NTRC

ICT NEWSLETTER

Presenters at Civil Society Event Left to Right: Mrs. Roxanne John—CARCIP SVG, Mr. Hannif Sutherland – NIS, Mr. Shernon Osepa—ISOC, Mr. Nigel Cassimire—CTU

ICANN collaborates with NTRC to host Civil Society Event in St. Vincent & the Grenadines

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) in collaboration with the National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC) held a Civil Society Presentation event on Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at the Frenches House Conference Room. The aim of the event was to increase the knowledge of how the internet is governed locally and globally and its impact and interrelationships across all sectors of the economy to its users and providers. The main sessions of the event focused on the summary and readout from ICANN 58 meeting that took place in Copenhagen, Denmark in March 2017.

The meeting heard from ICANN's Stakeholder Engagement Sr Manager - The Caribbean—Mr. Albert Daniels. Mr. Daniels gave an overview of ICANN and the ecosystem of the Internet. In his presentation, he mentioned that ICANN's staff does not create policy, however, they support and resource the worldwide community who determines the internet policy in a "bottom up" manner. He further invited participants to get involved in ICANN by applying for fellowships to attend ICANN meetings in person or by remote attendance so that our voices can be heard from the Caribbean region.

The meeting also heard presentations from Mr. Shernon Osepa—Manager Regional Affairs Latin America & the Caribbean of The Internet Society (ISOC). Mr. Osepa spoke on the Internet Ecosystem & the ABCs of Cybersecurity. The ISOC representative urged that we must have a collective responsibility towards cybersecurity as the threats nor solutions exist in isolation. He further added that security solutions need to be flexible enough to evolve over time and respond to new challenges.

There were other presentations from Mr. Nigel Cassimire - Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU), Mr. Apollo Knights—NTRC, Mr. Hanniff Sutherland, NIS and Mrs. Roxann John—CARCIP.

Source: NTRC

Understanding Denial-of-Service Attacks

In a denial-of-service (DoS) attack, an attacker attempts to prevent legitimate users from accessing information or services.

The most common and obvious type of DoS attack occurs when an attacker "floods" a network with information. When you type a URL for a particular website into your browser, you are sending a request to that site's computer server to view the page. The server can only process a certain number of requests at once, so if an attacker overloads the server with requests, it can't process your request. This is a "denial of service" because you can't access that site.

In a distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attack, an attacker may use your computer to attack another computer. By taking advantage of security vulnerabilities or weaknesses, an attacker could take control of your computer. He or she could then force your computer to send huge amounts of data to a website or send spam to particular email addresses. The attack is "distributed" because the attacker is using multiple computers, including yours, to launch the denial-of-service attack.

To prevent the likelihood of an attacker using your computer in a DDoS attack, ensure that you install and maintain antivirus software and firewalls to restrict unwanted outgoing traffic from your computer.

Flow working on fixing Internet Issues in SVG

Garfield Sinclair

The shoddy internet service that has been affecting some FLOW customers is being blamed on network congestion, caused by the vast number of customers that have been added to the network. "FLOW has become a victim of its own success… because of those additional customers, the network is becoming more congested, so we need to relieve that congestion, we know that," said president of Cable and Wireless Caribbean Garfield "Garry" Sinclair on Wednesday, April 26, 2017, while speaking at a press briefing which was held at FLOW's base at its Halifax Street building.

Sinclair explained that the combination of the Cable and Wireless and FLOW legacy networks saw customers added to what is called the Hybrid Fibrecoaxial (HFC) Network, hence the issues. HFC is a telecommunications industry term for a broadband network that combines optical fibre and coaxial cable. He said that they have since imported into St Vincent and the Grenadines the equipment needed to address the issue and they are deploying and testing the equipment.

