



THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY COMMISSION

ICT NEWSLETTER

NTRC ICT NEWSLETTER ISSUE #49

May 2014



Students of the CW Prescod Primary School performing at the WTISD Expo

ICT Expo held to observe World Telecommunications and Information Society Day in St. Vincent & the Grenadines.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines joined the rest of the World on May 16, 2014 in hosting activities to commemorate World Telecommunications and Information Society Day under the theme "Broadband for Sustainable Development." The Expo was held at Heritage Square in capital city Kingstown where several entities including the NTRC showcased their products and services in relation to broadband access from 9:00AM—4:00PM. Members of the public including various schools visited the stalls of these entities and received valuable information and promotional items.

Staff of the NTRC took the opportunity to speak about the roles of the NTRC and some of the projects that were implemented through the Universal Service Fund to improve broadband penetration nationwide. Additionally, winners from the NTRC's 2013 I² Competition were present to illustrate their mobile applications.

The Expo also included competitions such as broadband quiz competitions and imitation cake competitions relating to broadband. At the end of the day, winners received prizes such as tablets and flash drives complements entities that were present at the expo.

This event was streamed live over the internet by the NTRC using broadband service over Wi-Fi that was put in place at the nearby public library compliments the Commission.

The purpose of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) is to help raise awareness of the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICT) can bring to societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide. May 17 marks the anniversary of the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention and the creation of the International Telecommunication Union, however, given that May 17, 2014 fell on a Saturday, celebrations were held on May 16, 2014.



Mitigate Java Exploits

Many applications and websites require end-users to have Java installed. Websites incorporate Java applets (small applications) to enhance the usability and functionality of a website. Java has been prone to numerous reports of vulnerabilities given its widespread use, especially for older versions.

Here are some tips on how to protect yourself from these exploits:

1. Enable the automatic update feature, which will ensure you receive important security updates when they are released .
2. Set the Java security level to "High" or "Very High" . You can set the security level from within the Java Control Panel so that you are notified before any untrusted Java applications run .
3. Clear the Java cache periodically. This forces the browser to load the latest versions of web pages and programs.
4. Do not allow applications from unknown publishers to run.
5. Click [here](#) for more information.



OAS holds ICT Symposium in Trinidad

The Organization of American States (OAS) in collaboration with Trinidad and Tobago's Ministry of Education is staging the second edition of the Virtual Educa Caribbean Symposium to assess the use and impact of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in the educational systems of the Caribbean.

The opening ceremony of the two-day Virtual Educa Caribbean Symposium, on May 19, 2014, featured presentations from Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Kamla Persad- Bissessar; Education Minister – Tim Gopeesingh; Assistant Secretary General of the OAS, Albert Ramdin and the Secretary General of Virtual Educa, Jose Maria Anton.

The meeting's agenda also included panel discussions on the use of ICTs at all levels of primary and secondary education; training educators in the 21st century; strengthening education systems through the use of technology; and how to achieve quality education for competitiveness, among others.

Participants were given the experience of the "21st Century Virtual Classroom" as an example of the rollout of 20 pilot virtual classrooms in primary and secondary schools across Trinidad and Tobago.

Virtual Educa is a groundbreaking initiative that seeks to transform education through the use of ICTs to promote innovation, entrepreneurship, creative thinking, inclusion and accessibility for all students.

"This multilateral and cooperation initiative has become a leading event in the Americas on innovation applied to education," said the OAS, adding that the second regional Caribbean edition is aligned with its overall objectives in education: to contribute to poverty reduction, tackling inequality and fostering social inclusion through access to quality education in the region.

The NTRC was represented at the symposium by its Director, Mr. Apollo Knights.

Source: [Antigua Observer](#)

eBay Asks Users to Change Passwords After Data Breach



Cyber attackers have breached eBay's networks and compromised users' passwords and other "non-financial data," the online shopping website announced on May 21,

2014. The passwords were "hashed" using one-way encryption, and financial data was stored separately from the compromised data, but all eBay users have nonetheless been advised to change their passwords immediately.

