

Greetings from the Centre for Internet and Society!

News Updates

The internet's new billion

New web users — in countries like Brazil and China — are changing the culture of the internet.

<http://bit.ly/hKUb5n>

'Piracy is now a mainstream political phenomenon'

"Piracy has become a mainstream political phenomenon," said Sunil Abraham, executive director of the Centre for Internet and Society in the city. The piracy that he was referring to was not the piracy of the high seas but the piracy of intellectual property.

<http://bit.ly/gMC1Br>

Open standards policy in India: A long, but successful journey

Last week, India became another major country to join the growing, global open standards movement. After three years of intense debate and discussion, India's Department of IT in India finalized its Policy on Open Standards for e-Governance, joining the ranks of emerging economies like Brazil, South Africa and others. This is a historic moment and India's Department of Information Technology (DIT) deserves congratulations for approving a policy that will ensure the long-term preservation of India's e-government data.

<http://bit.ly/dGo6Qo>

Information, the world's new capital - Digital Natives

Information is the new capital and currency of the world, Nishant Shah, of the India-based Digital Natives with a Cause, told Bizcommunity.com yesterday, 10 November 2010, as the three-day workshop on digital and internet technologies that brought together young delegates from nine African countries ended in Johannesburg, South Africa. "If the 20th century was the age of the industrial revolution, the 21st century is now actually the age of the knowledge information," Shah said.

<http://bit.ly/dpXIKY>

What it means to be a child today

They move seamlessly between reality and virtual reality. The digital landscape they inhabit comprises generations — not of family — but of technology such as Web 2.0, 3G, PS4 and iPhone5. Their world has moved beyond their neighbourhood, school and childhood friends to encompass a 500-channel television universe, the global gaming village, the endless internet. These are the children born in the last decade and half — possibly the first generation that has never known a world without hi-tech.

<http://bit.ly/cz3nBJ>

Report: Digitally Open: Innovation and Open Access Forum, 23 Oct 2010, Doha, Qatar

A summary of the event "Digitally Open: Innovation and Open Access Forum" held in Doha.

<http://bit.ly/catHoi>

DOC 2.0: A Resources Sharing Mela by NGO Documentation Centres

A Resource Sharing Mela and Meet of DCM (Document Centres Meet) at the Centre for Education & Documentation in Domlur, Bangalore.

<http://bit.ly/dnwQMf>

Wi-Fi Direct promises range, bandwidth higher than Bluetooth

Sharing, printing and connecting for Wi-Fi devices is going to be more convenient than ever with soon-to-be-launched technology Wi-Fi Direct, which enables devices to connect to each other without a conventional Wi-Fi hub. This article by Ramkumar Iyer was published in the Hindu on 31 October 2010.

<http://bit.ly/aUul9f>

Access to Knowledge in the Age of Intellectual Property

Access to Knowledge in the Age of Intellectual Property charts the rise of the access to knowledge movement, a movement in which Open Society Foundations have played a key role. It maps the vast terrain of legal, cultural, and technical issues that activists and thinkers aligned to the movement negotiate every day.

<http://bit.ly/9nkQFM>

Social Mashup!

Save the Date Join us to meet India's most passionate, innovative, and curious start-up social entrepreneurs for two groundbreaking days of conversations, connections and inspiration. This event will be held on 2-3 December 2010 at the Indian School of Business in Hyderabad.

<http://bit.ly/bKKcar>

Digitally Open: Innovation and Open Access Forum

Promoting Openness in Today's Digital World

<http://bit.ly/961leg>

Crisis for identity or identity crisis?

The hurry with which the government is pushing its most ambitious project to assign a number (UID) to every citizen without any feasibility study or public debate has raised many questions.

<http://bit.ly/8Zt9mf>

Upcoming Event

Identity, Identification and Media Representation in Video Game Play: An Audience Reception Study
Adrienne Shaw from the Annenberg School of communications, who is a visiting fellow at MICA is giving a public talk on research on representation in video games on 27 November 2010 at the Centre for Internet and Society in Bangalore.

<http://bit.ly/909xkU>

Research

My Bubble, My Space, My Voice Workshop - Perspective and Future

The second workshop for the "Digital Natives with a Cause?" research project named "My Bubble, My Space, My Voice" took place at the Link Center of Wits University, in Johannesburg, South Africa from 6

November 2010 to 9 November 2010. Samuel Tettner, Digital Natives Co-coordinator shares his perspective on the workshop.

<http://bit.ly/bPX6Xd>

Archive and Access: Call for Review

The Archive and Access research project by Rochelle Pinto, Aparna Balachandran and Abhijit Bhattacharya is a part of the Researchers @ Work Programme at the Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore. The project that attempts to look at the ways in which the notion of the archive, the role of the archivist and the relationship between the state and private archives that has undergone a transition with the emergence of Internet technologies in India has been put up for public review.

<http://bit.ly/d4o809>

Just Where We Like It

The micro space for status updates might become the new public space for discussion. Nishant Shah's column on Digital Natives was published in the Sunday Eye of the Indian Express on 21 November 2010.

<http://bit.ly/96cK8q>

Taking It to the Streets

The previous posts in the Beyond the Digital series have discussed the distinct ways in which young people today are thinking about their activism. The fourth post elaborates further on how this is translated into practice by sharing the experience of a Blank Noise street intervention: Y ARE U LOOKING AT ME?

<http://bit.ly/ciyiiR>

Talking Back without "Talking Back"

The activism of digital natives is often considered different from previous generations because of the methods and tools they use. However, reflecting on my conversations with The Blank Noise Project and my experience in the 'Digital Natives Talking Back' workshop in Taipei, the difference goes beyond the method and can be spotted at the analytical level – how young people today are thinking about their activism.

