



Representing the ecosystem of Internet -Bharat Model

CCAIOI Newsletter

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A scanning agency called 'National Cyber Coordination Centre' is being set-up by the government to monitor all web traffic passing through Internet service providers in the country. The scanning agency will issue 'actionable alerts' to government departments in cases of perceived security threats.

The move to set up a new agency comes in view of the fact that the government has been unable to prevent many terror attacks, as it does not have a credible internet scanning system.

The minutes of a meeting held on February 3, 2012, at the National Security Council Secretariat under the Prime Minister's Office, show that the National Cyber Coordination Centre will 'also scan cyber traffic flowing at the point of entry and exit at India's international internet gateways.'

The web scanning centre will provide 'actionable alerts for proactive actions' to be taken by government departments.

Now all the government departments are supposed to talk to the Internet Service Providers such as Bharti Airtel, Reliance Communication, BSNL, MTNL and Tata Communications through NCCC for real time information and data on threats.

According to sources, government is planning to invest about Rs 800 crore in the set-up. All tweets, messages, emails, status updates and even email drafts will now pass through the new scanning centre. The centre may probe further into any email or social media account if it finds a perceived threat.

Source: eGovOnline

Google introduces 'Google Play' -an online store for all digital content

In a bid to compete with Apple Inc and Amazon.com.Inc and to raise its profile in the market for electronic content sales,Google Inc is renaming its online storefront for music, books and digital goods as Google Play.

The company has revamped the Android Market name for its store that sells apps, videos, music and electronic books on the Web and on mobile devices as the Google Play Store.

The change is designed to make it clearer to consumers that Google offers a broad catalogue of content in addition to the apps programmed for smartphones and tablets based on its Android operating system.

"Some people see the Android icon on their home screen and they think it's just for apps," said Chris Yerga, engineering director for Android Digital Content, in an interview with Reuters on Monday.

The name is being introduced three and a half years after Google launched its Android Market as a central outlet for consumers to download the mobile apps created for the growing number of Android-based smartphones.

Android is the world's No.1 smartphone operating system, used in smartphones sold by Motorola, Samsung and HTC, among others.

There are more than 450,000 Android-compatible apps available from third-party software developers versus 550,000 apps available for Apple iOS devices such as the iPhone and iPad.

In the past year and a half, Google has expanded the menu of offerings in the Android Market to include digital books, music and videos – markets where Apple and Amazon have robust businesses. Apple said in October that more than 16 billion songs have been downloaded from its iTunes store. Amazon said last year that it sells more digital books than print books.

Google's variety of outlets for selling different types of digital content – consumers could purchase electronic books at a special Google books website as well as on the Android Market website – was confusing for consumers, Yerga said.

And the applications for consumers to play music and videos, or read the books they purchased also had different names, creating further confusion, he said. On Tuesday, Google's various media applications will all feature the Play branding as part of their names.

"Our goal with this is to bring more people to the store," Yerga said. "Maybe that person who is an avid book reader or music purchaser now becomes aware of 'Hey I can also get videos here, I can get games here.'"

Source: eGovOnline

Railway Budget: focus on safety, ICT spend likely to go up

Railway Minister Dinesh Trivedi has unveiled the Rail Budget 2012-13 in the parliament today. He started his speech by thanking the PM, UPA Chairman Sonia Gandhi, Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee and the leader of opposition.

"I am thankful the 14-lakh strong rail parivar," Trivedi said.

The entire emphasis would be on safety. "Death on rail tracks is not acceptable... our target should be zero death... I would like to eliminate all manned crossing in the next five years," he said.

In his speech, the minister pointed out that he took over as the Railway Minister on a day when there was a train accident. He said that he would work towards making the Railway one of the safest mode of transport in the country. Announcing the setting up of a Railway Safety Committee, which will be headed by Anil Kakodkar, he said that Indian Railways need to learn from Europe where there have been no major accidents for the past several decades even though trains run at a very speed there.

As a host of safety and modernisation initiatives set to be implemented, the ICT spend in Indian Railways is likely to go up, this fiscal. In his interviews Dinesh Trivedi has already indicated that he is enthusiastic to initiate e-auction and e-tendering.

According to Rail Bhawan sources Indian Railways have recently entered into a deal with SNCF- a French state-owned railways company. The latter will facilitate technology-oriented roadmap for the Indian Railways. SNCF's expertise will come in handy for safety and modernisation of the Indian Railways.

The ministry also plans to develop commercial Website for yield management. The focus will also be to introduce more digitalized unreserved ticketing system (UTS) counters in B and C cities.

The railway minister also revealed that the Prime Minister's advisor Sam Pitroda would head the railway modernisation committee. The minister for railways announced several modernisation programmes for the railways in his speech and said investment of Rs.5.60 lakh crore would be required for the purpose. He

said other important aspects of this Railway Budget would be on decongestion, consolidation, capacity augmentation and operation of railways.

