

ISOC UK England Chair's Report for 2018 and 2019 (DRAFT)

2018

Looking back at 2018, this has been a very busy year for the UK Chapter of the Internet Society. On 22nd March, as the leading standards body for the Internet, the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) held its 101st meeting in London, Baroness Neville-Jones, Chair of the DPA's Cyber Group, the DPA and ISOC UK England invited participants at the House of Lords for a panel discussion. Desiree Miloshevic chaired a distinguished panel of Baroness Neville-Jones; Alissa Cooper (Chair, Internet Engineering Task Force); Ted Hardie (Chair, Internet Architecture Board); Olaf Kolkman (Chief Internet Technology Officer, Internet Society) and David Conrad (CTO, ICANN). The dialogue between technologists, legislators and policymakers was very fruitful. More details [here](#). The discussion was very fruitful and we believe we should continue to have a dialogue.

The Chapter was invited to present its activities to the Board of Trustees of the Internet Society at their London meeting, held in March 2018 in London.

In April, a discussion on [Multi-Sided Trust for Multi-Sided Platforms](#) was held at the British Computer Society (BCS), chaired by Ansgar Koene (Senior Research Fellow at Horizon Digital Economy Research, University of Nottingham) and including panellists Catherine Miller (Director of Policy at Doteveryone, who have recently published a 'Digital Attitudes Report' (<http://attitudes.doteveryone.org.uk/>)), Kate Green (ISOC 25 Under 25 Awardee doing research on user experience and trust in online health communities), Geoff Revill (Founder & Managing Director of Krowdthink Ltd, an SME/platform provider) and Robin Wilton (Technical Outreach for Identity and Privacy at the Internet Society). The discussion centred on how users trust online services that are offered to them. Such services include, but are not limited to, online shopping, social media, online banking and search engines.

Later in April, the Chapter contributed to the [DCMS "Secure by Design: Improving the cyber security of consumer Internet of Things Report"](#) in a [joint Statement that I co-signed with the Regional Bureau Director for Europe Frédéric Donck](#). This was followed-up with DCMS, all the way to the October 2018 release of the DCMS final report, [Code of Practice for consumer IoT security](#)

In May, The House of Lords Select Committee on Communications launched [an inquiry to investigate the regulation of the Internet](#). This inquiry sought to take an holistic approach to the question of Internet regulation. The Chapter [responded to this inquiry in writing](#), but was also invited to [send a representative Witness to a Select Committee evidence session](#), namely Dr. Konstantinos Komaitis, Director of Policy Development for the Internet Society. Input from our Chapter was well acknowledged.

In November the Chapter co-organised a workshop at the London CloudFlare offices on [Algorithmic awareness building for User Trust in online platforms](#) with Liz Dowthwaite from the UnBias Team and Horizon Digital Economy Research, University of Nottingham. A report of the workshop is published on that page and if there is demand for another instance of this workshop, which will be repeated at a future date.

In November, the Chapter was also a key organising partner of this year's UK-Internet Governance Forum meeting focused on *Solutions for The Digital Age*. I encourage you to view the video recordings of this great day on <https://isoc-e.org/ukiqf18/>

2019

2019 has also been busy but the Chapter has organised less face to face events due to the uncertainty brought by several Brexit deadlines that meant less certainty for key panellists from Government and Industry to be able to confirm their participation in our events. As a result, we have pushed event dates back in time.

Consumers International Summit, Estoril, Portugal, 30 April - 1 May 2019

Early in the year, I participated in the Consumers International Conference in Estoril, Portugal. A handful of Chapters were represented in an Internet Society delegation supporting the Internet Society's co-sponsoring of this important four-yearly event.

In line with the IoT Trust by Design Campaign, the Internet Society has partnered with Consumers International for the Summit, which is a quadrennial invitation-only event where policy makers, manufacturers, retailers and consumer rights groups from around the world collaborate to solve the most pressing digital challenges affecting consumers. ISOC has contributed to the agenda with a strong focus on Consumer IoT Privacy and Security, including a plenary session featuring our President and CEO Andrew Sullivan and a roundtable gathering key stakeholders taking the lead in the IoT Privacy and Security space, as well as several side events including Chapters, members and youth. More info and full agenda available at <https://www.consumersinternational.org/summit-2019/>

As a follow-up to 2018, in May 2019 the Chapter has become involved in participating in the Department for Digital Culture Media & Sport (DCMS) consultation on regulatory proposals for Consumer IoT Security. It organised a [Webinar](#) where DCMS representatives explained the contents of the consultation. The Chapter responded to this consultation by [submitting a contribution](#) after collecting input from members.

Louise Marie Hurel attended the European Chapter meeting on 9-10 May on behalf of the Chapter. Her report of the sessions that took place there can be found [here](#). It is important to note that the European Chapters meeting was held right after two significant events in the region, the Consumers International Summit (Portugal) and SEEDIG (Romania), [both](#) of which played a fundamental role to advancing the regional discussions on cross-pollination between ISOC's work on Trust by Design and Consumer Rights. Other topics that were addressed included technical challenges, new traffic patterns, economic dependency, and regulatory responses to

consolidation, Community Networks and Internet of Food - how data will change the way in which we will interact with food.

