# NTRC ICT NEWSLETTER

## NTRC launches Speed Test Competition

In its effort to gather data on the quality of broadband service that is being delivered to customers in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the NTRC has launched a speed test competition whereby customers can submit their broadband speed test results to the NTRC to gain an opportunity to win a prize. The competition which runs during the period Monday, May 7, 2018 to Friday, May 18, 2018 is open to all users of fixed residential services.

To enter the competition, persons are required to run speed tests on their residential broadband service provided either by Flow or Digicel between the hours of 5:00 PM and 9:00 PM. Once the speed tests are completed, they are to be sent to the NTRC to be eligible to gain an entry in the competition. The detailed procedure to enter is as follows:

1. Visit Speedtest.net or Download Speedtest App available on Google Play Store and Apple App Store

2. Change Server to "Miami, FL –

Comcast"

3. Click "Go" to begin the speed test and wait until it is complete.

4. Once complete, click share or take a screenshot, then submit the results to NTRC via email (ntrc@ntrc.vc).

5. Include your name, address and the speed of internet package being paid for.

Five (5) winners will be selected at random for each of the eligible hours (5PM – 9PM) at the end each week. Winners for the first week (May 7 - 11) will be selected on May 14, 2018 while winners for the second week (May 14 – 18) will be selected on May 19, 2018.

The first group of winners has already been selected as follows: Faydon Ferguson, Phillip Jacobs, Sylvester Pitt, Shaquille Thomas, and Shonte Ryan.

Source: NTRC

## IoT Security Tips

As more and more Internet-connected devices find their way into our homes and businesses, it's important to remember that they represent a security risk. The Internet of Things (IoT) is growing rapidly, and in the rush for convenience, our privacy and safety is often an afterthought. Here are a few tips on keeping your devices safe.

**1. Don't connect your devices unless you need to**
Take a good look at the features your device offers and learn exactly what internet connectivity brings before you connect.

**2. Create a separate network**
Many Wi-Fi routers support guest networking so that visitors can connect to your network without gaining access to shared files or networked devices. This kind of separation also works well for IoT devices that have questionable security.

**3. Pick good passwords and a different password for every device**
It's very important to pick strong passwords, but you must also make sure that you pick a different password for every device. If a hacker manages to get one of your passwords, they will typically try it with other services and devices. Reusing passwords is not a good idea. Use a password manager to keep track of all your passwords.

Source: CSO

## SVG Celebrates International Girls in ICT Day



A week of activities to celebrate 'International Girls in ICT Day', ended with a closing ceremony on Friday, 26th April 2018, at the National Insurance Services conference room.

At the closing ceremony, there were remarks by Minister of National Mobilisation, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Persons with Disabilities and Youth, Hon. Frederick A. Stephenson; and Minister of Finance, Economic Planning, Sustainable Development, and Information Technology, Hon. Camillo Gonsalves.

The featured speaker was Miss Seymourne Bascombe, Managing Director of Sytecno, a local company that offers IT training and Consultancy Services. Miss Bascombe urged the young ladies to use the skills that they have acquired during the week as a stepping stone to pave their way to their next achievement.

At the end of the ceremony, the participants were presented with certificates of completion by the two Ministers present. Tokens for the most outstanding participants were presented by the Deputy Director of the Information Technology Services Division, Mrs. Jacinta Fergus; and the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of National Mobilisation, etc., Mrs. Nerissa Gittens-McMillan.

Source: Gov.vc

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## St. Kitts & Nevis promotes ICT Development

Charlestown, Nevis (4th May 2018) – As most Caribbean islands seek to improve their Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector, Nevis is also aggressively developing their digital economy through e-government transformation.

The recent inauguration of Hon. Troy Liburd, first Minister of ICT, with responsibility for Education, Library Services and Information Technology in the Nevis Island Administration (NIA), re-affirmed the island's commitment to developing ICT and implementing 21st Century Government.

The Information Technology (IT) Department of the NIA, is seeking to raise public awareness and foster greater understanding of ICT in the wider community through outreach activities. While some internal applications already exist in the NIA, the IT Department is working towards implementing e-services to improve e-government processes in the island.

One outreach activity is the Department's hosting of its second annual ICT Week which took place from April 29th to May 5th 2018. Mr. Quincy Prentice, Director of the NIA Technology Department, in elaborating on the theme of this year's event, 'ICT – Supporting the Trust Towards 21st Century Economy' stated, "The goals of ICT Week are to promote the growth and development of the local ICT sector; to connect ICT solution providers with solution seekers; to raise awareness about critical ICT issues such as cyber-security, cloud computing, block chain technologies and artificial intelligence; and to generate interest in ICT as a career path amongst youth."

Source: St. Lucia Times

# Caribbean policymakers to discuss data privacy at regional Internet Governance Forum

Data privacy will be among the items topping the agenda at an upcoming Caribbean Internet Governance Forum to be held by the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) in Suriname in May 2018.

The meeting is part of an effort by several Caribbean countries to establish and strengthen policies to ensure that Internet users' personal information is collected, shared and used in appropriate ways.

