

NTRC successfully concludes its fourth annual myAPP Summer Program



The National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC) has successfully completed its fourth annual app development summer program known as the myAPP Summer program.

The myAPP Summer Program this year took place on the northern Grenadine island of Bequia at the Bequia Community High School. The program ran for four (4) weeks from Monday July 16 to Friday August 10, 2018.

The objective of the program was to teach students between the ages of 13 to 18 years how to develop their own mobile applications. Additionally, at this year's summer program, students were introduced to coding on a tiny programmable computer known as the BBC Microbit. The Microbit is used within

schools in the UK to introduce coding to students in a fun and easy manner.

The program's facilitator, who also serves as NTRC's Software Engineer, Mr. Cyron Cyrus indicated that the students were able to grasp the coding concepts and managed to develop their own apps.

Eli C Davis, a graduate of the St Vincent and the Grenadines Community College (SVGCC) emerged as valedictorian.

This year's initiative received sponsorship from the Bank of St Vincent and the Grenadines (BOSVG), Digicel, FLOW, Jack's Beach Bar and Outhouse Graphics.

Source: [Searchlight](#)



Tips to Reduce Mobile Data Consumption

Streaming

Be aware that high quality music streaming can use over 100MB per hour and HD video can consume about 1GB in an hour. If you must stream on data, consider choosing a lower-quality stream if available.

Mobile Friendly Websites

Use the mobile friendly version of websites. Most websites have mobile friendly versions that strip out data heavy elements such as animations and large images. You know that you are on a mobile friendly site if the web address has an "m" in front of it.

Push Notifications

Turn off push notifications for apps that you do not need notifications for. Apps with push notifications enabled can consume data even when they are not actively being used by you.

NTRC awards bursary to 11 year old student



A Back to School bursary presented to 11-year old student Mosranny Harry by the National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC) has come in extremely handy.

“It helped a lot because he got all his school stuff, text

books, shoes, everything he needed,” Mosranny’s guardian and sister, Sonique Harry, commented days after receiving monetary assistance from the NTRC.

She said that she is extremely grateful to the NTRC for their help.

Also commenting, Mosranny said that he feels “really good” that he was chosen for the bursary. He said his favourite subject is mathematics, and with the help of the NTRC he will be able to more comfortably pursue his schooling.

He will be attending the Barrouallie Secondary School as a form one student when the new school term begins in September.

Mosranny is the second of two students to be presented with NTRC bursaries in 2018. Latanya Shallow of Diamonds also received a bursary.

This is the second year that the NTRC is giving bursaries to needy students.

Source: [Searchlight](#)

NTRC Dominica releases results of mobile service customer satisfaction survey



The National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC) of Dominica has finalized the compilation and analysis of the data collected during the first external mobile service

customer satisfaction survey.

The results of the survey are now available to the public through the local media, the press, and digitally, through the NTRC’s website and social media.

“Post hurricane Maria, the NTRC heard many verbal complaints pertaining to the quality of service being experienced by the public. Whilst very few written complaints were received by the NTRC, there was no denying the impact hurricane Maria had on the quality of service,” the NTRC said in a release. “One of the major objectives of this survey was to capture the level of this impact from the consumer’s perspective. Over 500 persons were surveyed to ensure that our results would be statistically significant.”

According to NTRC Executive Director, Craig Nesty, “This initiative is the first step towards ensuring that the customer’s interests are protected. Poor quality service is a double edge sword for consumers.”

He added, “It causes them to use much more of the service in order to derive the expected benefits and this increase in consumption results in much higher cost being levied on the consumer for the use of the service. To compound matters further, there are no substitute services immediately post disaster.”

The Chairman of the NTRC, Curtiss Winston has welcomed the initiative and believes the results will allow the Commission to adopt new policies that would better protect the consumer post disaster.

“Most notably, if the supply side of the service is compromised, then this should warrant an adjustment of the billing for the service,” he noted.

The NTRC has thanked all who participated in the survey and expressed confidence that the information gathered will lead to changes in how service providers deal with consumers overall and not just post disasters. The Commission further states, in its release, that the survey will also serve as a baseline for future comparisons and to assess the level of improvements made by the providers from the consumer’s perspective.

Source: [Dominica News Online](#)



ARIN makes historic Caribbean appointment to its Board of Trustees

Regenie Fräser, the former Secretary General of a regional trade association, has been selected to serve a one-year term on the board of trustees of the American Registry of Internet Numbers (ARIN).

Fraser's appointment makes her the first person from the Caribbean and the first non-white person to serve on the ARIN board.

ARIN is one of five registries worldwide that coordinate Internet number resources. The registry serves the United States, Canada and several territories in the Caribbean. ARIN's selection of Fräser is seen as part of a larger move to increase the representation of the Caribbean region within its organisation.

