation States and private companies.



European Focus

- [Meet GAIA-X: This is Europe's bid to get cloud independence from US and China giants](#)
France and Germany have kicked off the GAIA-X cloud project, their lofty bid to manage dominant US and Chinese cloud giants in a European way, and address potential conflicts between EU privacy laws and the US Cloud Act.
- [European Commission wants social media to report monthly on Covid-19 misinformation](#)
Facebook, Google and Twitter will have to provide monthly updates on how they're tackling misinformation connected to COVID-19 under plans to be unveiled in the coming days by the European Commission, according to four officials and outside experts who have reviewed the proposals.
- [Commission urged not to backtrack on EU spyware rules](#)



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The European Commission has been urged not to soften its stance on EU rules that would outlaw the export of cyber surveillance tools to despotic regimes worldwide, amid ongoing negotiations between the European Council and Parliament on the new measures.

- [Data flows across the Channel: The emerging UK-EU digital trade relationship](#)
Digital trade is but one of the thirty-four chapters under negotiation, but it's an important topic for the UK's and EU's shared economic future. Both the United Kingdom and the European Union need a deep and comprehensive accord on digital trade.
- [The EU's post-coronavirus Marshall Plan must have a focus on improving its digital economy](#)
Confronted with an economy in ruins in the aftermath of the Second World War, European leaders implemented a massive recovery program to rebuild European industries with support from the United States. As COVID-19 wreaks havoc today, the European Commission is calling for a new, self-funded Marshall Plan to address the consequences of the pandemic.
- [Albania becomes the European capital of blockchain](#)
The Finkoten Act, the new Albanian law, aims at creating a new financial and dematerialised ecosystem, in order to encourage the launch of new businesses via blockchain.