



Internet Governance in **March 2017**

28 March 2017

Geneva Internet Platform



DiPLO

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

Internet Governance BAROMETER (MARCH 2017)

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

Global IG architecture



China launched its *International Strategy of Cooperation on Cyberspace*, which details the country's policy and position on cyber-related international affairs.[\[2\]](#) The strategy supports a multilateral, democratic, transparent global Internet governance system, and refers to security and stability in cyberspace as growing concerns.

Sustainable development



A new report by the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development's Working Group on the Digital Gender Divide analyses and addresses the difficulties faced by women in realising the full potential of Internet access. The report notes that the gender gap widened from 2013 to 2016.[\[2\]](#)

Security



WikiLeaks released over 8000 pages of confidential documents of the US government, dating from 2013 to 2016, which provide detailed descriptions of the CIA's ability to hack phones, computers, and smart devices.[\[2\]](#)

The US Department of Justice has indicted four Russians, including two officers of the Russian Federal Security Service, in relation to the 2014 Yahoo! e-mail breach.[\[2\]](#)

The Ministry of Defense of Singapore reported a cyberattack that compromised the personal data of 850 employees of the public service.[\[2\]](#) The French government has decided to abandon plans to allow its expats to vote online during the upcoming national elections, over fears of cyberattacks.[\[2\]](#)

E-commerce and Internet economy



The Canadian government plans to amend its Excise Tax Act to redefine ride-sharing firms, such as Uber, as taxi companies.[\[2\]](#) This would end the tax advantages that they have over traditional taxi companies, forcing them to collect the goods and services tax for every ride.

Russia's Internet regulator Roskomnadzor has confirmed that LinkedIn will remain blocked until the company agrees to move Russian user data to Russian territory.[\[2\]](#) The network has been blocked since November.[\[2\]](#)

Digital rights



The UN Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy has suggested a legal instrument to regulate surveillance in cyberspace.[\[2\]](#) The UN HRC adopted a resolution on the right to privacy in the digital age, which calls upon states to respect and protect the right to privacy, and to take measures to put an end to violations.[\[2\]](#)

The Court of Justice of the European Union has ruled that the right to be forgotten does not extend to company registers,[\[2\]](#) which need to be public to ensure legal certainty.

Internet blockage in Anglophone Cameroon reached past its 50th day, causing more damage to the country's economy.[\[2\]](#)

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Jurisdiction and legal issues



Social media companies have one month to make changes to their general terms of use to comply with EU consumer protection legislation, the European Commission has announced.[\[2\]](#)

The German government has published a draft law that will impose fines of up to €50 million on social networks that do not remove hate speech and fake news.[\[2\]](#) Meanwhile, Google has apologised over extremist content,[\[2\]](#) after several companies pulled their Google advertisements.[\[2\]](#)

WIPO has reported a 10% increase in domain name cybersquatting cases in 2016. The generic top-level domains (gTLDs) with the most disputed domain names were .xyz, .top, and .club.[\[2\]](#)

Infrastructure



Discussions at ICANN58 re-focused on ICANN's policy development processes, including those related to the New gTLD Program,[\[2\]](#) dispute resolution mechanisms, and the WHOIS policy.[\[2\]](#) *Read the GIP's reports from ICANN58.*[\[2\]](#)

Governments expressed dissatisfaction with the ICANN Board's decision to allow the registration of two-letter domain names – including country codes – in new gTLDs, over fears that this would create confusion.[\[2\]](#)

Starting in June, US telecom company Verizon will stop issuing new public static IPv4 addresses, due to a shortage in available addresses.[\[2\]](#)

Net neutrality



Over 170 groups have urged the US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the US Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation to oppose legislation and regulatory actions that would threaten net neutrality and roll back the important protections put in place by the FCC in 2015.[\[2\]](#)

Swedish telecom company Telia Sweden announced that it will be extending its controversial zero-rating services.[\[2\]](#) This came after the Swedish Post and Telecom Authority's announcement that it will make net neutrality a priority in 2017.[\[2\]](#)

T-Mobile Netherlands will defend its zero-rating music streaming service in court,[\[2\]](#) opposing a decision by the Dutch telecom regulatory authority which declared the service to be in breach of net neutrality rules.[\[2\]](#)

Net neutrality debates are expected in South Korea, after SK Telecom introduced zero-rating for Pokemon Go.[\[2\]](#)

New technologies (IoT, AI, etc.)



