

ISOC EUROPEAN REGIONAL BUREAU - EU issues overview

3 - 9 August 2013

Net neutrality

EU: Leaked draft Regulation said to lay foundations for “new Internet model”

- The upcoming EU Regulation proposal on the **EU telecom single market** is said to lay foundations for a **new Internet model**, allowing ISPs to “sell premium services alongside basic browsing packages”.
- The leaked draft includes a section on **Assured Service Quality (ASQ)** referring to a model where customers pay the quality of service delivered. Needless to say, this raises serious concerns wrt NN principles.
- According to the proponents of ASQ, the model would allow for a **better management of Internet traffic**. Particularly mobile networks facing the challenges of capacity constraint, underlined Cisco Systems.
- The proposal, which is expected in September, could empower **national regulators to define web access criteria**, MLex said.

A European IT strategy should promote net neutrality

- In a letter sent to the **EU Digital Affairs Commissioner** Kroes, the **German Minister of Economy** Philipp Rösler calls for the **EU to set up an ambitious IT strategy** that would not only support the development of European digital technologies and provide optimal growth conditions for industry, but also guarantee **equal treatment of data flows**, thus upholding the [principle of net neutrality](#).

Internet governance

EU: Study calls for the Commission to regulate ‘Internet of things’

- The recently published [study on the ‘Internet-of-things’](#) carried out on behalf of the European Commission underlined the need for the EU lawmaker to **regulate Internet-connected devices** in order to foster a trustworthy environment.
- Underlining the increasing **number of devices using embedded chips** to connect to the Internet, the report calls for the Commission to consider adopting a **package of non-binding measures** such as communications, guidelines and code of conduct.

Data protection

Twitter confirms increasing number of governmental requests for information

- The recently published [Twitter’s Transparency Report](#) unveiled that there were 1,157 governmental requests for information submitted in H1 2013, a significant increase compared to some 849 requests for the same period of last year.
- The US submitted over 900 demands, representing 78% of all requests for user data. In comparison, the most EU demands came from the UK (26), followed by Italy (22) and France (18). Overall, **8 EU Member states** submitted requests to Twitter.

Data protection update

- Amid the revelations concerning US snooping, the **German Information Security Agency (GISA)** has called for the **EU to hold discussions** on the expansion of the [European capacities in cloud computing](#) in a move aiming at reducing the EU’s reliance on foreign suppliers. Investments into certified crypto products should accompany this effort, underlined GISA.

- The **UK data protection watchdog** (ICO) has published a [set of guidelines](#) that aims to help organisations coping with individuals' request for their data. Under UK legislation, an organisation has 40 days to respond to a data request. The document could lower the number of complaints ICO receives with regard to the companies' handling of the subject access request.

Copyright infringement

Russia: Implementation of the new anti-piracy law, court rejects the first complaint

- In order to protest against the **pre-trial blocking of web-pages**, allowed by the new **anti-piracy law** that came into force last week, some **1,700 Russian websites** joined an [online strike initiative](#) and went down.
- For a day, the pages of the participating sites displayed a denouncement of the new legislation and provided links to a petition calling for the law to be removed. The law has been criticised by numerous providers in Russia that underlined that the law could be used for unfair competition and lead to political censorship.
- Nevertheless, [the first complaint](#) logged in with the state's consumer watchdog **has been rejected** by the latter as the complainant, a movie distribution company, did not provide enough evidence for the case it wanted to launch against a Russian social network site.