

ISOC EUROPEAN REGIONAL BUREAU - EU issues overview
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Net neutrality

German regulator offers net neutrality test to consumers

- The German federal telecoms regulator, the **Bundesnetzagentur**, has [announced](#) the launch of an [online tool](#) to allow Internet users to test whether data used in peer-to-peer applications is transported at different data rates. This facility is open until the end of June.
- The regulator aims to build **a map of a key aspect of net neutrality in Germany**, looking at whether there are differences between service offerers, technologies and regions. It has not said what it intends to do once it has this information.

Cybersecurity

Public-private partnership for cybersecurity launched in the UK

- The United Kingdom has launched a **new public-private partnership** to create a platform for **information and intelligence sharing on cybersecurity threats**. The [Cyber Security Information Sharing Partnership](#) (CISP) will become a cornerstone of UK's cybersecurity strategy.
- The partnership will bring together experts from different government bodies (GCHQ, MI5), police and businesses, allowing them to exchange information in real time.
- **Telecoms companies** are among parties that have been called to take part in the initiative, whose implementation follows a successful pilot project.

German federal news agency sets up cybersecurity unit

- The head of the German federal news agency, the **Bundesnachrichtendienst (BND)**, has told a group of national MPs that his organisation is establishing a **cybersecurity unit** to deal exclusively with attacks on federal government entities and German industry, according to a [press report](#).
- Gerhard Schindler reckons that the Chinese Ministry of Defence has its own department employing 6000 hackers, and that the Russian government uses private companies to carry cyber-attacks on its behalf. Their targets include German defence and telecoms companies: obtaining information is the first step in cyber-attackers' attempts at sabotage.
- The BND needs around 130 personnel, but due to a shortage of qualified personnel is looking to recruit hackers and to use expertise from software companies.

Large cyber-attacks disrupt global Internet

- A series of **cyber-attacks affecting the wider Internet** were triggered after Geneva-based Spamhaus, company that specialises in combatting unwanted emails and Internet fraud, blocked servers maintained by a Dutch hosting site Cyberbunker due to alleged links to criminal activities in Eastern Europe.
- In what is perceived as retaliation, Spamhaus has been the target of **possibly the largest denial-of-service attacks in history**.

Copyright infringement

Spain to legislate on tougher online copyright rules

- On 22 March, the Spanish Council of Ministers **approved the draft [reform of the Intellectual property law](#)**, known as Lassalle law, to sanction advertisers on websites that violate copyright protection and increase fines for websites that do not remove **pirated material**.
- Should the bill be adopted, websites will be required to remove infringing content on request from the rightholder. Failure to comply would result in penalties of up to €300,000.
- Under discussion is the **definition of a file-sharing website**: the draft law addresses websites that facilitate easily and *en masse* unauthorised access to copyrighted works. The government is deliberating whether such websites could be taken to court.
- The draft law, which is now open to **public consultation** until 17 April, will boost the powers of the Intellectual Property Commission.

Data protection

Implementation of Data Retention Directive challenged in Slovenia

- The Slovenian **Electronic Communications Act** that came into force in January has been **challenged** before the Constitutional Court by the national Information Commissioner, who claims that its **data retention provisions are not in line** with EU's **[Data Retention Directive](#)**.
- The Commissioner argues that the Act does not respect the **principle of proportionality**, as it results in huge **amounts of data being stored** about the electronic communications of each individual, regardless whether or not they break the law. He believes that such data processing is not compatible with principles of the right to secrecy of communications, freedom of speech and movement.

EU states top Microsoft's law enforcement requests report

- Microsoft has published its 2012 **[Law Enforcement Requests Report](#)**. Last year, a total of 75,378 law enforcement requests were submitted to Microsoft and Skype, potentially impacting over 137,000 accounts worldwide. As for the EU, the largest number of requests came from the **United Kingdom (9,226), followed by France and Germany** (8,603 and 8,419 respectively). In comparison, 11,073 requests were submitted in the USA.
- Based on Microsoft's figures, **2% of the request resulted in the disclosure** of content.