



THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY COMMISSION

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Miss Keisha Gurley, USF Project Officer, NTRC speaks to the students about the NTRC's i^2 Competition.

NTRC begins Public Awareness Campaign for 2015

The National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC) has once more embarked on its public awareness campaign to educate the general public about its functions, the Universal Service Fund and Cyber Security related matters. This year, the Commission decided to include within its public awareness campaign, the NTRC's Ideas and Innovation (i^2) Competition. The Commission anticipates to have more entries for the 3rd annual competition and as such has targeted several schools that had little to no entries in the past 2 competitions.

As part of the i^2 competition presentations, members of staff from the NTRC meet with a select group of students of the visited school and present a general overview of the competition, the various categories and the prizes in efforts to capture their interest in the competition. Students were then urged to begin brainstorming ideas for competition ahead of the competition's launch in September 2015.

Apart from the i^2 competition, students were educated about the NTRC, how it was formed, its functions and duties. Also, the work of the Universal Service Fund is part of these school discussion's agenda where the students get updated on the seven (7) projects that were implemented under the fund since it became operational in 2008.

The topic of Cyber Security is also part of the discussion held with students. Students are educated of the different types of cyber crime activities that are being conducted on the internet by cyber criminals such as internet fraud, identity theft, cyber bullying and hacking. For each type of cyber crime, they are advised on ways that they can protect themselves online such as using unique strong passwords; being careful on the links that they click on webpages and within emails; ensure that they are operating in a secure browsing session when using sensitive information online; not sharing too much information on social networks, among others.

Apart from visiting the schools, the NTRC plans to execute its public awareness campaign via social media (NTRC SVG on Facebook and Twitter), visiting various communities and having public drive sessions at several locations in the capital Kingstown.

Source: NTRC

Cyber Safety Tips



In attempts to raise awareness about cyber security and increase the resiliency of our nation against Cyber crime, here are some tips on protecting yourself online.

1. **Take inventory of your digital footprint (trail left behind by the use of digital services).** Make a list of sites that may have your sensitive data stored and delete the accounts for the ones that you no longer use.
2. **Priorities sensitive accounts.**— You should prioritize the accounts that have your most sensitive information and ensure security levels are set at the highest. Enable Two factor authentication where available.
3. **Keep up to date with security patches, use caution when providing information online.** It is important to keep your operating system, browser and critical software up to date with the latest security patches to minimize threats from viruses and malware.

CTU Hosts Spectrum Pricing Workshop in Barbados

The Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) has recently concluded a two (2) day Spectrum Pricing Workshop in Barbados from March 23rd—24th 2015.

This workshop came about as a result of the current implementation of the Harmonised Caribbean Spectrum Planning and Management Project (HCSP&MP) with technical cooperation support from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and Compete Caribbean. The main objective of the project is to deepen the harmonization of spectrum planning and management policies and practices across the Caribbean Region. The key activities include:

- Reconstitution of the Caribbean Spectrum Management Steering Committee and Task Force, including the development of a mechanism to provide sustainability of these governing bodies.
- Development of a regionally harmonized spectrum management plan to address minimisation of cross border interference, common approaches to digital broadcasting switchover, white spaces regulation and spectrum pricing.
- Development of a National Frequency Allocation Table (NFAT) for each country and a Frequency Allocation Table (RFAT) for the Caribbean. The RFAT will facilitate the adoption of common frequencies and international protocols for disaster management and emergency telecommunications.

The workshop was attended by Members of the Spectrum Management Steering Committee and Task Force; representatives from member countries; Government Policy Makers among others. Attendees of the workshop were able to accomplish a critical review of the draft findings and recommendations of the consultancy. They also gained consensus on the findings and recommendations for the consultancy, especially as regards the pricing principles and their application to determine local prices.

Digicel calls on ECTEL to clarify regulatory process in C&W's proposed acquisition of FLOW



Digicel on March 27, 2015, respectfully called upon the Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Regulatory Authority ('ECTEL') to publicly clarify and confirm the present status of the regulatory approvals process being undertaken by them in conjunction with the

National Telecommunications Regulatory Commissions (NTRCs) in relation to the proposed merger between Cable and Wireless Communications (CWC) and FLOW / Columbus Communications Inc. particularly insofar as it relates to Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Shortly after the proposed merger was announced in November 2014, ECTEL announced its concern in relation to the proposed transaction and the fact that the proposed merger could potentially result in a negative impact on competition by reducing choice for consumers of both services and service providers. ECTEL further noted that increased monopolisation can erode the gains made by liberalisation. ECTEL went on to state that the proposed merger raised significant issues in terms of potential breaches of licences by both CWC and Columbus which must be investigated thoroughly. It was understood from subsequent statements issued on behalf of ECTEL that it was engaged in a comprehensive regulatory approvals process and had retained external assistance to this end.

Digicel Group CEO, Colm Delves, stated that "We very much welcomed the initial intervention by ECTEL and its expression of support for a rigorous regulatory examination of the proposed merger. Digicel was taken aback by the dismissive stated position of CWC/Columbus that the Governments of the ECTEL Member States and the established Regulatory Authorities in those countries were essentially powerless and had no right to oversee the proposed merger. We are now respectfully calling upon ECTEL to clarify the process for regulatory approvals for the proposed merger in the OECS Member States."

Source: [St. Lucia News Online](#)

Barbados FTC approves CWC-Columbus merger, conditionally

The Fair Trading Commission of Barbados (FTC) on March 27, 2015 gave conditional approval for Cable and Wireless Communications Plc (CWC) to acquire Columbus International.

The companies mainly operate under the brand names of LIME and Flow, respectively.

