



Mr. Cyron Cyrus — IT Technician, NTRC making his presentation at the launch.

NTRC launches its first Mobile Application

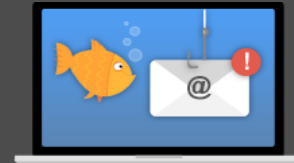
The National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC) launched its first ever mobile application “NTRC Connect,” on June 14, 2016 at the National Insurance Services (NIS) Training Room.

Speaking at the launch, Mr. Apollo Knights, Director of NTRC outlined that 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 and Wifi hotspots at various Community centers and tourism sites. The aforementioned hotspots were put in place by the NTRC via the Universal Service Fund (USF). The app provides the user with information about the school, pictures of the school and also allows someone to report a wifi fault. Additionally, Mr. Knights further explained that the app makes it easier for new entrants into the telecommunications to identify the existing telecommunications towers across St. Vincent and the Grenadines and gather more information about the tower.

Also at the launch was Mr. Chadwick Douglas, IT Technician, NTRC. Mr. Douglas made his presentation on the cartography aspect of the app where he contributed most of his work on the app’s development.

The app’s main developer, Mr. Cyron Cyrus—NTRC IT Technician made his presentation and demonstrated to the audience how the app works. Mr. Cyrus outlined that he was responsible for programming all possible interactions from the user in the app and translate them to usable operations which includes communicating with a cloud hosted database and mapping platform.

Currently, the application is only available on the Google Play Store. Persons can download the app free by searching for “NTRC Connect” on the play store. The NTRC will be now be working on developing the iOS version of the app to be published on Apple’s Play Store.



Phishing Attacks

Phishing (pronounced “fishing”) is a kind of identity theft which is growing in popularity amongst hackers. Phishing attacks use email or malicious websites (clicking on a link) to collect personal information or infect your machine with malware and viruses.

- How to Avoid being a victim? Don’t reveal personal or financial information in an email, and do not respond to emails requesting this information.
- Before sending sensitive information over the Internet, check the security of the website. (the address should begin with https:// in the browser)
- Pay attention to the website’s URL. Malicious websites may look identical to a legitimate site, but the URL may use a variation in spelling
- If you are unsure whether an email request is legitimate, try to verify it by contacting the company directly. Contact the company using information provided on an account statement, not information provided in an email.

NTRC GMDSS Training continues



On May 31, 2016, the NTRC held its second Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) training for the year at the Calliaqua Anglican School.

The training was offered free of cost to fishermen and persons involved in maritime activities in the surrounding communities of Calliaqua. The GMDSS system was implemented by the NTRC to facilitate an improved and efficient means for communication at sea. A person with a GMDSS enabled handset can send a distress call with a push of a button and alert the coastguard and other vessels having GMDSS radios within a 40 km range.

The next GMDSS training session will be held in the Grenadine island of Bequia on Saturday, July 16, 2016 at the Paget Farm Community Center at 5:00PM.

Source: NTRC

NTRC hosts Community Discussion in Barrouallie



The National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC) held a Community Discussion to gather feedback from the residents of Barrouallie

with respect to the telecommunications services being provided by the leading telecommunications service providers, Digicel, Cable & Wireless and Columbus Communications. Additionally, residents were informed about the functions and various work completed by the NTRC throughout St. Vincent and the Grenadines and also Cyber Security related issues. Following presentations by officials of the NTRC, there was an interactive question and answer segment with the attendees.

Source: NTRC



St. Vincent's Proposed Cybercrime Bill gets first reading in Parliament

A Bill seeking to address Cybersecurity related activities and threats has been given its first reading in Parliament and if passed, could result in a \$1 million fine or 15-year imprisonment for its most serious offence.

The Cybercrime Bill 2016, which derived its offences and procedural mechanisms from the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime, was presented to Parliament on Tuesday, May 31, by the Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves.

The Bill outlines 18 offences, which include: illegal access to computer system, illegal remaining in computer system, illegal interception, illegal data interference, illegal acquisition of data, illegal system interference, offences affecting critical infrastructure, illegal devices, identity-related crimes, computer-related forgery, computer-related fraud, violation of privacy, child pornography, harassment utilizing means of electronic communication, spam and spoofing.

Should the Bill be passed, offences that affect critical infrastructure (any computer system, device, network, computer programme or computer data that is so vital to St Vincent and the Grenadines that its incapacity, destruction or interference will have a "debilitating impact" on national security and provision of critical services) will incur the most severe penalty – with the offender, if convicted on indictment, slapped with a fine of \$1 million or 15 years in prison.

Under this Bill, a court in SVG has jurisdiction, whether the offence is carried out wholly or partly in SVG; wholly or partly on board a vessel or aircraft registered in SVG; wholly or partly outside SVG by a Vincentian citizen or body incorporated under local laws; or wholly or partly outside SVG by a person other than a citizen, if his/her conduct also constitutes an offence under the law of the offender's country of residence.

Additionally, the Bill stipulates that the offences outlined under Part II are extraditable, with the court seeking the handover of the person accused and/or convicted of the offence (residing in a foreign state) to local jurisdiction.

The Prime Minister announced that a select committee would convene to discuss the Bill on Monday, June 6, 2016.

Source: [Searchlight](#)

Center of Excellence in Information Technology officially opens in Dominica



A Center of Excellence in Information Technology officially opened in Dominica on Friday 3 June 2016.

The centre, housed at the upper campus of the Dominica State College at Stockfarm, is outfitted with two computer labs, each containing thirty-six computers, an administrative block, library and a study room and central server room.

It is also fully equipped with state of the art electronic equipment and software tools with high capacity internet capabilities.