According to eBay, the data breach occurred between late February and early March and compromised users' names, hashed passwords, email addresses, physical addresses, phone numbers and dates of birth — more than enough to give an identity thief a head start.

It's not clear how many people might be affected. Thus far, eBay says it has detected no fraudulent account activity on its service due to this breach.

The intruders apparently breached eBay's database by stealing a handful of employee login credentials, which gave them access to eBay's corporate network. eBay says it detected this "about two weeks ago." The company is now working with law enforcement and "leading security experts" on an ongoing investigation.

On the morning of May 21, 2014, eBay's official disclosure of the breach went live, clarifying that eBay had indeed suffered a data breach and warning users to change their passwords.

if you have an eBay account, not only should you change your eBay password, but you should also change the same password on any other online account that uses it. (It's best to never repeat passwords.)

Source: [Yahoo!](#)



Grenada PM concerned about slow growth of ICT in CARICOM

Government Information Services, Grenada -- Grenada's prime minister, Dr. Keith Mitchell, has expressed concern about the slow growth in information and communications technology (ICT) within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) compared to the rest of the world. Mitchell said, while ICT is growing in the region, it is yet to seriously impact on regional economies. Mitchell, the prime minister responsible for science and technology within CARICOM, was addressing participants at the opening of a workshop on Technopreneurship in Tobago. "There has been an increased growth globally in the ICT industry but this level of growth is yet to be experienced in the region. However, of all the technologies, ICT is the one most utilized in the region," Mitchell explained. "We are yet to be impacted upon in any substantial manner by the major platform technologies that are transforming the world of today. And maybe therein lies our problem and our salvation," he said.

Source: [Caribbean News Now](#)

