# NTRC ICT NEWSLETTER

# NATIONAL Cyber Security SYMPOSIUM

## NTRC participates in 2nd National Cyber Security Symposium

On Wednesday, December 12, 2018, representatives of the NTRC's IT staff participated in the second National Cyber Security Symposium held at the Kingstown Methodist Church Hall.

This symposium was arranged by the Internet Society Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Chapter, in collaboration with American Registry for Internet Numbers (ARIN). The theme for the forum was "Defending the Local Internet".

The forum provided a holistic view of the issues, threats, myths and opportunities for defending and strengthening digital infrastructure against cyber-attacks. Additionally, the event promoted the awareness of solutions and practical strategies that made all attendees better equipped to take action and be more effective in Cyber security matters.

Delivering one of the keynote presentations at the event was Mr. Bevil Wooding, ARIN's Caribbean Outreach Liaison. Mr. Wooding indicated that our collective responsibility is to ensure that our people, our country and our region are adequately prepared, secured and resourced to take maximum advantage of the opportunities of the digital age. Also, he recommended that organisations in the Caribbean need to build autonomous, resilient and independent networks that can accelerate the development of a local digital economy.

Also presenting at the event was Mr. Shernon Osepa, Manager Regional Affairs Latin America & the Caribbean of ISOC. Mr. Osepa spoke of the Internet of Things (IoT) ecosystem and the increasing privacy and security risks as more of devices are connected to the global internet. He urged the attendees to get familiar with the work of the Online Trust Alliance (OTA) which has developed best practices, toolkits, training materials etc. in relation to IoTs and security.

Source: NTRC

## Recognizing Fake Antiviruses

A fake antivirus is malicious software (malware) designed to steal information from unsuspecting users by mimicking legitimate security software. The malware makes numerous system modifications making it extremely difficult to terminate unauthorized activities and remove the program. It also causes realistic, interactive security warnings to be displayed to the computer user.

### How can my computer become infected with fake antivirus?

Criminals distribute this type of malware using search engines, emails, social networking sites, internet advertisements and other malware. They leverage advanced social engineering methodologies and popular technologies to maximize the number of infected computers.

### What can I do to protect myself?

Be cautious when visiting web links or opening attachments from unknown senders.

### Keep software updated.

To purchase or renew software subscriptions, visit the vendor sites directly.

# NTRC donates equipment to the Westwood Methodist School

The teachers and students of the Westwood Methodist School located in Coulls Hill are now beneficiaries of equipment valued over EC$ 6,000.00 compliments the NTRC. The equipment was handed over to the school by NTRC representatives at a short handing over ceremony on November 22, 2018. The equipment includes 2 Acer Chromebase all in one touchscreen desktops, 3 Lenovo Windows based all in one desktops, 1 whiteboard, and 1 set of Logitec speakers. The equipment has been set up in the schools laboratory and are expected to enhance the delivery of the curriculum to the students in the school.





Minister Melford Nicholas

## Antiguan Government moves ahead with plans to implement number portability

The Lower House of Parliament has approved an amendment to the Telecommunications Act of 2018 which will, in essence, give residents the option of switching between telecommunications service providers without having to change their mobile numbers. Telecommunications Minister Melford Nicholas tabled the amendment on Tuesday, December 11 2018. Referring to the change as mobile number portability, the minister explained that while it is taking the government a long time to pass the actual bill "this is a very small but important step".

"People have become wedded to a particular telephone number, it is a part of their own unique identity, be it a business or an individual. The amendment is merely to give the government and the Ministry of Telecommunications the ability to forge ahead with a particular feature that will be required to ensure that mobile number portability can take place in our domestic market," Nicholas said.

The Government has publicly stated that the commercial viability of the state owned Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) will be at stake, once they follow through with the implementation of the proposed telecommunications bill that will govern the local sector. Government ministers who spoke on the issue gave their support to the change which will now be forwarded to the Senate for further approval.

According to the Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority (ECTEL), number portability is considered to be a key factor in enhancing competition in a multi-operator environment. The regional regulatory body says some of its benefits include: elimination of the costs to business and residential customers when they change their numbers; avoiding the tedious process of informing others of this change; lowering the cost of switching service providers; more efficient allocation of limited numbering resources and a more level competitive environment, with lowered barriers to entry for new service providers.

ECTEL recently announced that number portability platforms will be launched soon, which will affect all of its member states. Antigua and Barbuda is yet to sign on to ECTEL, but maintains an observer status with the sub regional body.

Source: Antigua Observer

# Major changes coming to telecoms sector in Dominica



Telecommunications Minister, Kelver Darroux, has expressed confidence in the work that has been done by the Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority (ECTEL) Council of Ministers in moving forward the telecommunications sector in the ECTEL member states.

Darroux, who is the current chairman of ECTEL recently chaired the 38th meeting of the ECTEL Council of Ministers meeting which took place in St. Vincent & the Grenadines on November 29, 2018.

According to Minister Darroux, a number of decisions were taken to advance the work being done in the telecoms sector including the approval of a budget for 2018/19, in excess of 11 million dollars, which will be provided to ECTEL and the National Telecommunication Regulatory Commissions (NTRC's) in the respective jurisdictions of ECTEL. These are Dominica, St. Kitts, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, St. Lucia and Grenada.

