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**Center for Cyber Security and  
International Relations Studies**

### Cyber Policy, Diplomacy & Legal Framework

- [Lawmakers Call for Ambassador to Represent U.S. in Cyberspace](#)

A group of congressional lawmakers is renewing its call for a cyber ambassador in the State Department, reviving a bill that created friction between Congress and the Trump administration.

- [China hacking concern revives India focus on Cybersecurity plan](#)

Authorities are investigating a series of recent suspected cyber intrusions which could have led to a power outage in Mumbai, crippled systems at banks and caused a glitch at the country's premier National Stock Exchange, he said.

- [Quantum computing, networks, satellites, and lots more qubits: China reveals ambitious goals in five-year plan](#)

China has revealed its economic roadmap for the next few years, and among the government's most aggressive objectives feature some significant breakthroughs in quantum technologies – which, if they are achieved, would firmly establish the nation as a leading quantum superpower.

- [UK aims to diverge from EU data rules to drive growth, minister says](#)

Britain is planning to reform data protection law to allow information to flow more freely and drive growth in the digital economy now it has left the European Union's orbit, Digital Secretary Oliver Dowden said.

- [Mutually Assured Diplomacy: Governance, 'unpeace' and diplomacy in cyberspace](#)

Internet governance steered clear of geopolitics for quite some time. The internet's rise to global dominance really took off after the invention of the World Wide Web which coincided with the end of the cold war in the 1990s and a period of limited global strife. Geopolitics is now centre stage again with implications for internet governance and the stability of cyberspace.



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## Cyber Security



- [North Korea accused of hacking Pfizer for Covid-19 vaccine data](#)  
North Korea closed its borders in January last year soon after the virus began to emerge in China. In November, Microsoft said at least nine health organisations including Pfizer had been targeted by state-backed organisations in North Korea and Russia.
- [Cyber criminals targeting hospitals are 'playing with lives' and must be stopped, report warns](#)  
Cyberattacks against healthcare are putting patients at risk and having a psychological impact on staff. Governments must do more to help fight attacks, warns a report by the CyberPeace Institute.
- [Google to face lawsuit over tracking users in 'Incognito' mode](#)  
In a significant ruling, a judge in the US has directed Google to face a class-action lawsuit seeking \$5 billion, that claimed the tech giant is tracking and collecting data even when people use the private 'Incognito' mode on its Chrome browser.
- [Data Stolen In New Cyberattack On Norwegian Parliament Linked To Microsoft Software](#)  
The attack is related to a “vulnerability” in Microsoft's Exchange email and calendaring software, which the tech giant may not have been aware of, but which hackers may have been able to exploit. Andreassen said the extent of the damage and the culprits are unknown, but that parliament has taken “comprehensive measures” in collaboration with Norway's security services

## Cyber Warfare, Intelligence and Terrorism

- [Boris Johnson Says Britain Must Boost Its Cyber Attack Capacity](#)  
Speaking during the weekly question time debate at the House of Commons in London, Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, said that Britain needed to increase its capacity to conduct cyber attacks on foreign enemies.
- [Russia Warns Against U.S. Retaliation for SolarWinds Amid Fears of Cyberwar](#)  
Russia on Tuesday warned against pending action that U.S. officials say will take place in retaliation for the massive and ongoing hack into federal computer servers despite the potential for a devastating cyberwar.
- [China's Dangerous Step Toward Cyber War](#)  
A recent report by the cybersecurity company Recorded Future describes a sophisticated cyber campaign by Chinese agents aimed at Indian targets.
- [Cyber-Attacks a Growing Threat to Unprepared Balkan States](#)



Balkans states might be prepared on paper, but in practice they are struggling to confront the growing threat from cyber-attacks. Bosnia doesn't have a state-level strategy.

## Emerging Technologies



- [The EU wants to build its first quantum computer. That plan might not be ambitious enough](#)

As part of its roadmap for digital transformation during the next 10 years, the EU has announced some new goals for quantum technologies. Will its plan be enough to compete against other nations?

- [How Bitcoin is eating the Earth](#)

Computers creating 'worthless' cryptocurrency drive global warming as they use vastly more electricity than all the internet giants combined. Studies show the electricity generated to mine and process the cryptocurrency is equal to the amount emitted by whole countries, including New Zealand and Argentina, and more than all tech giants combined

- [Why Accenture lists 'digital twins' as top-five technology trend in 2021](#)

Manufacturing companies have increasingly used digital twin technologies to accelerate digital transformation initiatives for product development, and the tech has grown in popularity over the past five years as legacy manufacturers look for ways to keep up with innovative startups like Tesla.

- [Fostering ethical thinking in computing](#)

A case studies series from the Social and Ethical Responsibilities of Computing program at MIT delves into a range of topics, from social and ethical implications of computing technologies and the racial disparities that can arise from deploying facial recognition technology in unregulated, real-world settings to the biases of risk prediction algorithms in the criminal justice system and the politicization of data collection.

## Italian Focus

- [Cyber space protection and incident notification. The critical issues of the Dpcm](#)

The Dpcm on notification procedures for incidents occurring within the cyber security perimeter highlights critical issues in the failure to comply with the criminal code and shows the system defects of the legislation on the cyber perimeter

- [Ursnif Trojan has targeted over 100 Italian banks](#)

The Ursnif Trojan has been traced back to attacks against at least 100 banks in Italy. According to Avast, the malware's operators have a keen interest in Italian targets and attacks against these banking institutions have led to the loss of credentials and financial data.



- [OVH, it was an old datacenter: let's learn to better choose who to trust](#)  
Perhaps a fire broke out for an uninterruptible power supply (UPS), but it would not have happened on a new generation datacenter. What happened also serves as a valuable lesson on how to choose a reliable cloud provider and the importance of having disaster recovery plans
- [The US dust off the cyber-ambassador \(who already exists in Italy\)](#)  
The US Congress calls for an update of the Cyber Diplomacy Act and the return of the cyber-ambassador, a figure born in 2011 with Obama but canceled by Trump. There is also in Italy: the Unit at the Farnesina is led by Laura Carpini

## European Focus

- [EU Commission draft UK Data Protection Adequacy Decision published](#)



Following nine months of assessment of the UK's data protection laws (including the rules on access to data by public authorities), the European Commission has today published its draft decision on the adequate protection of personal data by the United Kingdom

- [Swedish Police Fined by Data Protection Regulator for Using Clearview](#)

### AI

The police in Sweden were apparently using the Clearview AI facial recognition product, which has been criticized for its unethical and barely legal data scraping practices. The reports of this deployment eventually reached the Swedish Authority for Privacy Protection (IMY), which launched an investigation against the nation's police.

- [Data Governance Act conflicts with GDPR, said European Privacy Guarantors](#)  
Object and scope of the proposal, definitions used, the legal basis for data processing, blurring of the distinction between personal and non-personal data processing, conditions for data reuse: these are the five main inconsistencies with the GDPR that EDPB and EDPS found in analyzing the Data Governance Act proposal put forward by the European Commission.
- [Jourová defends EU data against US 'mass surveillance' in Privacy Shield talks](#)  
EU negotiators want an 'absolute guarantee' that personal data transferred to the US will not be subject to 'mass surveillance,' as part of ongoing talks on a new EU-US data transfer mechanism, according to the European Commission's vice-president for values and transparency, Věra Jourová.