Snapshot of Actual Broadband Download Speeds across the Caribbean

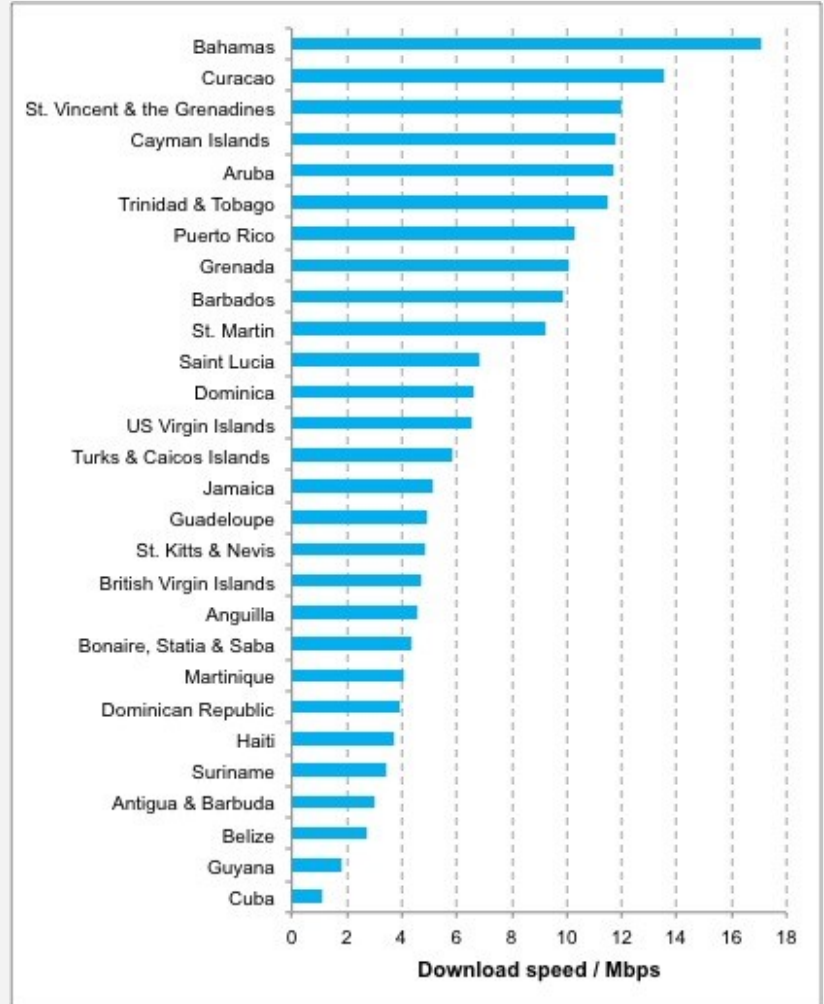


Table 1: Mean household Internet download speeds in select Caribbean countries as of 20 May 2014 (Source: Ookla)

According to Table 1 above, speeds varied considerably across the Caribbean. The slowest download speeds were recorded in Cuba, at 1.12 Mbps, which was followed by Guyana, at 1.82 Mbps, and Belize, at 2.76 Mbps. On the other hand, the fastest download speed was recorded in the Bahamas, at 17.09 Mbps, and was followed by Curaçao at 13.54 Mbps, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines at 11.99 Mbps. The data for this assessment was drawn from Internet speed tests conducted by Ookla (speedtest.net), a recognized provider of broadband testing and web-based network diagnostic applications. The tests were conducted over a period of 30 days, and the mean was calculated to determine the average speeds.

Source: [ICT Pulse](#)

Dominica hosts seventh regional CaribNOG meeting



ROSEAU, Dominica -- Regional and international technology experts have gathered in Dominica to address Caribbean technology challenges and to collaboratively derive solutions that are relevant to the region. The Caribbean Network Operators Group, CaribNOG, hosted its seventh regional meeting in the island's capital city, Roseau, from April 28 to May 2. CaribNOG is a forum for network technicians and technology professionals from across the region to share experiences and participate in expert-led, high-tech training exercises and hands-on technical workshops. "The Caribbean is at an interesting juncture with respect to its growing dependence on Internet-related technologies. The region is extremely vulnerable to cyber attacks and has to take steps to develop its technical human resource capacity. CaribNOG is key part of the response to that challenge," said Bevil Wooding. Wooding, one of the founders of CaribNOG, cited examples from around the world where similar volunteer groups have emerged and now collaborate to help protect local networks against mounting threats, and to keep pace with technology change.

The sessions focused on network design, mobile network infrastructure, cyber security, Internet Exchange Point management and cloud infrastructure. The sessions were streamed via the Internet for remote participants.

Source: [Caribbean News Now](#)



Inmarsat offers free airline tracking

UK satellite operator Inmarsat is to offer a free, basic tracking service to all the world's passenger airliners.

The offer follows the case of Malaysia Airlines flight MH370, which disappeared without trace on 8 March.

It was very brief electronic "pings" from Inmarsat equipment on the lost plane that prompted investigators to look for wreckage in the Indian Ocean.

Inmarsat says the free service it is offering would carry definitive positional information.

It would see a plane determine its location using GPS and then transmit that data - together with a heading, speed and altitude - over Inmarsat's global network of satellites every 15 minutes.

"Our equipment is on 90% of the world's wide-body jets already. This is an immediate fix for the industry at no cost to the industry," Inmarsat senior vice-president Chris McLaughlin told BBC News.

Cost is one of the reasons often cited for the reluctance of airlines to routinely use satellite tracking.

Inmarsat proposes that, at bare minimum, all passenger jets regularly transmit definitive data over its network.

The satellite operator would carry the cost, anticipated to be about \$3m a year. It already does something similar in the maritime sector in that all distress calls from ships are relayed over its network free of charge. The company would hope to recoup costs as airlines moved to take up some of its premium services. "But we would keep that basic tracking service free of charge," said Mr. McLaughlin.

Source: [BBC](#)



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

Website: www.ntrc.vc



[Facebook.com/ntrcsvg](https://www.facebook.com/ntrcsvg)



[@ntrcsvg](https://twitter.com/ntrcsvg)