Newsletter June 2019

Center for Cyber Security and International Relations Studies

Cyber Policy, Diplomacy & Legal Framework

- [New China Cybersecurity Law Could Block Tech Firms From the United States](#)
  At the same time as the United States is taking unprecedented steps to block Chinese tech giant Huawei from ever doing business with it or any of its allies, China is also moving to block U.S. tech firms.
- [An interactive cyber law toolkit launched in Tallinn](#)
  The Tallinn-based NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence has launched an interactive web-based resource for legal professionals and students, called the Cyber Law Toolkit.
- [Cyber Governance: More Spam Than Substance?](#)
  The Council of Councils released the 2018-2019 Report Card on International Cooperation, an assessment of international efforts to address the world's most pressing challenges. 'Managing Cyber Governance' sections suggests that there is still room for improvement.
- [Brazilian IoT plan inches closer to reality](#)
  Brazil's national strategy for Internet of Things (IoT) has moved closer to reality as the plan has now been submitted today (June 14) to be signed into law.
- [UK Hasn't Made Sufficient Progress in National Security Strategy](#)
  The Public Accounts Committe has found that the UK government has not made sufficient progress on developing long-term objectives for the National Security Strategy. A weak evidence base and a lack of a business case for the National Cyber Security Programme made it difficult for the Cabinet Office to assess whether it will meet all its objectives by 2021.
- [Internet throttling, blocked websites mark Kazakhstan's new political era](#)
  Over the weekend, Kazakhstan held its first democratic elections. After being at the helm for almost three decades, President Nursultan Nazarbayev announced his decision two months ago to step down as ruler of the central Asian, energy-rich, post-Soviet republic, which has a population of 18 million.

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Cyber Security

- **In Baltimore and Beyond, a stolen N.S.A. tool wreaks havoc**
  For nearly three weeks, Baltimore has struggled with a cyberattack by digital extortionists, that has disrupted public service. According to security experts, a key component of the malware was developed at the National Security Agency.
- **Election security is still hurting at every level**
  The Russian meddling that rocked the 2016 US presidential election gave the public a full view of something officials and advocates have warned about for years: weak voting infrastructure and election systems around the US, and a lack of political will and funding to strengthen them.
- **Cybersecurity giant Symantec plays down unreported breach of test data**
  The American cybersecurity giant Symantec has downplayed a data breach that allowed a hacker to access passwords and a purported list of its clients, including large Australian companies and government agencies. The list extracted in the February incident, seen by Guardian Australia, suggests that all major federal government departments were among the targets of a hacker.
- **US Customs and Border Protection target of 'malicious cyber attack'**
  US Customs and Border Protection said on Monday that images obtained by the agency have been compromised in a "malicious cyber attack." The cyber breach took place on the network of a federal contractor and was criticized by civil rights activists as Customs and Border Protection expands its surveillance programs.
- **A laptop infected with 6 of the most dangerous computer viruses in history was sold at auction to an anonymous buyer for $1.345 million — here's what each virus can do**
  A 2008 Samsung NC10 laptop running Windows XP just sold at auction for a whopping $1.345 million. Although the 11-year-old machine may have nostalgic value to some, what makes this one so special (and expensive) is that it comes with live specimens of six of the most dangerous computer viruses in existence.

Cyber Warfare, Intelligence and Terrorism

- **U.S escalates online attacks on Russia's power grid**
  The United States is stepping up digital incursions into Russia's electric power grid in a warning to President Vladimir V. Putin and a demonstration of how the Trump administration is using new authorities to deploy cybertools more aggressively, current and

former government officials said.

