



THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY COMMISSION

# ICT NEWSLETTER

NTRC ICT NEWSLETTER ISSUE #53

September 2014



Students of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community at the launch of NTRC's  $i^2$  Competition 2014.

## NTRC launches its second annual $i^2$ Competition

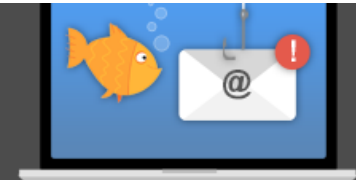
On Thursday, September 11, 2014, the National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission held the launch of its second annual ideas and innovation competition dubbed as the  $i^2$  Competition. This launch was held at the Glen campus of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community College where students, stakeholders of the NTRC, partners in the competition and Government officials were in attendance.

The  $i^2$  Competition encourages students from various secondary, technical and tertiary level institutes (including the medical colleges) from across St. Vincent and the Grenadines to put forward ideas that can implement new systems or improve existing systems in the current departments within the Public Service and other state agencies that provide services to the public. Such improvements can lead to cost savings or result in the faster delivery of that service. Students can be awarded with cash prizes up to EC\$3,500.00 along with other special prizes.

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Commerce and IT, Camillo Gonsalves in his feature address at the launch told the students that the popular apps that they use every day were created by two or three persons who had an idea and used their brain to turn the idea into a reality. He added that these apps, such as Whatsapp, Instagram, Gmail, Skype, YouTube and Facebook make an extremely large amount of money. "Every app that I mentioned, have hundreds of millions of users and sold for billions of dollars was created by two to five people." said Gonsalves. The Minister then urged students to take advantage of the opportunities in an effort to create a positive change to government services that were inherited from Britain when the country gained independence.

Registration for the  $i^2$  Competition is opened from September 11, 2014—October 10, 2014. The competition will continue through to the Grand Finale in January 2015. Students can download registration forms from the NTRC's website at [www.ntrc.vc](http://www.ntrc.vc).

Source: [IWNSVG](http://www.ntrc.vc), NTRC



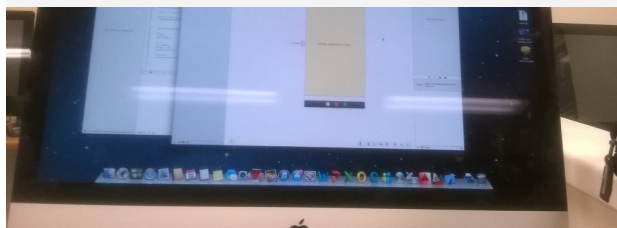
### Phishing Attacks

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 SMART Project Mobile Application Development Program begins



Programming iOS apps using Xcode software on 27" iMac supplied by the NTRC

Students enrolled in the Advanced Mobile Application Development Program funded by the NTRC's SMART Project at the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community College have begun their first semester of the 2 year program on September 15, 2014. Students have begun learning to program in Objective C programming language required for iOS; and Java programming language required for Android OS. Using the 27" iMac computers supplied under the NTRC's SMART Project, students began to develop simple iOS applications for iPhones and were able to simulate the running of their code in the Xcode simulator software which displayed an iPhone on the screen in which the group of budding app developers were able to interact and test their mobile applications.

Two other programs funded by the NTRC's SMART Project also commenced on September 15, 2014. Such programs include a Basic Certificate in Mobile Application Development and an Associate Degree in Cyber Security.

Students have the ability to attend classes for these programs online and in real time through the use of BlackBoard Collaborate, a software procured also under the SMART Project.

The USF SMART project contract was signed between the NTRC and Cable & Wireless on November 20th, 2012 for a total of ECD \$1,698,994.00 for a period of five (5) years. The objectives of this project were to provide computers as well as teaching aids for new and existing courses at the SVGCC both online and face to face where necessary.

Source: [NTRC](#)

## Draft cyber security strategy to be finalized in Jamaica



The Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy, and Mining in Jamaica is now finalising Jamaica's draft cyber security strategy, according to junior minister Julian Robinson, who anticipates that the document will be completed within two weeks of the ministry's recently-concluded two-day cyber security validation workshop.

Following the completion of the document, Robinson said the ministry will move forward with its implementation.

Over 20 persons participated in the recent forum, inclusive of members of the ministry's Cyber Security Task Force, comprising public and private sector representatives, and other local and international stakeholders, and representatives from co-sponsor, the Organisation of American States (OAS).

Robinson said the ministry has been receiving support from the OAS to develop the strategy, through its Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism.

"They have looked at the strategy as well, and they have also given their inputs in the strategy and made recommendations on best practices globally," he said.

Robinson said the OAS has given its commitment to assist the ministry in implementing the strategy. "We are meeting with the OAS team over the next two days to work out specifically what we need, in terms of resources," Robinson said.

The strategy aims to support the Cybercrimes Act, which was enacted in 2010, by streamlining the necessary supporting inputs to implement the legislation's provisions.

These provisions are intended to effectively safeguard Jamaica against potential cyber criminal threats capable of undermining the country's information and communications technology framework, and compromising economic and other activity.

The junior minister expressed confidence that when implemented, the Cyber Security Strategy "will address the critical issues we face as a country."