Source: eGovOnline

ICANN Must Tighten Rules For Director Conflicts

The organization that manages the Internet's address system should strengthen conflict-of-interest rules for its board of directors, the group's chief executive officer said this week.

"It is time to further tighten up the rules that have allowed perceived conflicts to exist within our board," Rod Beckstrom, CEO of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, said at a meeting of the group in Costa Rica today.

"ICANN must place commercial and financial interests in their appropriate context," said Beckstrom, who plans to step down in July, according to a transcript of the speech. "How can it do this if all top leadership is from the very domain name industry it is supposed to coordinate independently?"

ICANN, which manages the Internet's domain-name system under a US Commerce Department contract, approved a plan in June to consider hundreds more domains such as .apple and .nyc in a move to spur online innovation. The group began accepting applications for new Web suffixes in January for a three-month window ending April 12.

Public-interest organizations, a national advertisers group and a US senator criticized ICANN after its previous chairman, Peter Dengate Thrush, joined a company that plans to invest in new domains less than a month after the board approved the expansion in June.

The Commerce Department on March 10 canceled its request for proposals on a new contract to manage the Internet's address system, saying none of the responses it received met its requirements.

The contract's requirements include having a "robust" conflict of interest policy and increased transparency, according to a notice posted on the website of the Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

The Commerce Department extended ICANN's current contract for six months, until Sept. 30. The agency said it would reissue the bid at a later, unspecified date.

Source: Bloomberg News

65% of Online Adults in US use Social Networking

Fully 65% of adult internet users now say they use a social networking site like MySpace, Facebook or LinkedIn, up from 61% one year ago. This marks the first time in Pew Internet surveys that 50% of all adults use social networking sites.

The frequency of social networking site usage among youngadult internet users under age 30 was stable over the last year – 61% of online Americans in that age cohort now use social networking sites on a typical day, compared with 60% one year ago. However, among the Boomer-aged segment of internet users ages 50-64, social networking site usage on a typical day grew a significant 60% (from 20% to 32%).

"The graying of social networking sites continues, but the oldest users are still far less likely to be making regular use of these tools," said Mary Madden, Senior Research Specialist and co-author of the report. "While seniors are testing the waters, many Baby Boomers are beginning to make a trip to the social media pool part of their daily routine."

In a separate question, when social networking users were asked for one word to describe their experiences using social networking sites, "good" was the most common response. Overall, positive responses far outweighed the negative and neutral words that were associated with social networking sites (more than half of the respondents used positive terms). Users repeatedly described their experiences as "fun," "great," "interesting" and "convenient." Less common were superlatives such as "astounding," "necessity," and "empowering."

Source: Pew Internet and American Life Project

Industry News

- Aneesh Chopra, tapped to serve as the first White House chief technology officer, is stepping down and is widely expected to announce that he will run for lieutenant governor in Virginia, according to Democrats familiar with his plan.
- Data routinely gathered in Web logs -- IP address, cookie ID, operating system, browser type, user-agent strings -- can threaten online privacy because they can be used to identify the activity of individual machines, Microsoft researchers say. At the same time, analysis of such data when anonymized can help detect malicious activity and so improve overall Internet security, they add. The researchers found that 62 percent of the time, HTTP user-agent information alone can accurately tag a host. Combine that same information with the IP address, and the accuracy jumps to 80.6 percent.
- Security researchers said they found a vulnerability in the Google mobile payments platform which is currently available in phones sold by Sprint Nextel Corp. The alleged vulnerability in the Google Wallet was identified by Joshua Rubin, a senior engineer with zvelo, a closely held security firm in Greenwood Village, Colorado.
- Nearly 12 million Americans were victims of identity theft in 2011, an increase of 13 percent over 2010, according to a report released by the research firm Javelin Strategy & Research. The rise in the use of smartphones and social media by incautious consumers fueled the increase in identity fraud, and 2011 was a year of several big data breaches too, Javelin said.

With the rise in credit card monitoring and more sophisticated policing by credit card companies, identity thieves are increasingly targeting users of smartphones and social media, where consumers have a tendency to be less cautious, experts say.

- Yahoo has made good on its threat to take Facebook to court over alleged patent infringements. "Facebook's entire social network model, which allows users to create profile for and connect with, among other things, persons and businesses, is based on Yahoo's patented social networking technology," Yahoo's lawsuit reads. The 10-20 patents in question reportedly cover an array of functions including the NewsFeed feature, advertising practices, website personalization, and aspects of messaging. Yahoo is asking for triple damages to strip Facebook's ability to use any technology that is derived from the patents in question. The two companies had been in talks to negotiate license terms for these patents.

Upcoming event:



BEST DATA CENTRE at the CMAI 5th National Telecom Awards 2011 | Launch of Online Radio in partnership | Sify Movies is 3rd highest user visited portal for cinema related news in India | BEST PRODUCT IMPLEMENTATION at the First Fortinet India VIP forum at Hong Kong

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