

## NTRC donates over EC\$10,000 worth of ICT equipment to the Colonaire Primary School



Kathleen Boyea, the headteacher of the Colonaire Primary School has thanked the National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC) for their donation of over EC\$10,000 worth of ICT equipment.

The school received five (5) Acer Chromebase desktop computers, a document scanner and a speaker system. The computers and other equipment were handed over on Tuesday, July 3, 2018 by Mr. Apollo Knights, Director of the NTRC and Mr. Kyron Duncan, The Universal Service Fund (USF) Administrator at the NTRC.

At the handing over ceremony, Mrs Boyea said "I am happy because we are going to use them in an interactive learning process. This is a big boost for the school," She further added that the school only had one computer before this

donation. The donation is part of the NTRC's mission to place computers in several local primary schools. Apart from the hardware, the donation includes a subscription to Google Classroom, a free learning management system developed by Google for schools that aims to simplify creating, distributing and grading assignments in a paperless manner.

Google Classroom will also assist teachers with the integration of ICT into the existing curriculum. Training in the use of Google Classroom will be provided to the teachers so that they can use the system effectively.

Other schools that have already received ICT equipment donations include the Calliaqua Anglican School and the Fitz Hughes Government School.

Source: [Searchlight](#)



## What is cryptocurrency ?

Below are some basic facts that will help you get a better understanding on what cryptocurrency is and how it works.

- Cryptocurrency is best thought of as digital currency (it only exists on computers).
- It is transferred between peers (there is no middleman like a bank).
- Transactions are recorded on a digital public ledger (called a "blockchain").
- Transaction data and the ledger are encrypted using cryptography (which is why it is called "crypto" "currency").
- It is decentralized, meaning it is controlled by users and computer algorithms and not a central government.
- It is distributed, meaning the blockchain is hosted on many computers across the globe.
- Transactions are sent between peers using software called "cryptocurrency wallets." The person creating the transaction uses the wallet software to transfer balances from one account (AKA a public address) to another. To transfer funds, knowledge of a password (AKA a private key) associated with the account is needed.

## NTRC to host Open Day Event in Mesopotamia

The National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC) will be hosting its second Open Day event for 2018 in the community of Mesopotamia.

The Open Day event will comprise of presentations from senior officials of the NTRC who will provide demonstrations in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT's) and access to the internet. The topic of Cybersecurity will also be discussed at the event. Additionally, representatives from the Adult and Continuing Education Department will be present to provide training in the use of computers.

The Open Day event will be held on Tuesday July 24, 2018 at the Emmanuel High School, Mesopotamia and will include the following two sessions:

- Computer Appreciation
- Presentations and feedback from consumers on telecommunication issues

The residents of Mesopotamia and surrounding areas are hereby invited to attend the event.



**EMMANUEL HIGH SCHOOL, MESOPOTAMIA**

**10:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

The Open Day Event will be hosted at Emmanuel High School to educate residents of Mesopotamia and surrounding areas about the work of the National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC). Additionally, residents will be given tips on the use of computers and Cybersecurity Best Practices.

## NTRC Grenada publishes New Interconnection Rates



The National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC) Grenada has published their new interconnection rates that have been approved for the State of Grenada with effect from June 15, 2018. These

wholesale rates are the charges the Telecommunications Providers pay to each other when a call or text message (SMS) is sent from one network to the other. These rates are per minute rates and are expressed in EC dollars.

A three year phased reduction in the rate structure has been implemented from June 15, 2018. The recommended rates is envisaged to result in up to 50 per cent reduction in the wholesale rate for mobile termination in the first year and up to 95 per cent reduction over the three-year period. These new rates are expected to result in significant reductions in rates for fixed to mobile and mobile to mobile calls in the state of Grenada. These rates can be viewed at: <http://ntrc.gd/new-interconnection-rates>.

Source: [NTRC Grenada](http://ntrc.gd)

## Grenada to host Caribbean internet peering forum in 2019



**CarPIF**  
CARIBBEAN PEERING &  
INTERCONNECTION FORUM

The Eastern Caribbean island-nation Grenada has been selected as the location for the next

meeting of the Caribbean Peering and Interconnection Forum (CarPIF).

The announcement of the host for the fifth edition of CarPIF, to be held on June 12 to 13, 2019, was made by Bevil Wooding, CarPIF co-founder and Caribbean Outreach Liaison at the American Registry for Internet Numbers.

CarPIF is an annual conference for internet service providers, data centre managers, internet exchange point coordinators, content delivery network operators and technology professionals, who come together to exchange practical knowledge and strike deals to develop and improve the region's Internet sector. Content providers such as Google, Akamai and Facebook have regularly attended the event.

Source: [Gerard Best](http://www.caripif.org)

# Digital Financial Services discussed at the CTU ICT Roadshow in Guyana



On the second day of the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Roadshow, a workshop was held on Digital Financial Services at the Arthur Chung Conference Center (ACCC) in Guyana.