On October 14, 2011 the government of Dominica, represented by current Minister for Information, Science, Telecommunications and Technology Kelder Darroux, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the government of the Republic of India for the establishment of the centre in Dominica.

According to Minister Darroux, the centre has the potential to develop locally grown but internationally recognized experts in software engineering, computer programming, data manager, security specialists and many other career disciplines.

He added that the centre is a dream come true for the government and people of Dominica especially for the “innovative and savvy” computer minded young people.

“It is universally accepted that India has been considered the software development centre of the world and that one of your own ICT specialist have indicated India is emerging as the innovation mecca of the universe,” Mr. Darroux said.

Therefore Dominica is seeking to learn from the wealth of expertise in the field of information and communication technology, hoping to emerge as a Silicon Valley of the Caribbean.

The minister said Information and Communication Technology along with its related services, have the ability to not only transform the technical and intellectual abilities and capabilities of Dominicans but also to significantly increase the GDP in Dominica with the creation of employment, high quality paying jobs, increase national productivity and creating the enabling environment to enhance every sector of the economy.

Source: DominicaVibes



Region urged to address cyber-security and information security issues

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, Jun. 2, CMC – Communications Minister Maxie Cuffie says the region needs to address issues related to cyber-security and information security to build confidence in investors and citizens.

In an address at the opening of a regional conference – “Exploring Innovation in Transactions and Financing the Caribbean” on Wednesday June 1, 2016, Cuffie said as the internet and technological advances continue to reshape the way business is done the reality of increased economic crime continues to have a serious impact on the economy .

He told regional representatives that bearing this in mind cyber-security legislation and the proclamation of the Electronic Transactions Act and the Data Protection Act are back on the agenda as key deliverables of his Ministry.

“These two bits of legislation were designed to both modernise Government’s ability to accept electronic payments and protect those persons who provided their data to financial and other institutions. I give the financial community the assurance that this present administration will do what is necessary, what is opportune and what is left to be done to ensure that the IFC fulfils the mandate for which it was intended, and that Trinidad and Tobago assumes its place as the financial hub of the region.” Cuffie added that the hallmarks of any decent financial services sector are security and confidentiality.

“There is no doubt therefore, that increasingly, greater attention will have to be paid to the potential of cyber-crime on the financial systems.”

In making reference to the “ Panama-Papers” he said persons will do anything to “hide behind their manipulation of the financial sector, using shell companies and a myriad number of electronic transactions to cover their tracks.”

He added that as cyberattacks continue to escalate, forward-thinking financial services sectors must begin to leverage and link innovative cybersecurity tools, with the suggestion that these be cloud-enabled. “Increasing numbers of organisations are now improving their security programmes with technologies such as cloud-based cybersecurity services, Big Data analytics, and advanced authentication and biometrics.”

Source: Antigua Observer

EU wants to slash wholesale roaming charges

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION (EC) has proposed slashing the wholesale roaming charges that operators can levy on each other ahead of the abolition of EU roaming charges for consumers next year.

The EC set out the limits as €0.04/min for calls, €0.01 for texts and €0.0085 per megabyte of data, down €0.05, €0.02, and €0.05 respectively. The European Parliament and Council will now have to adopt and ratify the proposals.

Günther Oettinger, commissioner for the digital economy, explained that with roaming charges set to go next year the time is right to lower costs once again, especially to ensure that operators are ready for the changes.

"We want to make sure that the end of roaming charges works properly for consumers and market players. This is why we come today with a proposal on wholesale roaming markets. We now count on the European Parliament and the Council to keep the pace and adopt it swiftly," he said.

Digital Single Market vice president Andrus Ansip explained that the EC also intends to introduce laws to remove the geo-blocking of content in different nations so that content can be enjoyed in any location in the EU.

"We want the cross-border portability of content to be a reality in 2017 so that Europeans can travel with their films, music, sports broadcasts and e-books across the EU. This will clearly be a triple win for European consumers," he said.

Roaming charges in the EU will become a thing of the past on 15 June 2017 after Members of European Parliament (MEP) approved proposals in October last year to remove any additional charges for using a phone in the EU.

One price drop has already come into effect ahead of this deadline, meaning that operators can now charge customers only €0.05 per minute of calls made, €0.02 per SMS and €0.05 per megabyte of data.

Source: [The Inquirer](#)

China builds world's most powerful computer

A new supercomputer from China has topped the latest list of the world's most powerful machines.

The 93 petaflop Sunway TaihuLight is installed at the National Supercomputing Centre in Wuxi.

At its peak, the computer can perform around 93,000 trillion calculations per second.

It is twice as fast and three times as efficient as the previous leader Tianhe-2, also from China, said Top500 which released the new list on Monday, June 20, 2016.

Its main applications include advanced manufacturing, weather forecasting and big data analytics, wrote Jack Dongarra in a paper about the new machine.

It has more than 10.5 million locally-made processing cores and 40,960 nodes and runs on a Linux-based operating system.

For the first time since the list began, China has overtaken the US with 167 computers in the top 500 while the US has 165.

"Considering that just 10 years ago, China claimed a mere 28 systems on the list, with none ranked in the top 30, the nation has come further and faster than any other country in the history of supercomputing," said Top500.

The US has four supercomputers in the top 10 of the Top500 list, while China has two which currently occupy the top two places.

The other positions in the top 10, published twice a year, are occupied by machines from Japan, Switzerland, Germany and Saudi Arabia.

"As a computer scientist it's difficult writing software that can take advantage of and control large numbers of computer cores," said Professor Les Carr from the University of Southampton.

Source: [BBC](#)



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