<http://bit.ly/bHAvDE>

The 'Beyond the Digital' Directory

For the past few months, Maesy Angelina has been sharing the insights gained from her research with Blank Noise on the activism of digital natives. The 'Beyond the Digital' directory offers a list of the posts on the research based on the order of its publication.

<http://bit.ly/b3TK3C>

First Thing First

Studies often focus on how digital natives do their activism in identifying the characteristics of youth digital activism and dedicate little attention to what the activism is about. The second blog post in the Beyond the Digital series reverses this trend and explores how the Blank Noise Project articulates the issue it addresses: street sexual harassment.

<http://bit.ly/cM1HFf>

Change has come to all of us

The general focus on a digital generational divide makes us believe that generations are separated by the digital axis, and that the gap is widening. There is a growing anxiety voiced by an older generation that the digital natives they encounter — in their homes, schools and universities and at workplaces — are a new breed with an entirely different set of vocabularies and lifestyles which are unintelligible and inaccessible. It is time we started pushing the boundaries of what it means to be a digital native.

<http://bit.ly/9J82YY>

Accessibility

e-Accessibility Policy Handbook for Persons with Disabilities

The Centre for Internet and Society is proud to announce the launch of its first publication, the “e-Accessibility Policy Handbook for Persons with Disabilities” in collaboration with the G3ict (Global Initiative for Inclusive Information Communication Technologies) and ITU (International Telecommunications Union), and sponsored by the Hans Foundation. The handbook is compiled and edited by Nirmita Narasimhan. Dr. Hamadoun I. Toure, Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union has written the preface, Dr. Sami Al-Basheer, Director, ITU-D has written the introduction and Axel Leblois, Executive Director, G3ict has written the foreword.

<http://bit.ly/gfKNYO>

Intellectual Property

Statement of CIS on the Work of the Committee in the 21st SCCR

The twenty-first session of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights was held in Geneva from 8 to 12 November 2010. Nirmita Narasimhan attended the conference and represented the Centre for Internet and Society.

<http://bit.ly/fjVNPI>

We've All Got Some Baggage

America's newest trade agreement is not going to kill only iPods. The article appeared in the Tehelka Magazine Vol 7, Issue 45, Dated November 13, 2010

<http://bit.ly/cVrpWd>

Internet Governance

Consumer Privacy - How to Enforce an Effective Protective Regime?

In a typical sense, when people think of themselves as consumers, they just think about what they purchase, how they purchase and how they use their purchase. But while doing this exercise we are always exchanging personally identifiable information, and thus our privacy is always at risk. In this blog post, Elonnai Hickok and Prashant Iyengar through a series of questions look through the whole concept of consumer privacy at the national and international levels. By placing a special emphasis on Indian context, this post details the potential avenues of consumer privacy in India and states the important elements that should be kept in mind when trying to find an effective protective regime for consumer privacy.

<http://bit.ly/eEs5Qx>

CIS Responds to Privacy Approach Paper

A group of officers was created to develop a framework for a privacy legislation that would balance the need for privacy protection, security, sectoral interests, and respond to the domain legislation on the subject. Shri Rahul Matthan of Tri Legal Services prepared an approach paper for the legal framework for a proposed legislation on privacy. The approach paper is now being circulated for seeking opinions of the group of officers and is also being placed on the website of the Department of Personnel and Training for seeking public views on the subject. The Privacy India team at CIS responded to the approach paper and has called for the need for a more detailed study of statutory enforcement models and mechanisms in the creation of privacy legislation.

<http://bit.ly/eVTwVC>

#Privacy and Banking: Do Indian Banking Standards Provide Enough Privacy Protection

Banking is one of the most risky sectors as far as privacy is concerned due to the highly sensitive and personal nature of information which is often exchanged, recorded and retained. Although India has RBI guidelines and legislations to protect data, this blog post looks at the extent of those protections, and what are the areas that still need to be addressed.

<http://bit.ly/flq09V>

Privacy and Telecommunications: Do We Have the Safeguards?

All of you often come across unsolicited and annoying telemarketing calls/ SMS's, prank calls, pestering calls for payment, etc. Do we have any safeguards against them? This blog post takes a look at the various rules and regulations under Indian law to guard our privacy and confidentiality.

<http://bit.ly/hnTwKp>

Privacy, Free/Open Source, and the Cloud

A look into the questions that arise in concern to privacy and cloud computing, and how open source plays into the picture.

<http://bit.ly/awpCyF>

Privacy Concerns in Whole Body Imaging: A Few Questions

Security versus Privacy...it is a question that the world is facing today when it comes to using the Whole Body Imaging technology to screen a traveller visually in airports and other places. By giving real life examples from different parts of the world Elonnai Hickok points out that even if the Government of India eventually decides to advocate the tight security measures with some restrictions then such measures need to be balanced against concerns raised for personal freedom. She further argues that privacy is not just data protection but something which must be viewed holistically and contextually when assessing new policies.

<http://bit.ly/9rvQPt>

American Bar Association Online Privacy Conference: A Report

On 10 November 2010, I attended an American Bar Association online conference on 'Regulating Privacy Across Borders in the Digital Age: An Emerging Global Consensus or Vive la Difference'. The panelists addressed many important global privacy challenges and spoke about the changes the EU directive is

looking to take.

<http://bit.ly/dy41zc>

Telecom

3G Life

You can video chat, stream music and watch TV on your phone. Offering high-speed internet access, 3G would change the world of mobile computing. Nishant Shah's article was published in the Indian Express on 14 November 2010.

<http://bit.ly/gyxaW2>

Ideology and ICT Policies

For better policies, decision-makers need to know their own and others' biases, and consider what others are doing, writes Shyam Ponappa in an article published in the Business Standard on 4 November 2010.

<http://bit.ly/dbl3Ai>