- [MI5 accused of 'extraordinary and persistent illegality](#)
  MI5 has lost control of its data storage operations and has been obtaining surveillance warrants on the basis of information it knows to be false, the high court has heard. The security agency has been accused of "extraordinary and persistent illegality" by the human rights organisation Liberty.
- [Russia And Iran Plan To Fundamentally Isolate The Internet](#)
  For years, countries have spoken in vague terms about creating domestic internets that could be isolated from the world at will. Now we're seeing some begin to execute that vision.
- [Bahrain uncovers Iran and Qatar cyber terrorism network](#)
  Bahraini authorities said they have tracked a network of destabilising electronic accounts operated in several countries including Iran and Qatar amid rising tensions in the Gulf over Iranian practices.
- [Telegram boss links cyber attack during HK protests to China](#)
  In a post on Twitter, Telegram said the disruption, that affected users in the Americas and "other countries", was caused by a massive DDoS attack. Mr Durov later tweeted the IP addresses involved in the attack mostly came from China.
- [EU's terrorism filter plans: The problems just keep coming](#)
  A few weeks ago, German internet users discovered that their country's authorities had been keeping closer tabs on them than they realized. In late April, in reply to a parliamentary question, the federal police – Germany's version of the FBI – revealed that they had quietly established a database for online terrorism referrals last October.

Cyber Opportunities: Economy, Research & Innovation

- [Facebook's New Cryptocurrency, Libra, Gets Big Backers](#)
  The Wall Street Journal reported last month that Facebook was recruiting backers to help start the crypto-based payments system. In the works for more than a year, the secretive project

  revolves around a digital coin that its users could send to each other and use to make purchases both on Facebook and across the internet.
- [Google Integrates Cryptocurrency Project With New Smart Contract Tool](#)
  Google announced that ethereum app builders using Google software will be able to integrate data from sources outside the blockchain through a partnership with Chainlink, a company that provides on ramps and off ramps for information necessary to run self-executing code called smart contracts.
- [The Next Big Privacy Hurdle? Teaching Ai To Forget](#)
  When the European Union enacted the GDPR a year ago, one of the most revolutionary

aspects of the regulation was the "right to be forgotten". Since then, the issue of digital privacy has rarely been far from the spotlight.

- Taming the Wild West of Digital Health Innovation
Digital innovations in health hold significant promise – and imply serious risks. Only with a clear-eyed assessment of a new technology – including who is responsible for it and who could be left behind if it is deployed – can we ensure that the digital revolution delivers on its promise to improve global health.

Italian Focus

- Italian digital identity is going on in Europe, but Spid still struggles with problems
In accordance with the eIDAS Regulation, Italy is developing systems to help citizens acceding the digital PA and viceversa. At the moment, Italy is the only country to have completed the European iter to create two different digital identities.

- Digitalisation: Italy is slowly improving
The recent focus on the development of 5G technology is a clear sign of improvement in the Italian cyber and digital capabilities. Nevertheless, the level of digitalization of the country is still below the European one.

- Here's what Italian intelligence thinks about 5G and national security
Gennaro Vecchione, Director General of DIS, explained to the Parliament the risks of the 5G technology in Italy. In particular, the diffusion of sensitive information thanks to the IoT devices is one of the major problems.

- CNR and Sapienza developed the biggest optical computer
The National Center of researches and the Department of Physics of Sapienza developed the biggest computer based on Ising models. The results, published on the Physical Review Letter, will revolutionize for instance the creation of bit-coin and password.

European Focus

- Digital Single Market: Europe announces eight sites to host world-class supercomputers
Eight sites for supercomputing centres have been selected across the EU to host the first European supercomputers. They will support Europe's researchers, industry and businesses in developing new applications in a wide range of areas.
  - A Europe that protects: good progress on tackling hybrid threats
The European Union and Member States have made good progress

in tackling hybrid threats through a number of concerted actions in a wide range of sectors to significantly boost capacities, shows the latest report adopted on the 29th of May by the Commission and the European External Action Service.

- Where is the EU going on tech and competition policy?
  Huge technology policy questions are looming for whoever takes the top jobs at the European Union in the coming months. Decisions that could radically reshape tech business models, reconfigure the competitive landscape and change the relationship between Internet users and the content and services they consume.

- GDPR: How Europe's digital privacy rules have changed everything
  At its heart, GDPR set out to update rules around privacy and consent for the digital age and to ensure that organisations are responsible in their handling of their customers' personal data – and that those customers are aware of how their data is being used and that they consent to it.

- Irish Supreme Court rejects Facebook bid to block ECJ data case
  The European Court of Justice (ECJ) will hear a landmark privacy case regarding the transfer of EU citizens' data to the United States in July, after Facebook's bid to stop its referral was blocked by Ireland's Supreme Court on Friday (31 May).