New VoIP services are now blocked in Morocco, further fuelling the controversy over banned VoIP services. Telecom providers have declared that the decision to ban VoIP calls, in place since January, was taken by the regulator.

Google is currently in talks with Indian telecom operators to kickstart the Loon project in India. The project uses balloons instead of land-based infrastructure to provide Internet access to rural areas. Google gained support from the Indian government early this year.

This year’s Global Encryption Trends Study reports that companies storing sensitive data in the cloud are increasingly encrypting such data.
The ICANN Board submitted its plan to transition stewardship of key Internet functions to the US government. The plan includes both the IANA stewardship transition proposal and the supplemental final proposal on ICANN accountability recommendations. The US government announced that it has contracted the Berkman Center at Harvard University to perform an independent review of the proposals by 30 June.

Six of the largest tech companies have criticised the Snoopers’ Charter, as it attempts to establish extraterritorial jurisdiction, allowing the country to force companies to comply even if they are not based in the UK.

In a preliminary opinion, the Advocate General (AG) of the European Court of Justice has declared that operators of free public WiFi should not be held accountable for copyright infringements committed by users of their networks. If the Court confirms the AG’s opinion, Germany could be forced to change its law that holds WiFi providers responsible for illegal activity.

The UK’s latest budget provides for tax relief for micro-entrepreneurs who sell their services online or rent their homes through the Internet. India is looking into expanding the so-called Google Tax through an ‘equalising levy’ of 6-8% on gross payment ‘if the provider of the service is a foreign entity without a “permanent establishment” in India’.

The European Commission’s first findings of a sector inquiry on e-commerce reveal the widespread use of geo-blocking in Europe, while guidelines on how to apply existing EU legislation to the ‘sharing economy’ are expected to be published in June 2016.

FCC rules put to the test: T-mobile adds more services to its Binge On service, which allows users to stream content that is not counted towards their data cap. Verizon, AT&T, and Comcast offer similar packages.

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