

NTRC to launch iOS Version of NTRC Connect App next month

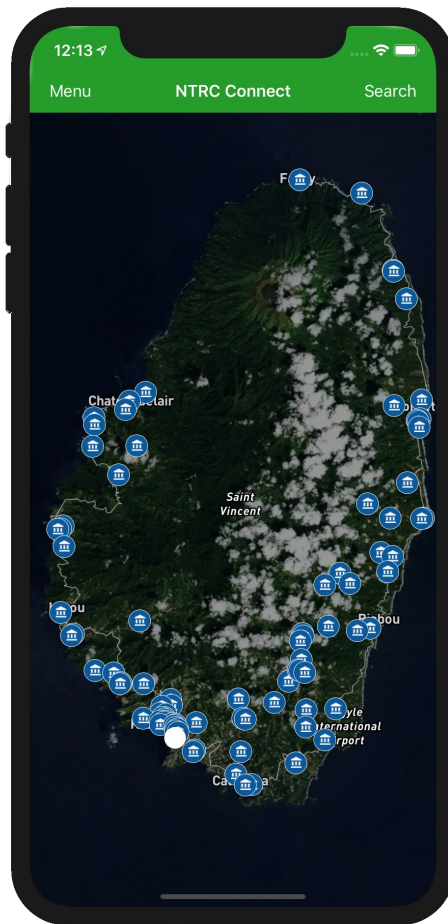
The National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission will be launching the iOS version of its NTRC Connect App on March 19, 2019 at the NIS Conference Room.

The NTRC Connect App was originally launched on June 14, 2016, however, it was only available to users of Android devices. The launch of the iOS version will now give users of the Apple ecosystem the opportunity to utilize this tool.

The NTRC Connect App is a mobile application designed to assist locals and visitors of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to find the locations of various wireless connectivity hotspots across the country. Such connectivity spots include open wifi hotspots at all educational institutions across St. Vincent and the Grenadines, various Community centers and tourism sites which were implemented by the NTRC via the Universal Service Fund (USF).

Further to launch of the iOS version, an update of the Android version of the app will be announced that has new features and bug fixes based on feedback from the public.

Source: [NTRC](#)



What is IoT Security?

IoT security is the protection of Internet of Things devices from attack. While many business owners are aware that they need to protect computers and phones with antivirus, the security risks related to IoT devices are less well known and their protection is too often neglected.

While IoT devices can greatly increase productivity for businesses, they also come with risks. Since IoT devices are connected to the internet, they can be hacked just like any other internet-enabled device.

To sufficiently protect your network, it's essential to understand the security vulnerabilities of IoT devices. One of the key IoT security issues is the expansion of attack surfaces due to an increased number of endpoints. In a network, endpoints are the devices that are connected to the internet at large - each offering a point of entry to bad actors, exposing the network to outside risks.

The attack surface of a network consists of all the possible places where it can be attacked, and it expands with every new internet-connected device. Even if the chance of one device being accessed by a perpetrator is small, the large number of IoT devices being brought into businesses can create a significant security risk.

Taiwan provides Funding for Smart Classroom Project in St. Lucia



Taiwan is providing EC\$2.5 million towards a project aimed at the retrofitting of existing classrooms to become smart classrooms, reflecting the integration of information and communications technologies into the education system. In St. Lucia.

Education Minister, Dr. Gale Rigobert said "This cheque means that we can move from policy to action. We have started some work, but certainly the thinking is that we can roll out the smart education classrooms across the education sector in primary and secondary schools.

"Inevitably, we will have to begin with a pilot but the

dream is that overtime we can equip all schools with smart classrooms so that our children can really begin to experience 21 century learning and teaching as well," said Minister, Dr. Gale Rigobert.

Taiwanese Ambassador, Douglas Shen, said Taipei will continue to focus on improving the education system here.

