

## NTRC to evaluate bids for the continued provision of services under the Maritime Project



Since the commissioning of the Maritime Project in 2012, Marine vessels in the surrounding waters of St. Vincent and the Grenadines have been given efficient and effective means of communicating with the coastguard in times of distress. Having been in place for a period of five years, the contract has come to an end. The National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC) has decided that such an important service should be sustained. As a result, the project was put out for tender in December 2017 with a deadline of January 2, 2018. After having received the bids, the NTRC will go through a bid evaluation to select the most responsive bid.

The Maritime project was done jointly with the NTRC and the Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority (ECTEL). The NTRC via ECTEL was able to secure part

funding for the project via a grant made available by the World Bank in the amount of Two Hundred Thousand United States Dollars (USD \$200,000.00). The contract was signed on December 20, 2011 with Cable & Wireless for a total of EC\$ 1.1 Million, the only entity that submitted a bid.

The VHF Maritime Project was implemented to provide access to both emergency and non-emergency communications in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of St. Vincent and the Grenadines via a Global Maritime Safety and Distress System (GMDSS). GMDSS facilitates distress alerts, distress relays, search and rescue, on scene communication and location services. This system is mandatory for all ships subject to the Safety of Life At Sea (SOLAS) convention of 1974.

Source: [NTRC](#)

### What are Spectre and Meltdown Vulnerabilities?

Earlier this month, computer security experts dropped a bombshell on the internet. A pair of vulnerabilities titled Spectre and Meltdown that date back to 1995 were putting a wide variety of computers, smartphones and internet browsers at risk.

Since then, companies like Microsoft and Apple, along with chip-makers like Intel and AMD, have been racing to release patches, but it hasn't been the smoothest process. Over a week later, the effort to fix these exploits is far from finished.

Spectre and Meltdown both rely on something called "speculative execution," which is when your computer tries to guess what you'll do next so it can perform that task faster. Because of the way this data is stored, it creates a vulnerability that could give hackers access to other private information on your computer.

Major companies like Google, Microsoft and Apple were able to get out ahead of these vulnerabilities before they were publicly announced. Apple has released patches to its operating systems. Microsoft has also released patches for its Windows 10 operating system and internet explorer browsers. As such, it is recommended to download the latest updates for your devices.



## SVG EDRMS Project launches PKI Kid Ambassador Campaign

Electronic Document and Records Management System (EDRMS) Project St. Vincent and the Grenadines has launched a PKI Kid Ambassador campaign for the period December 15, 2017 to January 22, 2018. The campaign is opened to children who are legal residents of St. Vincent and the Grenadines between the ages of 10 to 12 years.

To gain entry in the competition, parents or custodians may upload a video clip of their child giving a short ( 1 to 3 minute) speech on Public Key Infrastructure (PKI). Prizes will be awarded as follows:

1. Best Ambassador Award Winner: ASUS notebook computer
2. Best Stage Manner Award Winner: ASUS Zenpad
3. Most Famous Award Winner: ASUS Zenpad

The award winner and parents will be asked to be present at the PKI opening ceremony to receive the prize from officials (PM or Minister)

The purpose of PKI is to facilitate secure electronic transfer of information for a range of network activities such as e-commerce, internet banking and confidential email. It is required for activities where simple passwords are an inadequate authentication method and more rigorous proof is required to confirm the identity of the parties in communication and to validate the information being transferred. The implementation of a PKI is a component of the EDRMS project that is being executed by Ministry of Economic Planning Sustainable Development, Industry, Information and Labour, Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Republic of China (Taiwan).

For more information, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/SVGEDRMS/>

## Republic Of China (Taiwan) Donates Computers To the Ministry Of Foreign Affairs, Trade And Commerce

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Commerce, was the proud recipient of thirty five (35), Asus computers, donated by the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan). The computers were distributed to eighteen (18) Educational Institutions across Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. In welcoming the donation of the computers, which will serve to improve the delivery of education in the country, and further bolster the education revolution, the Honourable Sir Louis Straker, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Commerce, expressed gratitude and appreciation on behalf of the Government for the Republic of China (Taiwan) continued commitment over the years to the sustainable development of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and the enhancement of the educational sector. Source: [Gov.vc](http://Gov.vc)



## 21st Century Government Summit & Symposium

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda and the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU), in collaboration with the Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD), is hosting a Summit and Symposium, the first activities of a programme to establish Caribbean 21st Governments during the period January 16—19, 2018. A 21st Century Government is one that makes effective use of ICT to deliver services to its citizens, and its internal and external clients. It is characterised by citizen-centric, seamless, open, interactive, efficient and transparent processes. The establishment of 21st Century Government seeks to transform the public service, strengthen economic competitiveness and promote sustainable development. Many countries have been introducing electronic government services but the process has been very slow. The 21st Century Government programme therefore seeks to accelerate government transformation. Source: [CTU](http://CTU)

# Jubilee Cryptocurrency Exchange to partner with



## DigiBank in Dominica

Jubilee Exchange, an online cryptocurrency exchange platform has announced its partnership with DigiBank, an offshore bank with a Class A license sited in the Commonwealth of Dominica, for the development of a new cryptocurrency – DGCoin.