Security experts are expecting an increase in cyberattacks on the industrial IoT in 2017. The study, which looked at industrial IoT deployment in organisations, revealed that 51% of the surveyed security professionals do not feel prepared for security attacks.[\[2\]](#) But the US Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is cautious about regulating the sector.[\[2\]](#)

Researchers have developed an artificial intelligence (AI) algorithm that can identify racist code words on social media.[\[2\]](#) But another group of researchers has also shown that Google's AI tool for spotting online abuse can be deceived.[\[2\]](#)



Top trends in digital policy in March

1. China outlines new cyber diplomacy



China outlines policy & position on cyber-related international affairs in *International Strategy of Cooperation on Cyberspace*:

- Cyber sovereignty in the political realm; full global integration in digital economic realm
- Supports a multilateral approach; stakeholders' respective roles via 'multi-parties' approach; formulation of norms of state behavior, within the UN framework)
- Recommends that basic resources be equitably distributed; critical infrastructure be managed jointly
- Indicates that ICANN still needs to become a truly independent international institution



2. Wikileaks reveals CIA's hacking arsenal



Vault 7: over 8000 pages of confidential USG documents, dated 2013-2016.
They reveal CIA's ability:

- To hack phones, computers, smart devices
- To compromise software of all major vendors (Apple, Microsoft, Android...) and IoT device manufactures (Samsung...)
- To trick major anti-virus programmes (Kaspersky, BitDifender, AVG...) to avoid detection

Interplay between privacy and security:
have authorities crossed red line?



3. UN SR on privacy proposes surveillance treaty



- In latest report, UN Special Rapporteur proposes a surveillance treaty
- Would co-exist alongside other instruments; should address surveillance activities that fall beyond scope of existing international instruments
- Not to be confused with Digital Geneva Convention proposal



4. EU asks social media companies to change terms

Authorities in Europe imposing pressure on social media companies to finalise detailed measures on how to comply with the EU regulatory framework within one month;

Clauses creating imbalance in users' rights & obligations;

Changes include:

- Jurisdiction (social media networks cannot deprive consumers of their right to go to court in their member state of residence)
- Misleading content (companies must remove any fraud and scams appearing on their websites that could mislead consumers, once they become aware of such practices)
- Termination of contracts (termination should be governed by clear rules and not decided unilaterally without a reason).



5. ICANN58 refocuses on policy development



Unlike previous meetings which focused on IANA stewardship transition, ICANN58 refocused on policy development processes:

- Advancements on new gTLD-related processes
- How to improve next round(s) of new gTLD applications
- Mechanisms for disbursing resources accrued from the gTLD auctions
- Issues related to the review of the WHOIS policy
- Data discussed in the context of transforming ICANN into a data-driven organisation



Main events in April

2-5 Apr: ARIN 39 (Louisiana, USA)

3-4 Apr: Knowledge for Development: Global Partnership Conference 2017 (Geneva)

3-7 Apr: World Wide Web Conference 2017 (Perth)

4-5 Apr: Inter-Regional Conference between OSCE and Asian Partners on Cyber/ICT Security (Seoul)

6-7 Apr: G20 Meeting of Digital Ministers (Düsseldorf)

7 Apr: Russian Internet Governance Forum 2017 (Innopolis)

19-20 Apr: Internet of Things European Summit 2017 (Brussels)

24 Apr: Finnish Internet Forum 2017 (Helsinki)

24-27 Apr: Garmisch Forum 2017 (Garmisch)

24-28 Apr: UNCTAD E-commerce Week 2017 (Geneva)

Visit dig.watch/events for details

From the Geneva Internet Platform & DiploFoundation

Past events...

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

11-16 Mar: Thematic reporting from ICANN58. Reports: dig.watch/icann58

Ongoing...

Digital Geneva 2017: How data is shaping our future -

www.giplatform.org/data

Upcoming...

April-May: Training for new assistant curators of the *GIP Digital Watch observatory*

April-June: Course on Digital Commerce

25 April: Briefing on Internet governance in April

Local hubs & regional perspectives

Tunisia

Brazil

South Eastern Europe

More: dig.watch/briefing-mar2017