The workshop was aimed at enlightening participants on the issues within the current payment systems within Guyana. The session was

facilitated by CTU Telecommunications Strategist, Selby Wilson.

Speaking to the Department of Public Information (DPI), Wilson noted that these roadshows are “tailored to the needs of the country” in which they are operating in. He added that the current process of financial transactions is time consuming and costly.

“At the present time, payment systems for the Caribbean, particularly to facilitate trade, means that we have to find US dollars as well as the corresponding banks to do the transaction and that adds cost.”



Also, he highlighted that the workshop is aimed at discussing a solution which will aid in fostering better inter-regional financial transactions. He expressed that there needs to be accelerated integration into digital financial services.

The Telecommunications Strategist said, “an important part of the technology requirement would be a blockchain technology.” He explained that it is “a distributed ledger technology that would permit the transfer of payments in companies across borders without the intervention of American banks.”

**Editor’s Note:** Blockchain technology is one type of distributed ledger technology. Distributed ledgers use independent computers to record, share and synchronize transactions in their respective electronic ledgers (instead of keeping data centralized as in a traditional ledger). Blockchain organises data into blocks, which are chained together in an append only mode.

Source: [DPI Guyana](#)

## St. Kitts & Nevis ICT professionals undergo additional training via Amazon Web Services



Fifteen information and communication technology (ICT) professionals in St. Kitts and Nevis are exploring the use of Amazon Web Services (AWS) through a two-day Developer and Network Management Technical Workshop at the National ICT Centre at no cost to the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis.

The training, which was hosted by the Department of Technology in collaboration with Amazon Web Services, was geared toward strengthening competencies of developers to rapidly and safely deploy applications; and strengthening competencies of administrators in virtual private cloud, load balancing, DNS, security and cloud content delivery network management.

ICT Senior Policy Adviser Pierre Bowrin explained the reason for engaging participants in the training. “The primary reason why we are doing this is mainly because of discussions that we have been having with regard to how we can be more resilient and how the public service could protect the government’s data,” he said, while referencing damages to other countries’ data in the region as a result of the 2017 Hurricane Season.

“So, in being realistic, in knowing that we are living in a hurricane belt, there are other technologies and avenues that we must look at to secure our data and to be more effective and efficient. This is an opportunity for us to do just that – to ensure that if a storm comes by or something else that may pose a threat, that the Government would have at least done all that it could to make sure that its information is secure and as protected as much as possible.”

[SKNVibes](#)



## FCC moves to open mid-band spectrum for 5G



Early commercial 5G services in the U.S. will provide enhanced broadband services by using high frequency millimeter wave spectrum. But, to truly realize the full promise of mobile 5G, millimeter wave will need to be augmented by low- and mid-band spectrum to provide both capacity and coverage.

With an eye on facilitating continued 5G commercialization, the U.S. Federal Communications Commission on July 12 made the first move in what could ultimately result in making available 500 megahertz of mid-band spectrum. During its August meeting, the FCC approved what's called a notice of proposed rulemaking that could open up spectrum between 3.7 GHz and 4.2 GHz for commercial services.

The first step is, according to the FCC, working with fixed satellite service operators using the spectrum "to certify the accuracy of existing registration and license information and will collect additional information from space station licensees on their operations in the band to assist the commission and commenters in developing a clearer understanding of how the band is currently being used."

Also on the spectrum front, the FCC is planning two separate auctions of millimeter wave spectrum, one in November and one in the second-half of 2019. FCC Chairman Ajit Pai said a goal of the FCC's August 2, 2018 meeting is to finalize rules for an auction of 28 GHz and 24 GHz airwaves that's set to begin on November 14, 2018.

Source: [RCR Wireless](#)



## WPA3 Wi-Fi security protocol launches

On June 25, 2018 the Wi-Fi Alliance officially introduced the certification for next generation of Wi-Fi, known as "Wi-Fi CERTIFIED WPA3," after a decade of the world standardizing on protocol's predecessor, WPA2. WPA3 will focus on security, bringing encryption enhancements and addressing vulnerabilities that result from weak passwords.

According to the Wi-Fi Alliance's website, the new protocol provides a number of additional protections for devices connected over Wi-Fi. One big improvement makes it harder for hackers to crack your password by guessing it over and over again, and another limits what data hackers can see even once they've uncovered the passcode. Nothing will change as far as users see it; you'll still just type in your password and connect to the network.

The Wi-Fi alliance announcement also included a reference to "Wi-Fi CERTIFIED Easy Connect," a new method for more seamlessly and securely connecting IoT devices to Wi-Fi networks. For example, an IT pro might scan a QR code on the IoT device using a smartphone to connect via to Wi-Fi via WPA3.

Source: [Spiceworks](#)



## Contact Us

**National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission**

2nd Floor NIS Building, Upper Bay Street Kingstown

St. Vincent

Tel: 784-457-2279 | Fax: 784-457-2834 | Email: [ntrc@ntrc.vc](mailto:ntrc@ntrc.vc)



[ntrc.svg](#)



[www.ntrc.vc](http://www.ntrc.vc)