NTRC ICT NEWSLETTER

Helping a society to better leverage technology with NTRC's Director— Apollo Knights

In virtually all countries where the telecommunications sector has been liberalised, there is also a regulator. Depending on the size and maturity of the sector, and the extent to which market forces are driving competition, the regulator may have very little to do, but is there as a safeguard – just in case.

Due to the small customer base and/or small number of telecoms service providers in the market, very few Caribbean countries, if any, experience perfect competition, which is "the situation prevailing in a market in which buyers and sellers are so numerous and well informed that all elements of monopoly are absent and the market price of a commodity is beyond the control of individual buyers and sellers". Hence there tends to be limited opportunity or scope for Caribbean regulators who can forbear from active oversight and/or intervention of certain aspects of sector for which they are responsible.

As a multi-island nation, comprising over 30 islands and cays, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines experiences a number of challenges, particularly with regard to trying to ensure a (somewhat) equitable standard of service across the entire territory. Although the NTRC has been actively involved in addressing telecoms/ ICT infrastructure and service deficiencies, the organisation has also been spearheading projects that increase take-up and use of ICT, along with facilitating Vincentians to better leverage technology

To share some insight on this matter, ICT Pulse spoke with Apollo Knights, Director of the National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC) of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. An Electrical Engineer by training, Mr. Knights has been at the helm of the NTRC in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines since its inception, around 18 years ago.

You can listen the interview by clicking here .

Source: ICT Pulse

Social Media Security Tips

Social networks have become an integral part of online lives. They are a great way to stay connected with others, but you should be wary about how much personal information you post. Follow these tips to safely enjoy social networking:

Realize that you can become a victim at any time. Not a day goes by when we don't hear about a new hack. With 55,000 new pieces of malware a day, security never sleeps.

Think twice about applications that request permission to access your data. You would be allowing an unknown party to send you email, post to your wall, and access your information at any time, regardless of whether you're using the application.

Beware of posts with subjects along the lines of, "LOL! Look at the video I found of you!" When you click the link, you get a message saying that you need to upgrade your video player in order to see the clip, but when you attempt to download the "upgrade," the malicious page will instead install malware that tracks and steals your data.

Internal Telecommunications Wiring Obligations
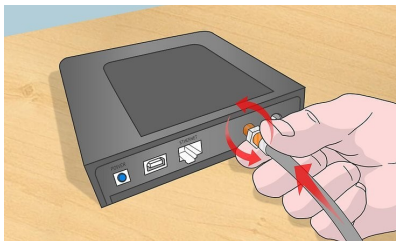
A digital transformation strategy aimed at making government more efficient when doing business with the public, private sector and the diaspora is expected to be launched in St. Kitts and Nevis shortly.

The National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission wishes to advise the general public that Telecommunications service providers are required to provide necessary internal telecommunications wiring up to the first interface point (telephone, modem, set top box) within your premises (and not outside).

Given the above, the following are the telecommunications internal wiring obligations for Cable TV, Internet and Telephone services:

1. For Cable TV services, a telecommunications service provider is required to provide the necessary wiring up to your Cable TV box.

2. For Broadband services, a telecommunications service provider is required to provide the necessary wiring up to your modem and;

3. For Telephone services, a telecommunications service provider is required to provide the necessary wiring up to the first telephone outlet in your premises.

Please take note of the above obligations of your telecommunications service provider whenever there is a fault with your telecommunications service or when a request is submitted for a new service.

Source: NTRC

NTRC Dominica participates in Girls in ICT Day Activities

The National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC) in collaboration with the Ministry of Information, Science, Telecommunications and Technology (MISTT) hosted 'Girls in ICT' day under the theme "Expand Horizons and Change Attitudes". Girls in ICT is an international event organized by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and is celebrated every year on the fourth Thursday of April. It seeks to empower young women and girls in the field of Information Communication Technology (ICT).

This year nine (9) schools participated in the Girls in ICT event consisting a total of fifty (50) young ladies from varying academic levels, some as junior as 2nd Form, participated in the event.

Executive Director of the NTRC, Craig Nesty was very pleased with the level of engagement shown by the girls and the level of support received from all staff, volunteers and the ICT Unit of the MISTT. He also hopes by donating all of the kits to the schools, including microcontrollers, servos and ultrasonic sensors the students will be motivated to continue to learn, explore and build. He also hopes that the NTRC can keep inspiring the youth and help promote a culture of creating and innovating.

Ms. Adeola Bannis lead the students through a sequence of activities designed to give the girls a basic understanding of programming and robotics. The students learned about microcontrollers, basic C++ programming, and prototyping. The students then put their new found knowledge to work on constructing a cardboard robot based on the OTTO DIY opensource robot. Each robot comprised 4 servo motors programmed as outputs and one HC-SR04 ultrasonic distance sensor programmed as an input to an Arduino Nano microcontroller.

Ms. Bannis is currently a PHD candidate in Electrical and Computer Engineering, and said she was very happy to see how interested all the girls were. She hopes that some of them will be inspired to pursue careers in robotics & technology in the future.

