



Cyber Policy, Diplomacy & Legal Framework

- [France hits back at US over tax on digital giants](#)

France has hit back at a US investigation into a new French tax on major internet companies, saying threats were not the way allies should resolve disputes. The French parliament approved a law on Thursday that would make France the first major economy to impose a tax on internet heavyweights.

- [Indo-French Bilateral Cyber Dialogue \(Paris, 20 June 2019\)](#)

During this dialogue, both parties shared their threat analysis and presented the latest developments in their respective cyber policies and steps taken for protection of critical national infrastructure. France and India reaffirmed their commitment to an open, reliable, secure, stable and peaceful cyberspace and recalled in particular the applicability in cyberspace of existing principles of international law.

- [Under Trump, the fight against cybercrime has waned](#)

According to recent polling, Americans view malicious cyber activity as their top security concern. This fear is well-justified. Within the last couple of years, there have been cyberattacks in the United States against the electoral system, the financial industry, the power grid, and hospitals. Despite these events, the US government is simply not doing enough to combat the burgeoning threat of cybercrime.

- [Germany wants to fine Facebook over hate speech reporting](#)

Social media platforms in Germany are obliged to report hate speech and other illegal content. Germany's Federal Office of Justice is expected to slap a €2 million fine on Facebook for reporting only a fraction of such activity on its platform. The Federal Office of Justice is considering Facebook's reports on hate speech and other illegal content being spread across its platform to be incomplete and in violation of its new Network Enforcement Act (NetzDG).

- [A necessary rise: Lithuania bolsters its cybersecurity, catching the attention of other nations](#)

Upcoming Events

July 16

[Computing Conference 2019](#)

July 30

[Cyber Security Digital Summit APAC](#)

August 10

[Free Software and Open Source Conference](#)



Lithuania is rising to the top of those countries taking charge of their cybersecurity, and it's development in cyberspace may benefit the rest of Europe and the United States.

Cyber Security

- [How to clear out your zombie apps and online accounts](#)



In these predominantly digital times, it's all too easy to build up a long trail of unused accounts that are now gathering dust. In some ways these old accounts aren't doing any harm besides gathering virtual dust or sending you the occasional email nag. But having too many dormant logins can cause problems from a security perspective.

- [This new ransomware is targeting network attached storage devices](#)

A newly discovered form of ransomware is targeting network storage devices by brute-forcing weak credentials and exploiting known vulnerabilities in their systems. Dubbed eCh0raix after a string of code, the new form of file-locking malware emerged in June and has been detailed by cybersecurity researchers at Anomali.

- [How armies of fake accounts 'ruined' Twitter in the Middle East](#)

Government talking points are being magnified through thousands of accounts during politically fraught times and silencing people on Twitter is only part of a large-scale effort by governments to stop human rights activists and opponents of the state from being heard.

- [Beware of these scams on Amazon Prime Day](#)

Amazon Prime Day will kick off on Monday with 48 hours of deals for tens of millions of consumers who are Amazon Prime members, but the surge in internet traffic is also likely to attract scammers looking to steal your data and payment card details.

- [Cyberwarfare in space: Satellites at risk of hacker attacks](#)

There's an urgent need for NATO and its member countries to address the cybersecurity of space-based satellite control systems because they're vulnerable to cyberattacks - and if left unaddressed, it could have severe consequences for global security, a new paper from a major think tank on international affairs has warned.

Cyber Warfare, Intelligence and Terrorism

- [Trump approved cyber-strikes against Iran's missile systems](#)

President Trump approved an offensive cyberstrike that disabled Iranian computer systems used to control rocket and missile launches, even as he backed away from a conventional military attack in response to its downing Thursday of an unmanned U.S. surveillance drone, according to people familiar with the matter.



