Internet Governance in **February 2017**

28 February 2017

Geneva Internet Platform

DiPLO

Main events in February

- **2-3, 6-8 Feb**: ITU Meetings: CWG-Child Online Protection, CWG-Internet, CWG-WSIS (Geneva)
- **6-8 Feb**: NANOG 69 (Washington)
- **7 Feb**: Safer Internet Day (worldwide)
- **14 Feb**: WSIS Forum 2017 Open Consultation Process: 2nd Meeting (Geneva)
- **15 Feb**: Strengthening Confidence Building in the OSCE (Vienna)
- **16-17 Feb**: Domain pulse 2017 (Vienna)
- **17-19 Feb**: Munich Security Conference 2017 (Munich)
- **20-24 Feb**: UN Group of Governmental Experts: Third Session (Geneva)
- **21 Feb**: Briefing for Heads of Missions: Digital Policy in SE Europe (Geneva)
- **22 Feb**: Central Asia Security Forum (Bishkek)
- **27 Feb – 2 Mar**: Mobile World Congress (Barcelona)
- **27 Feb – 4 Mar**: UN Human Rights Council - 34th Session (Geneva)

Visit dig.watch/events for details

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Internet Governance BAROMETER (FEBRUARY 2017)

IG Barometer indicates the presence of specific IG issues in the public policy debate in comparison to the previous month

Global IG architecture

Microsoft has called for a Digital Geneva Convention, outlining six aims, and calling on both governments and the private sector to do more in the area of cybersecurity. In a similar, unrelated post, an Indiana University professor asks whether cybersecurity should be a human right. Both posts emphasise the involvement of International and Digital Geneva as a centre for UN efforts to ensure global cybersecurity.

A new global multistakeholder body – the Global Commission on the Stability of Cyberspace – was launched during the Munich Security Conference. It is tasked with developing proposals for norms and policy initiatives to improve the stability and security of cyberspace.

Sustainable development

At the South Asian Speakers' Summit on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, speakers of parliaments from South Asian countries adopted the Indore Declaration, which outlines a series of recommendations on how parliaments can contribute to the implementation of the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Technology industry body techUK called on G20 countries to prioritise innovation and digital technologies as key towards achieving the UN SDGs, and presented a series of recommendations. GSMA and the UN Foundation launched the initiative Big Data for Social Good to accelerate the mobile industry's input to achieving the SDG.
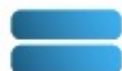
Security

The US delegate to the UN GGE has suggested that the group focuses on operationalising existing norms, i.e, on ensuring that already-defined norms are implemented.

The second edition of the *Tallinn Manual*, which describes the international law applicable to state actions in cyberspace, was published in February.

E-commerce and Internet economy

Uber announced that it will suspend its services in Taiwan, after authorities ruled that operating as an Internet-based platform was illegal.

A Brazilian labour court ruled that an Uber driver is an employee of the company and is entitled to workers' benefits.

Malta has proposed that Europe should become the Bitcoin continent. 'The rise of crypto currencies can be slowed... but cannot be stopped.'

Digital rights

The continuing Internet ban in English-speaking areas of Cameroon is paralysing banks and affecting the economy. The UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression urged the government to restore the services.

Facebook and Google are co-operating with French news organisations to minimise the risk of fake news affecting France's upcoming presidential election. Internet companies are introducing fact-checking tools.

Ireland's Data Protection Commissioner is challenging Facebook's model contracts, a legal arrangement under which the data of EU citizens is transferred across the Atlantic.

Comments made by the Secretary of the US Department of Homeland Security suggested that the department could require non-US travellers on their way to the US to disclose passwords to their social media accounts as a condition of entering the country. A coalition of human rights and civil liberties organisations expressed concern.

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Jurisdiction and legal issues

A Philadelphia judge ruled that Google must comply with FBI search warrants, for Gmail messages stored outside the USA, as a part of a domestic fraud investigation. Google will appeal.

The European Parliament has reached an agreement which will soon allow Europeans to fully use their on-line subscriptions to digital content when travelling within the EU.