Source: [Jamaica Observer](#) via [ICT Pulse](#)

# NTRC Grenada Begins Child Online Protection Program



The National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission, Grenada has recently begun a Child Online Protection Program (COP) which will run until later this year.

NTRC Grenada also saw the need the need to make parents computer literate so that they are better equipped on teaching their children under the COP Program. Research shows that more and more children are connecting to the Internet using game consoles and mobile devices, yet many adults are not even aware that these activities include internet connectivity.

Child Online Protection is an initiative which is established by International Telecommunication Union in 2008. COP is an international collaborative network to protect children worldwide against cyber threats by providing legal, technical and organizational measures.

The main objectives of COP are as follows:

- Identification of risks and vulnerabilities to children in cyberspace
- Creation of awareness among policymakers, industry, parents and educators as well as the children
- Development of practical tools to help minimize risk
- Sharing knowledge and experience

Source: [NTRC Grenada](#)



## Threat To Ban OTT Services On CTU Meeting Agenda

Dealing with threats by Caribbean telecom networks to ban ‘over-the-top’ (OTT) services would be a priority for telecommunications ministers, who meet in St. Kitts, September 22 to 26, for the annual meeting of the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU).

According to Mr. Pierre Bowrin, policy adviser in the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications in St. Kitts, over-the-top services, such as WhatsApp and Viber, have already been banned by LIME and Digicel in Jamaica. Ministers fear a cascading effect throughout the region.

“In a region that has a large diaspora population, and where most cannot afford ordinary rates for telecommunications, the banning of such services would have an adverse effect for many people and their families,” explained Mr. Bowrin.

Reaching consensus on how to move forward on this matter would be a significant achievement of the meeting said Bowrin.

According to some technology experts, Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have argued that over-the-top communications services undermine future investment potential, while driving higher user demand on telecommunications networks that further places pressure on ISPs to improve bandwidth technologies.

On the other side of the debate, app developers and users have indicated that changing the present arrangement could threaten freedom of expression, as well as create access discrimination and degrade the openness and freedom of the Internet.

“It’s a debate that inevitably has reached the Caribbean region, and it is a real concern,” said the Policy Adviser Bowrin.

Meanwhile, Bowrin said the opportunity of the CTU meeting in St. Kitts is being used to rejuvenate the St. Kitts and Nevis ICT Week of Activities, which first started as a month of activities in 2008. He disclosed that a new thrust is being undertaken to engage various segments of our citizenry in today’s digital communications technologies.

Issues to be discussed during the week of activities would include cyber security and cyber incident responses that are said to be “critical to ICT Policy development in the Caribbean”. Identifying gaps and weaknesses in existing national ICT Policies would be done on the basis of leading practices and experiences of the Caribbean region, Bowrin explained.

Source: [St. Kitts Observer](#) via [ICT Pulse](#)



## Half of the World would be Online by 2017

Over 50% of the global population will have Internet access within three years' time, with mobile broadband over smartphones and tablets now the fastest growing technology in human history, according to the ITU.

The report reveals that more than 40% of the world's people are already online, with the number of Internet users rising from 2.3 billion in 2013 to 2.9 billion by the end of this year.

Over 2.3 billion people will access mobile broadband by end 2014, climbing steeply to a predicted 7.6 billion within the next five years. There are now over three times as many mobile broadband connections as there are conventional fixed broadband subscriptions. The popularity of broadband-enabled social media applications continues to soar, with 1.9 billion people now active on social networks.

The Republic of Korea continues to have the world's highest household broadband penetration at over 98%, up from 97% last year. Monaco now surpasses last year's champion, Switzerland, as the world leader in fixed broadband penetration, at over 44% of the population. There are now four economies (Monaco, Switzerland, Denmark, Netherlands) where penetration exceeds 40%, up from just one (Switzerland) in 2013.

The US ranks 19th globally in terms of number of people online, ahead of other countries like Germany (20th) and Australia (21st), but behind the United Kingdom (12th), Japan (15th) and Canada (16th). The US has slid from 20th to 24th place for fixed broadband subscriptions per capita, just behind Japan but ahead of Macao (China) and Estonia.

Source: [Cellular News](#)

## Apple sells 10 million new iPhones in first three days on sale



Apple says it sold more than 10 million of its new iPhone 6 and 6 Plus models in the three days after they went on sale on Friday, September 19 2014, setting a new record despite the phones not being available in China.

The figure, which includes sales to operators as well to consumers – some of whom queued for days outside the

company's stores around the world – exceeds last year's, when 9 million of the iPhone 5S and 5C were sold, and 2012, when sales were 5 million.

However in 2012 and 2013 the first weekend sales were boosted by sales in China, which has the largest number of iPhone users in the world, according to analysts. The government there has not yet approved the new models for sale.

Apple's chief executive, Tim Cook, said: "Sales for iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus exceeded our expectations for the launch weekend, and we couldn't be happier," and added that "sell-through" – where phones are bought by end customers, rather than by mobile networks – had shattered previous figures "by a large margin". Apple would be able to measure sell-through based on phone activations, which require the device to contact its servers during setup.

Apple announced the new phones, which have 4.7 inch and 5.5 inch screens that finally catch up to the physically larger screen sizes used by many other handset manufacturers, on September 12, 2014, and they went on sale on September 19, 2014.

Source: [The Guardian](#)



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