DGCoin is a transactional cryptocurrency developed to create a decentralized and globally deployed online

infrastructure that would be the foundation of providing global banking and financial services to the masses, and rides on a unique blockchain named DIGI (Representing – Decentralized Intelligent Global Instruction).

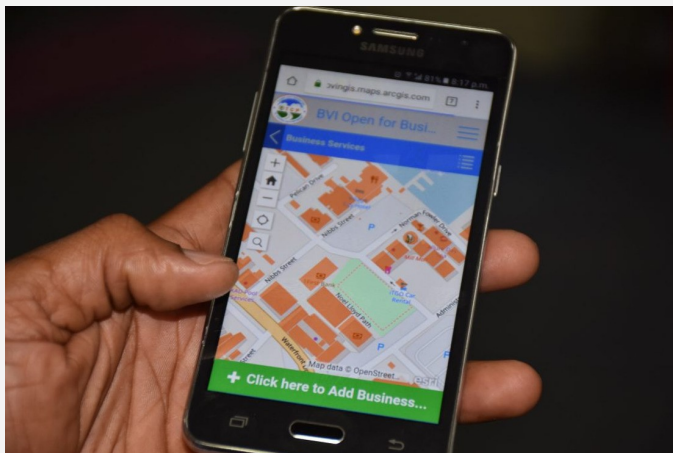
The birth of the blockchain technology years back signaled the start of a global financial revolution which has alerted traditional banks all over the world. Deloitte (one of the accounting big 4) published a report analysing how central banks all over the world can realize and circulate their own cryptocurrencies. Jubilee intends fully on harnessing this piece of technology to present a revolutionary alternative to the global finance and banking industry.

Sources from DigiBank state that in the long term, they believe the application of blockchain technology in such a way where cryptocurrency and FIAT currency transactions are linked, would lead to the creation of a new banking standard, in which the consumers depart from conventional centralized banking and the immense costs of transactions, and enter a world of decentralized banking services.

It is also stated that this project will commence in 2018, and will be implemented in 4 consecutive stages:

- Stage 1: Foundational Service Layer
- Stage 2: Peer to Peer Services Layer
- Stage 3: Decentralized Productive Wealth Management
- Stage 4: Global O2O Implementation

According to Jubilee, this will be, in its full scale, the first global banking network that is controlled by no one party, whose vault of wealth is vastly distributed, where flow of



## Gov't launches 'BVI Open for Business' app

Thursday, January 11, 2018 — At a time when visitors

have been invited back to the British Virgin Islands, Government has launched a 'BVI Open for Business' app.

The app is an interactive map of the territory detailing the public and private-sector businesses that are now operating.

The map is also used to give a virtual representation of business locations in the BVI, and report the status, operating hours, and contact numbers of these businesses.

The app, which has a relatively easy-to-use interface, was developed by the Town and Country Planning Department.

Chief Planner, Gregory Adams said business owners will be able to update the app with information about their establishment.

He said businesses that reopened since the hurricanes are not yet included on the map, and are encouraged to access and populate the application with business information such as location.

The map is compatible with all electronic devices with location and GPS functions.

Source: [OECS](#)



## Apple Sued Over Meltdown and Spectre in U.S.

Apple faces its first legal action over Meltdown and Spectre in the United States, even though the vulnerabilities were found to affect nearly all computers and other devices, according to court documents reviewed by MacRumors. Meltdown and Spectre are serious hardware-based vulnerabilities that take advantage of the speculative execution mechanism of a CPU, allowing hackers to gain access to sensitive information. All modern Intel, ARM, and AMD processors are affected, with many patches and mitigations already released.

Source: [Mac Rumours](#)



## FCC Repeals Net Neutrality Rules

The Federal Communications Commission voted on Thursday, December 14, 2017 to dismantle rules regulating the businesses that connect consumers to the internet, granting broadband companies the power to potentially reshape Americans' online experiences.

The agency scrapped the so-called net neutrality regulations that prohibited broadband providers from blocking websites or charging for higher-quality service or certain content. The federal government will also no longer regulate high-speed internet delivery as if it were a utility, like phone service.

The action reversed the agency's 2015 decision, during the Obama administration, to have stronger oversight over broadband providers as Americans have migrated to the internet for most communications. It reflected the view of the Trump

administration and the new F.C.C. chairman that unregulated business will eventually yield innovation and help the economy.

It will take weeks for the repeal to go into effect, so consumers will not see any of the potential changes right away. But the political and legal fight started immediately. Numerous Democrats on Capitol Hill called for a bill that would reestablish the rules, and several Democratic state attorneys general, including Eric T. Schneiderman of New York, said they would file a suit to stop the change.

Several public interest groups including Public Knowledge and the National Hispanic Media Coalition also promised to file a suit. The Internet Association, the trade group that represents big tech firms such as Google and Facebook, said it also was considering legal action.

Source: [NY Times](#)

wealth is determined by the entire community.



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