The Swedish Court of Patent and Market Appeals ordered an Internet service provider (ISP) to block access to The Pirate Bay and Swedish streaming portal Swefilmer. In the UK, Google and Microsoft reached an agreement with the UK government and the creative industry to limit pirated films and music online.

Infrastructure

ICANN proceeded with the delegation of the .africa top-level domain (gTLD), after a decision by a California Superior Court.

The race to deploy 5G in the market has sped up. The ITU has agreed the minimum network requirements of 5G networks, while Verizon announced a commercial pilot 5G deployment by mid-2017.

An overview of the status of Internet Protocol (IP) address space in 2016, published by APNIC's Chief Scientist, shows that the number of individual allocations of IPv6 addresses rose by some 20% in 2016 compared to 2015.

Cisco's *2017 Annual Cybersecurity Report* suggests that spam accounted for 65% of the total e-mail volume in 2016, and that the volume of spam last year is close to the record levels seen in 2010.

Net neutrality
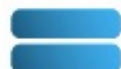
The US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has set aside its January 2017 report on zero-rating practices, which had concluded that zero-rating services offered by AT&T and Verizon presented risks to consumers and competition.

Chinese company Alibaba is considering providing free Internet in India and is currently in negotiations with telecom operators and WiFi providers in the country. It remains to be seen what kind of Internet services the company will provide.

New technologies (IoT, AI, etc.)
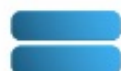
AT&T, IBM, Nokia, Palo Alto Networks, Symantec, and Trustsonic have formed the IoT Cybersecurity Alliance, aiming to 'help customers address IoT cybersecurity challenges, demystify Internet of Things (IoT) security, and share best practices'. A report on *The Internet of Evil Things* shows that connected devices will be a major security issue in 2017.

According to the GSMA and Machina Research, Low Power Wide Area (LPWA) connections are set to exceed 2G, 3G, and 4G and become the leading technology for the IoT, with 1.4 billion connections by 2022.

The application of drones for different services continues to grow, as Dubai plans to introduce flying drone taxi services next July.

Geneva Internet Platform

Presented during the Geneva Internet Platform briefing on 28 February. More: dig.watch/briefings

Top trends in digital policy
in February

- Microsoft proposes Digital Geneva Convention, calling on governments and private sector to do more in the area of cybersecurity

- Microsoft among few Internet companies that have embraced diplomacy (ex: in 2015, it proposed set of cyber-norms for states, which was further updated with the proposal of cyber-norms for the ICT industry in 2016)

- Open questions: What should the convention regulate? How should it be implemented?

1.
No targeting of tech companies, private sector, or critical infrastructure

2.
Assist private sector efforts to detect, contain, respond to, and recover from events

3.
Report vulnerabilities to vendors rather than to stockpile, sell or exploit them

4.
Exercise restraint in developing cyber weapons and ensure that any developed are limited, precise, and not reusable

5.
Commit to nonproliferation activities to cyberweapons

6.
Limit offensive operation to avoid a mass event

The rise of fake news

- Fake news = growing concern for users, governments, Internet companies

- Tech companies, including social media networks, widely criticised over the spread of fake news through their platforms

- Tech companies taking steps: updating policies, fact-checking tools

- Issues: (a) terminology: fake news (fabricated) vs false news (incorrect)

(b) extent of responsibility of intermediaries: *de facto/de iure* content regulators?