"We need to relieve that congestion now and we believe that by May, certainly by June, we will have… we are going to have a lot of the congestion issues resolved," said Sinclair. He said that FLOW is looking into a number of upgrades and fixes to stabilize the system and these include extending the life, if it economically feasible, of the local copper network, as well as deploying the Veryhigh- bit-rate digital subscriber line 2 (VDSL2). Sinclair said that with the VDSL2, customers can achieve speeds of up to 50 mbps over the copper network. The C&W president praised the St Vincent operation, noting that he also met with Minister of Telecommunications Honorable Camillo Gonsalves and they spoke about the issues. "The transformation of our Caribbean business is made that much easier when you have well-run operations like St Vincent and the Grenadines, ably led by Wayne Hull and the rest of the senior leadership team.

Source: Searchlight

St Kitts-Nevis revives plans for IXP infrastructure

Attorney General Vincent Byron

BASSETERRE, St Kitts (SKNIS) -- A two day symposium and technical workshop held from May 4-5, 2017, has revived the conversation for the introduction of an Internet Exchange Point (IXP) infrastructure in St Kitts and Nevis.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the symposium and workshop, St Kitts and Nevis attorney general, Vincent Byron, said, "At one point, St Kitts and Nevis was geared to be the first country in our sub-region in the OECS to have an IXP".

He also stated that minor setbacks halted the progress of this project and allowed other islands to come on stream, but that this workshop is the pivotal start to IXP infrastructure being developed in the Federation. The project is expected to be completed this year.

"The government, over the next few weeks, will be launching a National Information and Communication Technology Centre (ITC)," Byron said.

He emphasized that there is need for having all the ITC facilities throughout the island under one roof. The facility will also be utilized for training and certification for both the public and private sector.

"It will be a centre where small start-up businesses can use the facilities (conference rooms, communications centre, meeting rooms) and have a base to do their business. I encourage young people and persons doing business to make use of the facilities," Byron said.

He explained that the use of the facilities will incur a small cost but it would be beneficial for persons to use the facilities as opposed to working out of their homes. The facility will also be the home of the IXP infrastructure and a cybercrime desk.

Byron thanked the facilitators of the workshop, but made special mention of Bevil Wooding for his efforts in assisting with a number of technological advancements in the region over the years.
"It is of tremendous value having an IXP here in St Kitts to attract businesses who want to be more efficient with the delivery of their services," Byron said.

Source: Caribbean New Now via ICT Pulse

Caribbean leaders urged to embrace ICT

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, (29th April, 2017) – "The ITU, UNECLAC, CTU, the various bankers' associations, the central bankers, the anti-money laundering regulators, the digital financial Services technology providers, the cyber security experts and the consumer protection officials need to see how we as a region can develop our regional DFS sector," stated Hon. Darcy W. Boyce, the President of the Caribbean Telecommunications Union, and Senator in the Office of the Prime Minister Energy, Immigration, Telecommunications and Invest Barbados.

Senator Boyce made a call for collaboration during the opening ceremony of the Digital Financial Services (DFS) Workshop, held in Port of Spain, April 27th to 28th 2017.

The CTU President further gave the rationale for providing these services in the region, "Digital financial services, through the attributes of digital financial inclusion have significant potential to provide a range of affordable, convenient and secure banking services to the poor people, small and micro enterprises in the region."

The Workshop was organised by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), in collaboration with the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (TATT), the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU), the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, the University of the West Indies St. Augustine Campus (UWI), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC), and Pinaka Technology Solutions.

This workshop follows on the heels of the CTU's 15th Caribbean Ministerial Strategic ICT Seminar, which was held in Antigua and Barbuda in March, and had as its theme: ICT Driving 21st Century Financial Services. This Seminar laid a foundation of understanding of the impact information and communication technologies was having on financial services.

The primary purpose and objective of this interactive Workshop was to provide Caribbean stakeholders from various sectors with insight on technological innovations for improving financial transactions and financing arrangements. Specifically, it sought to explore online decentralised systems that allow people to exchange goods and services without using traditional monetary instruments, and to assess whether the adoption of digital currencies as an alternative currency in the Caribbean, can serve the needs of this region.