In August 2019 the Chapter joined the ICANN/UASG [Global Campaign](#) to facilitate the spread of Internationalised Domain Names facilitated by the Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG).

In September 2019, [I signed an open letter to Facebook](#) coordinated by CDT, the Centre for Democracy & Technology, on behalf of the Chapter, on end-to-end encryption.

The open letter calls for strong security for massive platforms like those that Facebook controls. This comes in response to the news that the governments of the UK, US, and Australia are urging Facebook to stop pursuing their roll out of end-to-end security across the platform. In effect, they are asking for a back-door to encryption to be included in its messaging service. 112 Organisations signed in total, including the Internet Society HQ. I have signed this letter on the basis that the UK Chapter of the Internet Society has since its inception favoured strong encryption as a key component of the Internet's Security.

On Monday 21st October, the Chapter hosted a webinar on ["Gender and IoT": The Implications of smart technologies on victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence and abuse](#). The recording of the Webinar is available in our blog post. This cross-linking of topics forms an essential part of the Chapter's philosophy and we hope that more Webinars relating to these topics will be forthcoming in years to come.

Finally, the Chapter's long term project tracking IPv6 content servers is ongoing thanks to the robustness of the servers running for over 9 years at the University of Southampton. <http://www.ipv6matrix.org>

Your Chapter is evolving

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) was adopted on 14 April 2016, and became enforceable **beginning** 25 May 2018. As the **GDPR** is a regulation, not a directive, it is directly binding and applicable. As a result, the Internet Society has adopted a process to request that any of our members positively agree to having their details stored in the Internet Society Membership database by going through a process of approval. To-date, 42% of our Chapter's members - 1400 people out of the original 3300 members went through the acceptance process, a higher percentage than the average 30% across all Internet Society Chapters globally.

Since late in 2017, the Chapter now has a legal structure, Internet Society UK Limited. Our accounts have been published and with no membership fee structure we derive our "income" entirely from grants received from the Internet Society and any sponsors. The Chapter also has a bank account, which greatly facilitates the payment of expenses but also helps with transparency regarding any external sponsorship that it could accept. The current directors of the Chapter are its Leadership Team, composed of Christian de Larrinaga, Desiree Miloshevic, Matthew Shears and me. This Team is set to evolve, as we are planning leadership team elections for 2019 - with the need to both enlarge, but also renew the leadership team.

In recent years, the Internet Society HQ has been working with Chapters to further formalise its relationship with its Chapters. The UK England Chapter was one of the first contributors to the process of building this relationship, yet was one of the last chapters to sign the MoU in order to safeguard its relationship with the Internet Society. The MoU is now signed and heralds an evolution for enhanced collaboration between the Chapter and HQ, especially given the challenges we are facing in 2019, as explained by the Internet's Society's new CEO Andrew Sullivan.

It is also time to remind you of our discussion mailing lists which are open to all - as a prime channel for you to interact with the Chapter, but also with other members in the UK.

They can be accessed on: <http://lists.isoc-e.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo>

- [UK Policy Mailing list](#): Internet Policy especially UK Internet Policy. This includes discussions on Government Inquiries, but also any Internet policy topic that is likely to affect UK Internet users and businesses.
- [Open-Trust](#): a discussion forum focussing on Internet Trust issues, from the Trust Issues covered globally by the Internet Society (See: <https://www.internetsociety.org/issues/trust/>), to the work undertaken about Trusting Platforms and Algorithms, in a world dominated by increasing Surveillance, Tracking, and, at the other end of the spectrum, Fake news.
- [ISOC-UK-Universities](#): a forum focussing on University and student activities. Many UK Universities now offer courses about Internet Governance, sometimes as a standalone item, sometimes as part of a wider media course, but often as a research topic. This group, still looking for a person to lead it, is a channel for interaction on issues that young members might face. Plus – how do we reach students, researchers and academic experts so they actively engage in the Multistakeholder consultations and activities that are offered both on a national and international basis?

As a reminder, your [User Profile](#) also allows for you to subscribe to Internet Society-wide mail discussion lists and discussion groups on **CONNECT** as well as **Special Interest Groups (SIGs)** such as the ones on the Internet of Things, etc.

Looking forward to the rest of 2019 and a sustained increase in our activities in 2020, I hope to meet many of you at future events whether in the UK or elsewhere. The UK Chapter is dynamic thanks to its members and my report could not be complete without thanking all our active members for their efforts and volunteer time. There are many ways to get involved more, on many focus topics. We would like to hear from you if you would be interested in becoming a Convenor on any of the above, or other topics that fall within the [mission values of the Internet Society](#).

Warmest regards,

Olivier MJ Crépin-Leblond

For the ISOC UK England Leadership Team, October 2019