Minister Darroux explained that the ECTEL Treaty which was signed by Roosevelt Douglas, the then Prime Minister of Dominica in 2000, makes provision for changes to be made to the Treaty.

"The Council of Ministers at the 38th meeting took a decision to move ahead to make amendments to that Treaty and all the Prime Ministers of the ECTEL member states have signed on so as to have the necessary amendments made and to go before parliament in the first quarter of 2019," he said.

He continued, "So once it gets the necessary parliamentary approval as is required by law, then it will take its legislative effect in the member states. One of the changes that will be taking place in that amendment is to ensure that the service providers will continue to allow for open entry market and competition in the various jurisdictions as well as to change the language in the treaty."

"We are now moving ahead to deal with the number portability which deals with consumers having to keep same numbers even if they change service provider from Flow to Digicel or vice versa," he stated.

He said there will be a "soft launch" on Monday December 17, 2018, followed by the official launch with the new measure taking effect on Monday, 14th January, 2019. He said ECTEL and the NTRC's will now fine tune the proposed legislation to first deal with mobile and then fixed line portability.

"The roaming rates will also be dealt with by the ECTEL Council of Ministers at its meeting in Dominica on March 14th, 2019," Darroux remarked.

"The forecast for the telecommunications sector is bright, particularly in Dominica, where we will see some major infrastructural upgrade and rebuilding of the network," the ECTEL Chairman declared. "The government of Dominica has entered into a 15 year contract for providing telecommunications services with Digicel which will see a complete overhaul and rebuilding of the current network and infrastructure. That contract is expected to be signed later this month or early next year, 2019."

Source: Dominica News Online

# CTU and Microsoft initiate talks on Cloud Adoption



**Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago (11th December 2018)** – The Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) and Microsoft held discussions to explore strategies and harmonised approaches to accelerating digital transformation in the Caribbean. The talks centered on opportunities for CTU and Microsoft cooperating to educate Caribbean stakeholders on and encouraging adoption of cloud-based solutions for transforming government operations.

According to an online tech dictionary, Webopedia, "A cloud service is any service made available to users on demand via the Internet from a cloud computing provider's servers as opposed to being provided from a company's own on-premises servers."

Cloud services are the network solution of the 21st century. While we have already seen the migration to Cloud services by Caribbean consumers, governments are yet to fully embrace these services.

The meeting agreed that a working group would be established to chart the way forward.

Source: CTU

# ITU releases 2018 global and regional ICT estimates

The ITU, the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies (ICTs), estimates that at the end of 2018, 51.2 per cent of the global population, or 3.9 billion people, will be using the Internet.

"ITU's global and regional estimates for 2018 are a pointer to the great strides the world is making towards building a more inclusive global information society," says Houlin Zhao, ITU Secretary General. "By the end of 2018, we will surpass the 50/50 milestone for Internet use. This represents an important step towards a more inclusive global information society. However, far too many people around the world are still waiting to reap the benefits of the digital economy. We must encourage more investment from the public and private sectors and create a good environment to attract investments, and support technology and business innovation so that the digital revolution leaves no one offline."

"The new 2018 estimates reveal that there continues to be a general upward trend in the access to and use of information and communication technologies," says Brahima Sanou, Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau. "Access to telecommunication networks continues to increase, in particular in mobile connections. However, affordability should continue to be at the top of our priorities for the digital economy to become a reality for all."

## Percentage of Population using the Internet

According to ITU, in developed countries, slow and steady growth increased the percentage of population using the Internet, from 51.3 per cent in 2005 to 80.9 per cent in 2018. In developing countries, growth has been much more sustained increasing from 7.7 per cent in 2005 to 45.3 per cent at the end of 2018. Of all ITU regions, the strongest growth was reported in Africa, where the percentage of people using the Internet increased from 2.1 per cent in 2005 to 24.4 per cent in 2018. According to the estimates, the regions with the lowest growth rates were Europe, with 79.6 per cent, and the Americas, with 69.6 per cent of the population using the Internet. In the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) region, 71.3 per cent will be using the Internet; 54.7 per cent in the Arab States and 47 per cent in the Asia-Pacific region.

## Mobile Cellular Subscriptions

Mobile access to basic telecommunication services is becoming ever more predominant. While fixed-telephone subscriptions continue to decline with a penetration rate of 12.4 per cent in 2018, the number of mobile-cellular telephone subscriptions is greater than the global population. Growth in mobile cellular subscriptions in the last five years was driven by countries in Asia-Pacific and Africa regions. Growth was minor in the Americas and the CIS region while a decline was observed in Europe and the Arab States.

## Fixed & Mobile Broadband Subscriptions

Broadband access continues to demonstrate sustained growth. Fixed-broadband subscriptions are continuously increasing. Continuing the trend reported in 2017, there were more fixed-broadband connections, 1.1 billion in 2018 than fixed-telephone connections (942 million).

The growth in active mobile-broadband subscriptions has been much stronger, with penetration rates increasing from 4.0 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants in 2007 to 69.3 in 2018. The number of active mobile-broadband subscriptions have increased from 268 million in 2007 to 5.3 billion in 2018. Developing countries are registering much faster growth in mobile broadband subscriptions compared to developed countries

Source: ITU

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