Source: [EMO News](#)

Sonover Showcases use of its Internet of Things platform

Left to right: Dr Keith Mitchell (Prime Minister - Grenada), Ms Bernadette Lewis (Secretary General - CTU), Chad Fraser (CEO - Sonover)

Port of Spain, Trinidad - May 1, 2019 - The Grenada-based technology solutions company, Sonover - 2018 recipient of the GIDC Excellence in Application of Digital Technology and Rising Star Award - was excited and proud to be a partner of the Caribbean Telecommunication Union 30th Anniversary Celebrations:

Caribbean FutureScape held on April 29 - May 1, 2019.

Caribbean FutureScape is a simulation of a confederation of 5 Caribbean countries whose governments have collaborated and cooperated to use information and communication technologies (ICT) to accelerate the social and economic development of their countries.

Aligned with the theme: "Digital Transformation: Do it", Sonover showcased the use of its product Atom Connect - an Internet of Things (IoT) platform implementation capable of collecting, storing, processing and analysing air quality as the simulated traveller visited each island.

Chad Fraser, Chief Executive Officer said: "Attending the event has been an excellent opportunity to showcase the capabilities of the company. The reaction from the participants to our Atom Connect Platform was very encouraging. I believe that this was a great opportunity to springboard our efforts to increase the visibility of Sonover and to showcase the innovation capabilities of Grenada. What we are doing is truly groundbreaking and I believe that we have the unique chance to help businesses transform their operations."

The events saw representation from government officials, business executives, technology enthusiasts, policymakers from across the region. In addition to Caribbean participants, the event also featured presentations from technology leaders such as Huawei, Amazon, Digicel Business, C&W Business among others.

Source: [Sonover](#)

Experts call for Caribbean to make its voice heard on global Internet governance

The Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) is joining up with the non-profit American Registry for Internet Numbers (ARIN) to connect regional governments to be at the table for important decisions on the future of the Internet – technical specifications, security of technology and rules for governance.

ARIN is one of five regional Internet registries that coordinate the development of policies for managing Internet protocol number resources. The Washington, D.C.-based non-profit organization manages Internet number resources in Canada, the United States, and several Caribbean territories.

John Curran, president and CEO of ARIN, said governments have and must recognize that the World Wide Web must be factored into public policy considerations and that its evolution is not in a vacuum.

Bevil Wooding, Caribbean Outreach Liaison at ARIN, noted why this matters and its relation to the Caribbean's challenges and opportunities in the digital age. Wooding also discussed the key obstacles and stated that relevant organizations must work together to change this.

CTU and ARIN held a special meeting of the public policy group in Barbados in April, talking about practical ways to develop a more coordinated approach to the formation of Caribbean-tailored policy that better supports Internet development at the national and regional levels.

Source: [Breaking Belize News](#)

New secret-spilling flaw affects almost every Intel chip since 2011

Security researchers have found a new class of vulnerabilities in Intel chips which, if exploited, can be used to steal sensitive information directly from the processor.,

The bugs are reminiscent of Meltdown and Spectre, which exploited a weakness in speculative execution, an important part of how modern processors work. Speculative execution helps processors predict to a certain degree what an application or operating system might need next and in the near-future, making the app run faster and more efficient. The processor will execute its predictions if they're needed, or discard them if they're not.

Both Meltdown and Spectre leaked sensitive data stored briefly in the processor, including secrets — such as passwords, secret keys and account tokens, and private messages.

Now some of the same researchers are back with an entirely new round of data-leaking bugs.

"ZombieLoad," as it's called, is a side-channel attack targeting Intel chips, allowing hackers to effectively exploit design flaws rather than injecting malicious code. Intel said ZombieLoad is made up of four bugs, which the researchers reported to the chip maker just a month ago.

Almost every computer with an Intel chips dating back to 2011 are affected by the vulnerabilities. ZombieLoad takes its name from a "zombie load," an amount of data that the processor can't understand or properly process, forcing the processor to ask for help from the processor's microcode to prevent a crash. Apps are usually only able to see their own data, but this bug allows that data to bleed across those boundary walls. ZombieLoad will leak any data currently loaded by the processor's core, the researchers said. Intel said patches to the microcode will help clear the processor's buffers, preventing data from being read.

Practically, the researchers showed in a proof-of-concept video that the flaws could be exploited to see which websites a person is visiting in real-time, but could be easily repurposed to grab passwords or access tokens used to log into a victim's online accounts.

Intel has released microcode to patch vulnerable processors, including Intel Xeon, Intel Broadwell, Sandy Bridge, Skylake and Haswell chips. Intel Kaby Lake, Coffee Lake, Whiskey Lake and Cascade Lake chips are also affected, as well as all Atom and Knights processors.

Computer makers Apple and Microsoft and browser makers Google have released patches, with other companies expected to follow.

In a call with TechCrunch, Intel said the microcode updates, like previous patches, would have an impact on processor performance. An Intel spokesperson told TechCrunch that most patched consumer devices could take a 3 percent performance hit at worst, and as much as 9 percent in a datacenter environment. But, the spokesperson said, it was unlikely to be noticeable in most scenarios.

.

Source: [NTRC](#)