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- [EU to run war games to prepare for Russian and Chinese cyber-attacks](#)
The EU is to conduct war games to prepare for Russian and Chinese cyber-attacks, in response to a series of incidents that alarmed European governments
- [Western intelligence hacked 'Russia's Google' Yandex to spy on accounts](#)
Hackers working for Western intelligence agencies broke into Russian internet search company Yandex in late 2018 deploying a rare type of malware in an attempt to spy on user accounts, four people with knowledge of the matter told Reuters.
- [US Cyber Command warns of nation-state hackers exploiting Outlook](#)
The recent surge in state-backed hacking campaigns isn't dying down any time soon. US Cyber Command has reported that unnamed state actors are making "active malicious use" of a 2017-era Outlook vulnerability (long since patched) to escape the email client's sandbox and run malware on a target system. While officials didn't say who was involved, some clues have hinted at a possible connection to Iran.
- [Are more robust cyber partnerships on the horizon?](#)
The nominee to be the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff advocated before Congress for an integrated approach to protect the nation from the daily barrage of cyber incidents by nation-state adversaries operating below the level of armed conflict.

Cyber Opportunities: Economy, Research & Innovation

- [Privacy, everything changes for digital capitalism after Facebook's fine](#)



The privacy era is spreading worldwide and it aims at eliminating common practices which endanger our very democracies. The fine against Facebook policies in the US is in line with these developments. But which are the consequences on similar business systems?

- [Lloyd's Insurance seeks clarity on policies covering cyber attacks](#)

Lloyd's of London want all insurance and reinsurance policies to clearly state whether coverage will be provided for losses caused by a cyber attack, saying this was in the best interest of both brokers and customers

- [Siemens Evaluates Blockchain Potential For Carsharing](#)
With the invention of bitcoin came a new, secure method of value transfer, via its underlying technology blockchain. Since bitcoin's inception ten years ago, a plethora of mainstream entities have investigated various ways to channel blockchain's potential.
- [Sanofi and Google to develop new healthcare innovation lab](#)
Sanofi and Google will establish a new virtual Innovation Lab with the ambition to radically transform how future medicines and health services are delivered by tapping into the power of emerging data technologies.
- [Microsoft Quantum Algorithm Boosts Medical Imaging](#)

Microsoft researchers have used an algorithm designed to work on an as-yet-nonexistent quantum computer to enhance the speed and quality of medical imaging. The advance may one day improve the treatment of breast cancer and other diseases, the company says.

Italian Focus

- [Huawei to invest \\$3.1 billion in Italy but calls for fair policy on 5G: country CEO](#)

China's Huawei Technologies said it would invest \$3.1 billion in Italy over the next three years, as the Chinese telecoms giant called on Rome to ensure the "transparent, efficient and fair" use of its 'golden power' on 5G network development.



- [Italy, Sweden, and Czechia to Lead European Blockchain Partnership](#)

Following a meeting of the European Blockchain Partnership today in Brussels, the three countries took on the one-year presidency, which will last from July 2019 to July 2020. Italy joined the European Blockchain Partnership last September. The partnership is an entity promoted by European Commission five months earlier

- [Wiretapping: what's at stake?](#)

Even though the gathering of highly private materials is a result of an investigation from the competent authority, many doubts persist over the accountability and liability of the private companies providing these services to the state.

- [Ryuk, the target-specific ransomware found also in Italy](#)

Ryuk ransomware, discovered more than a year ago, is able to attack big companies and organisations and blocks data and information worthy millions euros.

European Focus

- [EU's GPS satellites have been down for four days in mysterious outage](#)



Galileo, the EU's global navigation satellite system, has been down for four days, since July 11, following a mysterious outage. All Galileo satellites are still non-operational, at the time of writing.

- [Grand Chamber of the ECHR to hear mass surveillance case](#)

The Bureau of Investigative Journalism, alongside a number of organisations including human rights groups, brought their case against the UK's mass surveillance programme following revelations by whistle-blower Edward Snowden. TBIJ were successful in their challenge in the ECHR in September 2018. The case has been referred to the Grand Chamber for further consideration.

- [The Finnish EU presidency should push for a 'fast lane' for tech and AI](#)

Boasting one of Europe's most liberal and innovative economies, Finland's EU presidency has the chance to push for a 'fast lane' for tech and AI in Europe, and show Europe a way forward in the age of AI, writes Christian Walther Øyrabø.

- [Monaco has full 5G coverage using Huawei gear, first in Europe](#)

The principality of Monaco is the first country in Europe to cover its entire area with a 5G network featuring Huawei equipment, giving the Shenzhen-based telecom giant an opportunity to showcase its equipment in real time.