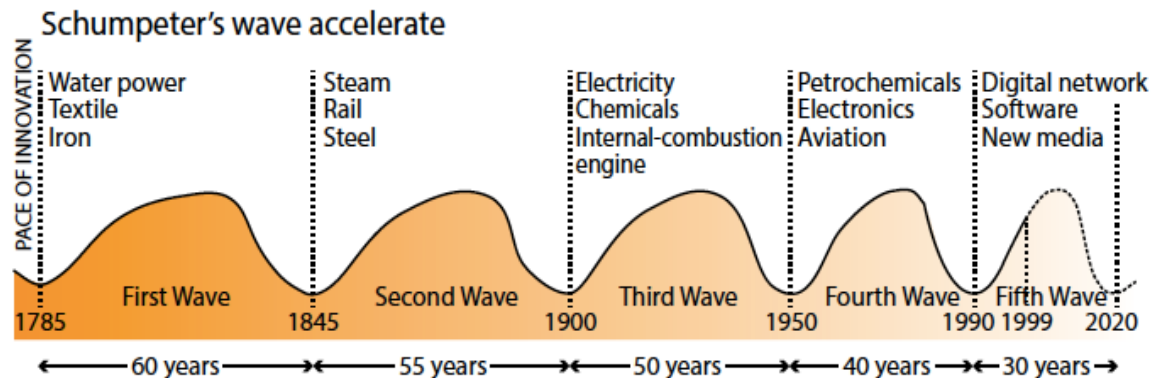(c) dealing with fake news: huge amount of content; potential use of AI; risks of censorship

More: *dig.watch/fake-news*

Minimising the social costs of technology

- The impact of digital growth on jobs and social costs: a main trend in 2017

- Idea of universal basic income: emerged in India, Scotland, and Finland

- French presidential candidate: proposing taxes for robots to compensate workers whose jobs become obsolete due to technological advancements

- But, European Parliament voted against universal basic income proposal (in Committee on Legal Affairs' report) to compensate for disruptions brought by advancements of the digital industry

The Schumpeterian Cycle of Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Schumpeter's wave accelerate

PACE OF INNOVATION

Water power	Steam	Electricity	Petrochemicals	Digital network
Textile	Rail	Chemicals	Electronics	Software
Iron	Steel	Internal-combustion engine	Aviation	New media

First Wave — 1785
Second Wave — 1845
Third Wave — 1900
Fourth Wave — 1950
Fifth Wave — 1990 1999 2020

← 60 years → ← 55 years → ← 50 years → ← 40 years → ← 30 years →

Using search warrants for data stored overseas

- Juridical access to data hosted overseas by US Internet companies has come into focus:

  (a) 2016 Microsoft case: Appeals Court ruled that search warrants cannot be used to disclose content held overseas

  (b) 2017 Google case: A Philadelphia Court ruled that Google must comply with FBI's search warrants and hand over data stored outside the USA

- Courts will continue to shape digital policy

Main events in March

- 1-3 Mar: IGF 2017: First Open Consultations and MAG Meeting (Geneva)
- 3 Mar: International Data Responsibility Conference (The Hague)
- 6-10 Mar: Internet Freedom Festival 2017 (Valencia)
- 9 Mar: Symposium on The Future Networked Car (Geneva)
- 9 Mar: Regional Internet Forum 2017 (Belgrade)
- 11-16 Mar: ICANN58 (Copenhagen)
- 14 Mar: WSIS Forum Open Consultation Process: Final Review Meeting (Geneva)
- 14-15 Mar: G20 Consumer Summit (Berlin)
- 21-22 Mar: EBU Big Data Conference 2017 (Geneva)
- 22-24 Mar: Commonwealth Cybersecurity Forum 2017 (London)
- 26-31 Mar: IETF 98 (Chicago)
- 28-29 Mar: Digital Regulation Forum (London)
- 29-31 Mar: RightsCon Brussels 2017 (Brussels)

Visit **dig.watch/events** for details

From the Geneva Internet Platform & DiploFoundation

Past events...

- 21 Feb: Briefing for Heads of Missions: Digital Policy in SE Europe (Geneva)

Today...

- February's *Geneva Digital Watch* newsletter is out. Download your copy:
dig.watch/newsletter

Ongoing...

- 23 Jan – 26 Mar: Just-in-time Course on Internet Governance 2017

Upcoming...

- March: Call for assistant curators for *GIP Digital Watch observatory.*
Details on **dig.watch**
- 28 March: Briefing on Internet governance in March

Local hubs & regional perspectives

Tunisia
Brazil
South Eastern Europe

More: dig.watch/briefing-feb2017