"Today I am very excited because I think we brought two fundamental things together, first is education, secondly is ICT. This is what the island needs because we all know that children are our future. With this smart project we do believe that we can help improve the future of St. Lucia.," he said.

Education officials said that the government is embarking on a new direction as it relates to the integration of technology into education and is collaborating with Taiwan in this regard.

St. Lucia is among a handful of Caribbean countries with diplomatic relations with the Republic of China, that Beijing considers a renegade province. China's has moved to have countries worldwide embrace its "One China" policy.

Source: [Tv6TnT](#) via [ICT Pulse](#)

NTRC St. Kitts & Nevis signs contract to supply internet to thirteen Community Centers in Nevis



Right to left: Commissioner Wesley Wharton (NTRC), Commissioner Teshari John-Sargeant (NTRC) and Mr. David Lake (C&W St Kitts & Nevis Ltd.)

The National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC), in accordance with the Telecommunications (Universal Service Fund) Regulations' Thirteenth Schedule, has embarked on a new project for the Island of Nevis.

The Universal Service Fund (USF) aims to provide financial resources to promote the expansion of the telecommunications services to the citizens of the Federation of St Kitts and Nevis with an emphasis on the development of the social, educational and economic sectors of the rural, under-served communities as well as maritime areas

ECD250,000.00 was signed between the NTRC and Cable and Wireless St. Kitts and Nevis Limited to supply, install and commission internet access to thirteen (13) community centers in Nevis. The USF will fund the continued supply of Internet for five years. All equipment and installation costs will all be funded in full by the USF.

The Internet Access will be wired and wireless in and around the Community Centers (13) with a minimum speed of 5Mbps for each Center. The wifi network will have capture portal capabilities, multiple SSIDs and 802.11 ac Access Points. The network will also have a monitoring system and the Nevis Island Administration Information Technology Department will be responsible for the servicing and maintenance of the Network.

The NTRC wishes to thank the past Director of Information Technology Department, Mr. Qunicy Prentice, for the detailed proposal submitted for this project and the continued support of the Nevis Island Administration Information Technology Department.

We also thank Cable and Wireless St. Kitts and Nevis Limited for submitting bids for the proposal and for work done in ensuring that the proposal for this project could be accomplished.

We wish to remind the Public that the USF and by extension, the NTRC continues to be committed to explore proposals for projects that fit within its stated goals. For more information please contact the NTRC Office (869) 466 6872.

Source: [NTRC St. Kitts](#)

On January 31, 2019 a contract in the amount of

New CANTO chairman outlines priorities for his tenure



The newly elected chairman of the Trinidad-based Caribbean Association of National Telecommunications Organizations (CANTO), David Cox, says he believes the regional organisation “can become the largest and most influential forum for everything related to the Caribbean and technology”.

Cox, who is head of the Regulatory Affairs for Cable & Wireless Communications (C&W), was elected unopposed at CANTO’s 35th annual general meeting that ended on Friday, February 1, 2019.

Cox told delegates that CANTO, a non-profit association made up of operators, organizations, companies and individuals in the ICT (telecommunications) sector, should strive to promote some continuity in keeping with its agenda over the past few years.

“I think CANTO is fundamentally on the right track and I want to build on the good work CANTO has been doing. Second, my mission will be to help CANTO grow. I see CANTO as the premier institution of its type for the region. I believe we can become the largest and most influential forum for everything related to the Caribbean and technology and we’re going to make sure CANTO is around for another 35 years,” he added.

Cox said he would be seeking to diversify CANTO’s content and actively seek new members who are leaders in the field of ICT and technology and is confident of achieving the goal.

“This is an amazing opportunity and I am truly honoured to be elected CANTO’s new chairman representing Cable & Wireless Communications. CANTO is an organization with huge potential and I am excited about the chance to shape its future.

“I think we have great talent on the Board and we will work together to advance the regional ICT industry and by extension enable the growth and development to strengthen economies,” he said, praising outgoing chairman, Julian Wilkins, for his leadership.