It will take place from May 21 to 23, days before the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) comes into force in the European Union on May 25. The GDPR is a regulation on data protection and privacy for all individuals within the European Union and Caribbean stakeholders are already preparing for the fallout across the region's geopolitical space.

"Although the GDPR comes into effect in Europe, its effect will be felt in the Caribbean, because the region includes Dutch, French and British territories, all of which fall under the EU jurisdiction, and will therefore have to comply with the GDPR from as early as May 25, 2018," said Nigel Cassimire, Telecommunications Specialist at the CTU.

Because the GDPR has significant penalties for companies found in violation of its data privacy regulations, the law could adversely affect Caribbean companies doing business with European companies.

"The onus is on European companies doing business with anyone in our region to ensure that whoever they do business with have measures in place that will enable them to remain compliant with the GDPR. For the Caribbean, it is urgent for us to understand what requirements will be placed on us," Cassimire said.

The forum will be held in Suriname, a former colony of the Kingdom of the Netherlands which became an independent nation in 1975.

The agenda will include a range of issues, including service resiliency and network neutrality.

The Caribbean Internet Governance Forum is a multi-stakeholder meeting initiated by the CTU and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat to coordinate a regional approach to Internet Governance. Since its inception in 2005, the forum has met annually and has focused on the formulation of a regional framework for Caribbean Internet governance policy, the proliferation of Internet exchange points, and the growth of Caribbean influence in the global Internet governance arena.

The forum is part of a series of ongoing policy development discussions across the region. Policymakers met in Miami on April 19 to discuss Internet governance issues at a special Caribbean Forum hosted by the CTU and the American Registry for Internet Numbers. (ARIN).

Source: [Gerard Best](Gerard Best)

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# Belize to host Caribbean internet peering forum in June



BELIZE CITY, Belize — Belize will host the fourth Caribbean Peering and Interconnection Forum, known as CarPIF, on June 13 and 14, 2018.

Since its inception in 2015, CarPIF has brought together regional and international technology experts and telecommunications industry execs to discuss a range of topics related to Internet peering and interconnection trends, and their relevance to the Caribbean region.

It is coordinated by the Caribbean Network Operators Group (CaribNOG), with support from the Internet Society, the Caribbean Telecommunications Union, the American Registry for Internet Numbers, Packet Clearing House, the Latin America and Caribbean Internet Address Registry (LACNIC), and the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).

"CarPIF will explore new opportunities for strengthening Caribbean network resilience and Internet Exchange Point expansion," said Bevil Wooding, co-founder of CaribNOG.

Organisers are describing this year's forum as building on the knowledge gained in previous CarPIF events held in Barbados in 2015, Curacao in 2016 and St Maarten in 2017. A strong focus will be on building the human networks that drive the growth and expansion of the Internet.

Source: [Caribbean News Now](Caribbean News Now)

# UN Broadband Commission meets in Rwanda to tackle digital divide



The Spring meeting of the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development 2018 was held in Kigali, Rwanda, between May 6—7, 2018 and brought together 34 leaders from government, industry, international organizations and academia. The meeting was held to address how to ensure that the advances of the 21st century do not bypass the 3.8 billion people who do not have broadband connectivity.

On Sunday, 6 May, the Commissioners took part in onsite sessions of four Broadband Commission Working Groups: Vulnerable Countries, Epidemic Preparedness, Digital Entrepreneurship and Digital Health.

The Working Group on Vulnerable Countries discussed and identified recommendations to support increased access to broadband services; the Working Group on Digital Health addressed ways governments can use digital health to address non communicable diseases to improve Universal Health Care, and the Working Group on Epidemic Preparedness identified best practices for epidemic preparedness. This was followed on Monday, 7 May, with a full-day annual Spring Meeting of the Commission.

During the meeting, President Paul Kagame highlighted Africa's need for broadband infrastructure as well as accessible and affordable internet access.

Source: ITU



# Whatsapp raises the age requirement to 16 for the EU as part of GDPR

WhatsApp will update its terms and conditions of service to reflect the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) standards that were passed for the European Union. Basically, these rules say that services which collect data from users should have more restrictive privacy settings concerning personal information by default and additional collection of data should all be opt-in features and not the current opt-out situation.

As part of these standards for the EU, WhatsApp's new terms and conditions will require users to be of at least 16 years old. The new terms will roll out over the next few weeks and will have users verify that they are 16 or older. WhatsApp hasn't detailed exactly how the age verification process will work or if anyone will be able to enter any birth date as form of verification.

In an update coming in the not-so-distant future, WhatsApp will allow users to download all the information that WhatsApp collects about them. As a Facebook product, WhatsApp, along with Facebook and Oculus have all been updating their terms of service to reflect the EU's GDPR .

Source: GSMArena

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## Contact Us

**National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission**
2nd Floor NIS Building, Upper Bay Street Kingstown
St. Vincent
Tel: 784-457-2279 | Fax: 784-457-2834 | Email: ntrc@ntrc.vc

 ntrc svg     www.ntrc.vc