In a statement, the FTC said that it had considered the overall efficiencies of the merger and the anti-competitive effects it will create in the telephony and fixed data services but has determined that the merger should be approved subject to certain conditions.

CWC is acquiring 100 per cent of Columbus for US\$3.025 billion and plans to merge the two operations. Jamaica has already approved the merger of local assets, and Trinidad also signaled it would approve the deal if CWC agreed to divest its 49 per cent stake in Telecommunications Services of Trinidad and Tobago.

FTC Barbados listed 14 conditions to its approval, including that the applicants divest one set of fibre cables in the zones where there exists total overlap of the LIME and Flow networks and that customers of the fixed voice residential and commercial business and the fixed broadband residential and commercial business “must be released from any contracts, if they so desire, so that they are able to exercise the option to choose a service provider”.

The FTC said that during this transitional period, these customers are not to be put at a disadvantage and that the applicants must submit an independent valuation of the assets to be divested within 60 days after the date of the commission’s decision.

The FTC said that within three months of the date of the merger being effected, the new entity “must offer the same prices, products, and service standards to customers in areas not passed by any competing fixed voice network as those offered to customers in areas passed by a competing fixed voice network”.

Source: [St. Lucia News Online](#)

Antigua-Barbuda Government to boost efficiency through new agreement with Microsoft



Guillermo Almada (L), Public Sector Director, Microsoft Latin America New Markets, and Antigua and Barbuda Minister of Information, Broadcasting, Telecommunications and Information Technology, Melford Nicholas

The Antigua and Barbuda ministry of information, broadcasting, telecommunications and information technology has signed a new agreement with Microsoft Trinidad and Tobago, which will transform how the government does business, ultimately resulting in increased efficiencies and transparency for citizens, and new opportunities for the academic sector.

Today’s governments face profound changes – an increasingly global, connected world; an aging population; rising citizen expectations; and tight budgets – and all this on top of the pressing need for a safer, healthier environment. Local people have the power to meet these challenges and serve their communities better; however, to transform government services, they need the right tools.

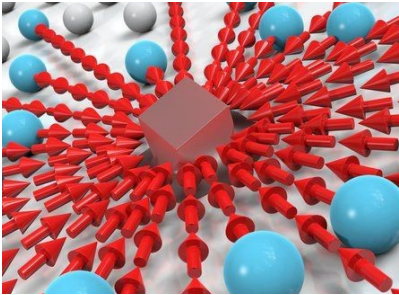
The agreement between the government of Antigua and Barbuda and Microsoft, allows for close collaboration to create a digital portal for citizen services; modernization of IT infrastructure; and sharing resources so educators and school leaders can connect and collaborate, helping students realize their greatest potential.

Frances Correia, country manager, Microsoft Trinidad and Tobago, Eastern and Southern Caribbean, stated that the agreement is an important step as it will empower employees and citizens in Antigua .

This partnership ensures the government of Antigua and Barbuda will work closely with a Microsoft licensing solution provider (LSP) on a project to develop a digital portal for the 81,800 citizens residing in Antigua and Barbuda to enhance engagement between both parties. Public sector employees will also benefit from the significant investment in IT infrastructure, as Office 365 Enterprise offers reliability, security, privacy and support for its users, as well as there will be increased accountability for those working in this sector.

Source: [Caribbean News Now](#)

Cyberattack hits popular coding site GitHub



An attack on San Francisco based web service GitHub which is used by more than 8 million software developers has involved an attempt to knock its site offline by

flooding it with traffic.

"We are currently experiencing the largest DDoS (Distributed Denial of Service) attack in GitHub's history," systems engineer Jesse Newland wrote on its blog.

"These include... some sophisticated new techniques that use the web browsers of unsuspecting, uninvolved people to flood GitHub with high levels of traffic.

"Based on reports we've received, we believe the intent of this attack is to convince us to remove a specific class of content."

The reports suggest the data barrage was specifically directed at web pages providing China-based users with a way to circumvent local censorship controls.

"It does look like someone in China is fighting back, as we predicted they would, against those who are trying to circumvent the 'great firewall of China'," commented security consultant Alan Woodward.

"Ask most developers and they are likely to be using GitHub in some way, so assuming it is China this looks like their censorship attempts are now having global impact."

Source: [BBC](#)

Facebook is planning to test its 747-sized internet drones this summer

Facebook's ambitious plan to bring internet to the entire world with a fleet of broadband-beaming unmanned aerial vehicles has taken a step closer to fruition. The company's vice president of engineering, Jay Parikh, told The Wall Street Journal that Facebook is planning "a real test flight" of its solar-powered internet drone this summer. A smaller version of the drone, one tenth the size of the planned product, was tested earlier this month.

The scheduled test flight would be the first time the full-sized internet drone called Aquila will take to the skies. Facebook says the vehicle will have the wingspan of a commercial passenger jet and the length of "six or seven [Toyota] Priuses," but will only weigh as much as four car tires. The lightweight build should help the craft stay flying for weeks, months, or years at a time, using solar energy to keep itself aloft. Google, also in the process of developing its own internet-proliferation project, is using a different approach. The company's Project Loon uses a swarm of balloons to disseminate broadband to unconnected portions of the world.

Parikh said the solar and battery technology used to power the drone has only just been developed, telling The Wall Street Journal that the hardware available a year ago when the project was announced "wasn't good enough for what we're trying to do with this plane." Facebook is also yet to secure deals with internet carriers to beam signal to the 1.1 to 2.8 billion people without internet today. When asked if Facebook would develop its own service to compete with global wireless carriers, Parikh said it would go against the company's "core mission". "I think it would take a lot longer if we were going to do it all by ourselves," he told The Wall Street Journal. "It would take a lot of money and I don't think it's sustainable long-term."

Source: [The Verge](#)

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