"The appointment is part of the ARIN Trustees' ongoing commitment to board diversity and fulfills the April Call for Volunteers of Caribbean background," an August 9 announcement on the ARIN website said.

Fräser, who is Surinamese, previously served for 11 years as secretary general of CANTO, a trade association of telecommunications organisations with an interest in the Caribbean. Her appointment will take effect from 1 January 2019, and in the interim she will sit on the board as an observer.

"ARIN congratulates Ms. Fräser on her appointment and looks forward to her participation within and contributions to ARIN Board of Trustees and the community," the announcement said.

The move has been some time in the making. Speaking at ARIN's public policy meeting in San Jose, California last October, President and CEO John Curran said, "We recognise that our policy development process can only benefit from the inclusion of more voices and perspectives from our constituents in the Caribbean."

Bevil Wooding, a leading Internet expert who is currently serving as ARIN Caribbean Liaison, said the appointment is in keeping with ARIN's increased efforts to be more inclusive and to encourage greater participation Caribbean-based stakeholders, at every level of its governance.

"Supporting the ARIN community in the Caribbean is a top priority for ARIN. The needs of the Caribbean are not necessarily the same as those of the US and Canada. In order to ensure that the Internet number resource policies reflect the whole ARIN Community, those policies must be developed in a way that includes voices and perspectives drawn from the Caribbean," Wooding said.

Source: [Gerard Best](#)

St. Kitts & Nevis NIA continues to embrace technology in pursuit of paperless society



The Nevis Island Administration (NIA) continues to embrace technology in its pursuit of a paperless society.

Mr. Colin Dore, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, said on August 20, 2018, that the administration's latest step in that direction comes with the ministry's support of a new payment system implemented by financial institutions on the island as of August 21, 2018.

"We continue to promote advances in technology as a means of making the government process at the various departments easier, swifter and in a more efficient

manner. Embracing technology has always been one of the main thrusts of the Ministry of Finance.

"This payment system when it was introduced, we embraced it fully...This is all part of the move towards the paperless society and getting us to the stage where on the click of a button, fully electronic, fully computerized, we can operate an entire government with very little paper," he said.

Mr. Dore noted that in recent times solid steps have been made within the Ministry of Finance as far as technology is concerned. He used the opportunity to commend departments that continue to promote advances in technology in the NIA.

"Our Information Technology (IT) Department over the years, they have made serious strides in this area and we want to thank them for their assistance and thank them for continuing to bring new ideas forward.

[SKNVibes](#)



Facebook supporting plan to deliver 5G from space-based airships

A startup company—The Elefante Group wants to provide wide area 5G coverage from “airships” located 65,000 feet above earth. The firm, which is working with the Lockheed Martin Corporation on the project, has asked the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to consider opening up spectrum in the 22 GHz, 23 GHz, 26 GHz, 70 GHz and 80 GHz bands. Now, Facebook, which has itself dabbled in delivering broadband from airborne delivery systems, is throwing its support behind the novel concept, according to an August 15, 2018 filing with the FCC.

A priority for the social media giant is “connecting the unconnected and under-connected,” according to the reply comment submitted by Christopher Weasler, Facebook’s director of global connectivity. “As such, Facebook has supported research and development efforts in a range of technologies, including terrestrial, mobile, satellite, and high altitude platform stations [HAPS].” Facebook lent its support to Elefante’s request the FCC consider rule

changes “to enable the deployment of stratospheric services including HAPS.”

Elefante’s CEO Chris DeMarche and legal representatives, in a separate August 15th communication to the FCC, laid out the company’s vision for 5G: Stratospheric-Based Communications Services (SBCS) “is a fixed service because it will provide communications paths between fixed points on the ground, namely two (or more) user terminals...or between [user terminals and gateway stations, switched through overhead stratospheric platform stations [STRAPS]...stationed at nominally fixed points.”

The airships, pointedly described as fundamentally different from balloons, are envisioned as having “significant control, power and propulsion” along with aeronautic and navigational functions that would let the vehicle stay over a coverage area and potentially remain in service for more than 10 years, according to the company.

The Elefante Group indicated it is able to operate in the targeted spectrum in a way that would not impact incumbent users. Use cases for this type of connectivity could include wide area coverage, IoT support and mobile network backhaul.

Source: [RCR Wireless](#)



22 states ask court to restore net neutrality

Attorneys general representing 22 states and the District of Columbia asked a federal court to reinstate net neutrality, saying the Federal Communications Commission failed to properly consider the issues when removing the policy in 2017.

In a brief filed on August 20, 2018, the attorneys general argue that the FCC’s decision “will cause [inevitable harms] to consumers, public safety, and existing regulatory schemes” and that the commission “entirely ignored many of these issues” when overturning net neutrality.

In particular, the attorneys general say that the Commission failed to consider public safety concerns that could come from the loss of net neutrality. That’s a critical problem, they say, because public safety is part of the agency’s forming statute.

Source: [The Verge](#)



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