Newsletter September 2019

Center for Cyber Security and International Relations Studies

Cyber Policy, Diplomacy & Legal Framework

- **Tech companies won't wait for U.S. to act on social media laws, Microsoft's president says**
  Microsoft Corp President and Chief Legal Officer Brad Smith said on Friday that technology companies are likely to change how they moderate online platforms in response to new laws from foreign governments, regardless of whether U.S. lawmakers act to change a U.S. law that has allowed social media platforms to flourish.

- **U.S., Poland may sign 5G network security agreement on Pence visit: White House official**
  The United States and Poland may sign an agreement aimed at securing 5G networks when U.S. Vice President Michael Pence visits Warsaw in the coming days, a senior White House official said on Friday.

- **Estonian foreign ministry to set up a cyber diplomacy department**
  The Estonian foreign ministry is to set up a new department for cyber diplomacy that will allow the country to participate "more efficiently in global discussions on the subject", as the foreign minister put it.

- **India-Australia to enhance cooperation on cyber security**
  During the India-Australia Cyber Policy Dialogue, New Delhi and Canberra agreed to further enhance practical cybersecurity policy cooperation through reciprocal expert exchanges on the information of policy development, on telecommunications, legislative developments, and engagement with the private sector.

- **Cyber governance divides Western countries from China-Russia assis**
  The applicability of International Law in cyberspace remains one of the main critical point in the dialogue between NATO countries and China-Russian allies. Here's an analysis from the Center's associate.

- **Israel eases rules on cyber weapons exports despite criticism**

Israel is easing export rules on offensive cyber weapons, despite accusations by human rights and privacy groups that its technologies are used by some governments to spy on political foes and crush dissent. A rule change by the defence ministry means companies can now obtain exemptions on marketing licences for the sale of some products to specific countries.

- Google, Apple, Mozilla move to block Kazakh surveillance system
Alphabet Inc's Google, Apple Inc and Firefox browser maker Mozilla took steps on Wednesday to block the Kazakh government from creating an internet surveillance system using their browsers. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox will block a government encryption certificate that allows authorities to read anything a user types or posts using the browsers

Cyber Security

- Facebook, tech firms meet with U.S. intelligence on 2020 election security

U.S. technology companies including Facebook Inc (FB.O), Alphabet's Google (GOOGL.O), Microsoft Corp (MSFT.O) and Twitter Inc (TWTR.N) met with U.S. intelligence agencies on Wednesday to discuss security strategies ahead of the November 2020 election.

- Military allows Chinese-backed third telco to build facilities in camps
The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has allowed the country's third telecommunications company, backed by state-owned China Telecom, to build communications equipment in its camps.

- Why Companies Are Forming Cybersecurity Alliances
In the physical world, governments are responsible for keeping citizens and corporations safe from enemies. The digital world, so far, has been a little different. When it comes to cybersecurity and cyber attacks, most governments have spent much more time increasing their offensive capabilities than protecting companies and individuals.

- Why The Cybersecurity Skills Gap Won't Be Solved In The Classroom
The world is desperate for cybersecurity talent, yet the sector limits entrants and clings to obsolete training methods. As the skills gap grows and organizations become increasingly vulnerable to ever-more complex threats, the need for a diverse pool of cybersecurity experts to learn in real time, rather than a classroom, strengthens.

- A connected world will be a playground for hackers
An unnamed American gambling house in 2017, invested in a fancy internet-connected tank in which the temperature and salinity of the water were remotely controlled. Its owners were not naive: when they installed it, they isolated its controls on their own specific part of their company network, away from all their sensitive systems. It made no difference.

- Cyber firm NSO vows to tackle human rights misuse

The Israeli-based NSO Group said on Tuesday it would abide by U.N. guidelines to prevent rights abuses, following accusations by cyber experts that its software was used in a number of government surveillance scandals.

Cyber Warfare, Intelligence and Terrorism

- New Cyber Warning: ISIS Or Al-Qaeda Could Attack Using 'Dirty Bomb'
  The most serious cyber warfare threats facing the West come from China and Russia, that much is undebatable, with Iran and North Korea a step or two behind. But now Lt.-Gen Vincent Stewart, former deputy chief of U.S. Cyber Command and director of the Pentagon's Defense Intelligence Agency, has warned that we need to urgently broaden our thinking.

- Secret U.S. Cyber Mission Devastated Iran's Attack Capabilities, Officials Say
  The cyber conflict between Iran and the U.S. is now a constant—it doesn't diminish simply because the headlines go away. Now, unnamed U.S. officials have told the U.S. media that covert attacks on Iranian intelligence systems in June had such a devastating impact, that the country has yet to recover its capabilities.

- The US is unprepared for space cyberwarfare
  Virtually every aspect of American national security, including the detection of threats, the use of weapons, the deployment of forces and their resupply, is now dependent on the integrity of critical space-based capabilities. Cyberattacks on space-based systems can produce data loss, service disruptions, sensor interference or the permanent loss of satellite capabilities

- Sources say China used iPhone hacks to target Uyghur Muslims
  A number of malicious websites used to hack into iPhones over a two-year period were targeting Uyghur Muslims. Sources familiar with the matter said the websites were part of a state-backed attack — likely China — designed to target the Uyghur community in the country's Xinjiang state.

- Cyber warfare: IHL provides an additional layer of protection
  Véronique Christory, Senior Arms Control Adviser for the International Committee of the Red Cross delivered a statement to the "Open-ended working group on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security" (New York, 10 September 2019), concerning cyber warfare and the application of IHL.