The Forum was attended by a wide cross-section of delegates from Caribbean Governments regional and international ICT oganisations, regulators, network operators and innovators.

Source: CTU

TATT to introduce 45 public Wi-Fi hot-spots across T&T

 Chairman of the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (TATT) Gilbert Peterson says the country is expected to benefit from 45 Wi-Fi hotspots in public spaces. He also said TATT is moving with speed towards the licencing of White Space Devices by September 2017.

Peterson made these comments at Internet of Things (IOT) Smarter Living In The Caribbean Forum at Hyatt Regency Hotel, Wrightson Road, Port of Spain on April 24, 2017.

Among those present were Minister of Public Administration and Communications Maxie Cuffie, International Telecommunications Union Area Representative Cleveland Thomas, Secretary General Caribbean Telecommunication Union Bernadette Lewis. The forum's objectives included

discussing the role of IOT in relation to converging technologies for building smart sustainable communities with integrated ecosystems. IOT also focused on developmental challenges and the paradigm shift in creating a smart world that facilitates sustainable economic development along with quality lives.

Peterson said: "In June 2008, TATT began the process for universal service towards 100 per cent of the population accessing basic telecommunications and broadcasting services by issuing its first consultative draft document. Not only do we have the relevant regulation, but, we are working to bring Wi-Fi access. The first phase, will see the deployment of free public Wi-Fi hotspots at 45 specific locations throughout T&T. Locations are waiting areas at public hospitals, major transportation hubs, water taxi and ferry docking areas and public libraries."

Peterson added: "In another attempt to connect the unconnected TATT is moving with speed towards the licencing of White Space Devices (WSDSs) by September 2017. We hope WSD technology will help to close the digital divide and provide a medium for more people to benefit from IOTs."

Source: Trinidad Express

CANTO Chairman Speaks at the Forum Internet of Things (IoT): Smarter Living in the Caribbean

From Left: T. Forest (Gov of Jamaica); V. Maharaj, (Attorney General office) and J. Wilkins (Chairman – CANTO)

The CANTO Chairman, Julian Wilkins spoke at the Forum Internet of Things (IoT): Smarter Living in the Caribbean held in Trinidad and Tobago from April 24—26, 2017.

The event was co-organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in partnership with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (TATT), the UWI St. Augustine Campus and the Caribbean Telecommunication Union (CTU).

The Chairman was a panelist at the session entitled: IoT Security and Privacy, Policy, Legislation, Regulation and Infrastructure.

The Chairman emphasized that there is disparity between traditional operators and OTTs in the Caribbean. He mentioned that the European Union has recently published a proposal for 'regulation of Privacy and security rules for Over-the-top (OTT) players' thereby moving to eliminate the disparity between traditional operators and OTTs.

The Chairman concluded that from a global perspective regulators are starting to review existing regulatory frameworks to take account of OTTs in particular, data privacy and security.

Source: CANTO

Sprint, Windstream sue FCC over business data services deregulation

Sprint and Windstream have launched legal action against the Federal Communications Commission over the regulator's plans to deregulate the business data services market.

The lawsuit has been launched after the FCC voted on 20 April to deregulate business data services, including wireless backhaul.

In a filing to the US Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, the two companies claimed the "Report and Order is arbitrary, capricious, and an abuse of discretion".

Reform of the market, worth around $45 billion, has proven controversial. Former FCC chairman had sought to introduce lower caps on special business data access lines, but rowed back after pressure from Republicans and telcos, a number of whom opposed the move.

While the likes of AT&T had opposed Wheeler's proposals, Sprint supported them, saying they are a significant cost for its wireless and wireline units to bridge network gaps in backhaul services. However, Sprint has appealed against the deregulation proposed by Wheeler's successor Ajit Pai, which the current FCC chair claims will help promote competition in the segment.

As the petitioners, Sprint and Windstream requested that the court reverse, annul or set aside the FCC's Report and Order, and provide additional relief as determined proper.

Source: CapacityMedia