In a statement, C&W chief executive officer, Inge Smidts, said “C&W believes that CANTO provides an excellent forum for operators in the Caribbean and Latin America to work on common problems and identify common solutions in the ICT policy sphere.

“We are excited by David’s elevation to the Chairmanship of CANTO and we look forward to working with all of its membership to advance the mission of improving lives through ICT.”

Source: [St. Lucia News Online](#)



Russia to disconnect from the internet as part of a planned test

Russian authorities and major internet providers are planning to disconnect the country from the internet as part of a planned experiment, Russian news agency RosBiznesKonsalting (RBK) reported early February 2019.

The reason for the experiment is to gather insight and provide feedback and modifications to a proposed law introduced in the Russian Parliament in December 2018.

A first draft of the law mandated that Russian internet providers should ensure the independence of the Russian internet space (Runet) in the case of foreign aggression to disconnect the country from the rest of the

internet.

In addition, Russian telecom firms would also have to install “technical means” to re-route all Russian internet traffic to exchange points approved or managed by Roskomnazor, Russia’s telecom watchdog.

Roskomnazor will inspect the traffic to block prohibited content and make sure traffic between Russian users stays inside the country, and is not re-routed uselessly through servers abroad, where it could be intercepted.

A date for the test has not been revealed, but it’s supposed to take place before April 1, the deadline for submitting amendments to the law --known as the Digital Economy National Program.

Source: [ZDNet](#)

Facebook needs regulation to combat fake news, say UK MPs



Online disinformation is only going to get more sophisticated, the chair of the committee investigating disinformation and fake news, Damian Collins

the chair of the Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee, has warned.

In a report released on Monday February 18, the Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) select committee said Facebook had in effect put democracy at risk by allowing voters to be targeted with disinformation and personalised "dark adverts" from anonymous actors. It called for the company to be regulated.

"Where we can see lies being spread, particularly in election periods, we should have the ability to say to the tech companies: we want you to act against that content," Collins told the BBC Radio 4's Today programme. "It's not an opinion, it's a clear lie. It's being spread maliciously and you should stop it."

After an 18-month investigation, the DCMS found that British election laws were not fit for purpose and were vulnerable to interference by hostile foreign actors.

Although he stopped short of saying that companies such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube were breaking the law, Collins said the legislation was not robust enough and needed to be made clearer.

Citing evidence of agencies working from Russia, as well as an unidentifiable organisation called the Mainstream Network that urged voters to lobby their MP to support a no-deal Brexit, Collins criticised the fact that the law did not require such actors to identify themselves.

Source: [The Guardian](#)

Huawei offers to build cyber security centre in Poland



WARSAW (REUTERS) - China's Huawei has offered to build a cyber security centre in Poland, where last month authorities arrested a Chinese

employee of the telecommunications firm along with a former Polish security official on spying charges.

"We are ready to establish a cyber security centre in Poland if authorities accept this as a trusted solution," Tony Bao, head of Huawei in Poland, told a news conference on Wednesday (Feb 6).

Huawei has set up information security labs in Germany and Britain aimed at building confidence that its equipment does not contain "back doors" for Chinese intelligence services.

Poland's Government is set to exclude Huawei equipment from its future 5G network over concerns first raised in the United States that Huawei technology could be equipped with such back doors, sources told Reuters.

Huawei's regional public affairs director, Austin Zhang, said there is no reason for the Polish government to exclude the Chinese firm from its future 5G network development.

"If it does happen ... we will try all our means to protect our business and reputation in Poland," Zhang said.

The United States wants to steer people away from Huawei towards Western products because of its concerns over the security of the Chinese company's technology, the US envoy to the European Union said.

Huawei denies allegations that its technology could be used for spying and the Chinese executive from Huawei arrested last month in Poland on suspicion of spying has also said he is not guilty.

Still, the company faces increasing international scrutiny over the matter.

Source: [Straits Times](#)



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

