

ISOC European Regional Bureau Newsletter

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Data protection

EU: Leaked documents on data protection dialogues

- Statewatch has published two documents relating to the ongoing negotiations on the **General Data Protection Regulation**. The first, dated 13 July, invited delegations to discuss Chapter II - Principles. The other document is the Presidency debriefing on the outcome of the second round of negotiations.
- The debriefing confirmed that there is a **significant amount of convergence** between the positions of the European Parliament and the Council, as reported in the EU Bureau newsletter of 17 July. The negotiating parties discussed provisions related to **Chapter V** of the proposed Regulation on **transfer of personal data to third countries or international organisations** and on the **territorial scope** of the Regulation. The annex of the document contains a table which reflects the outcome of the dialogue.

Copyright

Portugal: Stakeholders group promotes a pirate site blocking mechanism

- The **Portuguese Ministry of Culture** recently announced the signing of a **memorandum** aimed at **protecting copyright and related rights online**. The memorandum was signed by the Ministry's own General Inspection of Cultural Activities (IGAC), the Portuguese Association of Telecommunication Operators (APRTEL), various rights-holder groups, the organisation responsible for administering Portugal's .PT domain and representatives from the advertising industry.
- The **self-regulatory agreement** which should **come into effect in August** enables the streamlined blocking of sites which provide access to content infringing copyright. The mechanism is said to target sites containing more than 500 allegedly infringing links and those whose indexes contain over 66% infringing content.
- The process will be **triggered by a rights-holder complaint**, a procedure similar to other frameworks already in place around the EU. MAPINET, the local anti-piracy group, will collect evidence of unlawful distribution, with the IGAC conducting assessment and notifying ISPs of the sites which are being targeted. **ISPs will need to restrict access** to the websites through **Domain Name System (DNS) blocking within 15 working days**.

UK: Police stop ad campaigns appearing on piracy sites

- According to the results of a recent research paper, the so-called **Operation Creative**, launched in 2013 by the City of London Police's **Intellectual Property Crime Unit** (Pipcu), which aims to **limit the number of brands advertising on copyright-infringing sites**, has brought in positive results.
- Operation Creative led to the creation of a database of online services that the police have confirmed provide access to unauthorised content, the **Infringing Website List**. The database is shared with ad brokers whose software determines where the advertisement is placed.
- Thanks to the scheme, there has been a **73% drop in advertising from the UK's top ad spending**

companies on the affected sites, said Pipcu.

- However, some experts questioned the efficiency of the system, stating that a **better way of tackling online copyright infringements** would be for the creative industry to make their catalogues available through **innovative Internet-based channels**, as users are generally said to be willing to pay for accessing quality content.

Spain: Study on copyright law concludes publishers have more to lose than gain if news aggregators are forced to pay for snippets

- A new study commissioned by the **Spanish Association of Publishers of Periodicals (AEEPP)** evaluated the damage to Spain's online sector following the entry into force of the so-called Google law. The law was intended to bolster publishers' revenues, which were said to be falling because of news snippets published by aggregators, and increase traffic on publishers' websites. However, the study concluded that in the first few months of 2015, publishers saw **traffic fall** on average by more than 6%, smaller publications even by 14%.
- The research said that **aggregation services create a market expansion effect**, reducing search times and **allowing readers to consume more news**. Overall, the study concluded that there is **no theoretical or empirical justification for introducing a fee that is paid by news aggregators** to publishers for linking to their content.

Open Internet

Russia/Germany: Will content filtering grow in importance?

- Following the receipt of **legal requests from Germany and Russia** requesting **content violating local law be taken down**, **Reddit announced** that in order to ensure its services are available to users everywhere; it **reserves the right to restrict content in a particular country**. Reddit is said to have feared that the failure to ban access to the incriminated posts could have led to a lasting site-wide ban.

General

EU: International Youth Day statistics

- On the occasion of **International Youth Day** (12 August), Eurostat published some facts and figures on young people in the European Union.
- Last year, **87% of teenagers aged 16 to 19 in the EU were active on social networks**, with the highest shares in Cyprus, Lithuania and Hungary (97%) and Portugal (96%).
- The highest proportion of young people aged 16-29 who **used the Internet for job hunting** was in Sweden (54%), compared with an EU-wide average of 33%.