- Simulation software: protecting your organisation during a sustained period of cyber war
  Organisations and consumers alike are in real threat of falling victim to the ongoing cyber war. Is simulated software a reasonable tactical response?

Cyber Opportunities: Economy, Research & Innovation

- [Google: Dart 2.5 programming language SDK will 'supercharge' developers](#)
  Google has announced updates to both its Dart programming language software development kit (SDK) and Flutter, its developer tool for building user interfaces for native iOS and Android apps. The Dart SDK brings a technical preview of ML Complete, Google's take on machine learning-powered automatic code completion. It also includes the 'foreign function interface' for calling C code directly from Dart.

    - [Cybersecurity a Top Priority for Healthcare: 3 Stocks to Watch](#)
  Tech behemoth Facebook's FB escalating privacy problems have brought the need for cybersecurity to the forefront. In fact, CEOs of Amazon, AT&T and IBM have urged congressional leaders through a letter to fast-track consumer privacy legislation into law. Not just tech, data breaches have wreaked havoc on other sectors, keeping potential investors at bay.

- [Keep quantum computing global and open](#)
  In just a few years, the field of quantum computing has moved swiftly from an academic backwater to a subject of vast public and private interest. The ultimate goal of a 'universal' quantum computer remains decades away.

- [7 Cybersecurity Certifications That Matter in a Growing Market](#)
  Businesses have come to learn the importance of cybersecurity hygiene the hard way. Yet many of those same businesses are still ill-equipped to deal not only with the threats of today, but also the dangers of tomorrow. One of the biggest challenges faced by businesses of any size comes in the form of having the right people on staff to deal with persistent threats.

- [The Blockchain Train: Get On Board—With Caution](#)
  The attraction to blockchain technology makes sense, given its superior ability to protect data. Its distributed nature makes it difficult to impossible for attackers to corrupt the data. As has been said numerous times by its advocates, an attacker would have to attack every "node" or system that processes the data, and there would likely be thousands of them.

- [IBM releases quantum computing textbook and video tutorials](#)
  Quantum computers are quite different, at an architectural level, than traditional computers. Programming quantum computers, it stands to reason, is equally dissimilar—quantum computers use qubits, not bits. The properties of qubits are fundamentally what powers the potential of quantum computers, though learning how to harness qubits effectively requires a different way of thinking.

Italian Focus

- [Italy is paying the highest price for its digital illiteracy. Reasons and solutions](#)

The process of digitalisation will intensify in the next years and society will depend even more on digital means. The diffusion of AIs, robots, augmented reality, and big data have already produced radical changes. These innovations will influence the job market in the future

- **Former minister Passera launches first Italian 100% digital bank. It is already online**
  Illimity, the first Italian entirely digital bank, is already online. The bank, which is completely managed in cloud, was promoted and launched by former Italian Minister, Corrado Passera.

- **Cyber national perimeter: here's the decree. Focus on 5G networks and marginal role for AGID**
  Corcom published the text of the new Decree. The Council of Ministers, probably the Department for Digital Transformation, will be in charge of verifications and inspections to PAs. The Minister for Economic Development will be in charge of the private sectors.

- **Cybersecurity, three challenges for the new government**
  The new Italian government will face at least three main challenges concerning cybersecurity: the implementation of the law on the defense of the national perimeter, the application of the NIS Directive, and the support and strategic direction for the CERTs.

- **Team IT and company mangers can collaborate to improve IT security**
  IT threats are increasing in quantity, scale and complexity. Clearly, this evolution requires an improvement in the organisation of cyber defence, in particular the employees should improve the collaborations and learn how to face criticalities. Recently, current strategies didn't prove to be efficient for businesses.

- **Truck IBM, first aid against cyber attacks**
  Outside, it is nothing more than a 23-tons camion. But on the inside, it is an operative center to contrast millions-worth cyber-attacks. This service should help business companies to avoid 'expensive' data breache'
  Da fuori, è un camion (da 23 tonnellate). Dentro, è un centro operativo da cui gestire (o imparare a farlo) cyber attacchi da milioni di dollari: i danni di un 'data breach' possono essere stellari per le aziende che non reagiscono per tempo.

European Focus

- **Europe's antitrust chief, Margrethe Vestager, set for expanded role in next Commission**
  As the antitrust investigations stack up on US tech giants' home turf there's no sign of pressure letting up across the pond. European Commission president-elect Ursula von der Leyen today unveiled her picks for the next

team of commissioners who will take up their mandates on November 1 — giving an expanded role to competition commissioner Margrethe Vestager.

- EU assessment mission to integrate with single digital market launches its work in Ukraine
According to European experts, a single digital market can bring EUR 415 billion annually to a united Europe and create hundreds of thousands of jobs. The European Union assessment mission to integrate with a single digital market has launched its work in Ukraine.

- ISO 27701 for the protection of personal data: how to create a Privacy Information Management System
ISO 27701 standard for the protection of personal data represents a major step towards the definition of a certification for personal data management. How to design and produce technical and managerial solutions to apply GDPR and related norms, concerning privacy.

- Government consults on future UK-EU cyber relations
The government is seeking input on the UK's post-Brexit approach to working with the EU on cybersecurity issues. The EU Cyber Security Act – which is intended to lay the legal groundwork for the creation of security certifications across Europe – came into effect earlier this summer. The law allows for national schemes for certifying the security of products and services to be mutually recognised across all other member states.

- EU Needs Own Digital 'EuroCoin' to Compete With Libra, Says France
French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire has said that Europe should consider its own "public digital currency" that could challenge Facebook's Libra. The minister's remarks — the latest in a series of vocal misgivings about the social media giant's cryptocurrency plans.