

LETS

LAW, EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES & SCIENCE



The new year is finally here! I am sure 2021 will be a brighter year, with lots of news and fun events! Let's get all those new-year goals started and remember to be positive!

Happy 2021!

Isabelle de Oliveira, editor in chief



News:

[Trump Twitter ban 'raises regulation questions' – Hancock](#)

Bans imposed by Twitter, Facebook and Instagram on Donald Trump's accounts raise a "very big question" about how social media is regulated, Health Secretary Matt Hancock has said. Mr Trump faces an impeachment charge, with Democrats accusing the Republican president of encouraging the Washington riots, in which five people died.

[Sex workers say 'defunding Pornhub' puts their livelihoods at risk](#)

Credit card giants Visa, Mastercard and Discover have blocked all payments to Pornhub, after the adult site was accused of being "infested" with child abuse and rape-related videos. However, sex workers are saying that the sudden decision has put their livelihoods at risk, and will not solve the problem of illegal content.

[Google Chrome browser privacy plan investigated in UK](#)

Google's plan to replace web browser cookies with a system that shares less data with advertisers is being investigated in the UK. The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA)

said Google's plan could have a "significant impact" on news websites and the digital advertising market.

WHATSAPP NEW PRIVACY TERMS: WHAT DO NEW RULES REALLY MEAN FOR YOU?

WhatsApp's new announcement has sparked fears that people's information is not being kept secret but instead shared with Facebook. But what is the truth over the changes, and how concerned should people be?

Scientists Press AI Researchers for Transparency

An international group of scientists is demanding scientific journals demand more transparency from researchers in computer-related areas when accepting their reports for publication.

Use of Clearview AI facial recognition tech spiked as law enforcement seeks to identify Capitol mob

Clearview AI's CEO says that use of his company's facial recognition technology among law enforcement spiked 26 percent the day after a mob of pro-Trump rioters attacked the US Capitol. Clearview AI said in May it would stop selling its technology to private companies and instead provide it for use by law enforcement only.

Hackney council files including alleged passport documents leaked online after cyber attack

The attack has coincided with the pandemic to severely disrupt housing services in the East London council. The council said it was working with the UK's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) and the Ministry of Housing to investigate and understand the impact of the incident.

Robot dog gains the ability to fend off human attackers

The mechanical animal, called Jueying, was developed at China's Zhejiang University, and through a collaboration with researchers from the University of Edinburgh let the mechanical canine learn what to do when it was assaulted.

EVENTS

Please note, when clicking on the title of each event, it will take you directly to the website to sign up.

The Latest Tech and Biosecurity Inventions of 2021 (Webinar)

Join Dr. David Metcalf, director of the University of Central Florida's Mixed Emerging Technology Integration Lab (METIL), as he provides a recap on these never-before-seen gadgets, highlighting the latest in biosecurity technology.

21 January 2021

18:00-18:45

State Surveillance, Technology and The Rule of Law: LETS Lab Digital Lounge Series

A panel discussion exploring state surveillance whilst taking a look back at the powers, activities and accountability of MI5 in the period 1945 and 1964, as documented in the superbly written "MI5, The Cold War and the Rule of Law" by KD Ewing, Joan Mahoney and Andrew Moretta

22 January 2021

14:00

Wheels of Change, Critical Considerations: Visual and Digital Technologies

Dr. Ayodele Akenroye will explore how new digital technologies are radically changing the social landscape of the criminal court.

21 January 2021

19:00-21:00

What does 2021 hold for Law Tech?

A discussion around what 2021 holds for legal technology. A look at possible trends that will emerge and what existing tech will blossom

26 January 2021

15:00 – 16:00

Please Stay: An insightful look at Women in Technology

From this presentation, learn the statistics and actions we can take as IT leaders to not only attract and hire women in technology but to retain them.

27 January 2021

17:00-18:00**AI for You and I**

Professor Björn Schuller charts the history of human-centred AI focusing on aspects of artificial, emotional and health intelligence.

27 January 2021**17:30-18:30****Blockchain and GDPR – Friend or Foe?**

What is GDPR? Can blockchain technology comply with the rights and regulations which aim to protect our personal data under the law?

27 January 2021**18:00 – 19:30****THE FUTURE OF REMOTE LEGAL ASSISTANCE**

This conference will address issues of digital infrastructure and capacity building for nonprofits.

29 January 2021**16:30- 23:00****The Role of Technology in Humanitarian Programmes**

How can the technology sector better support such initiatives? The speaker will give examples from a number of recent projects such as the Ebola Crisis in West Africa and the current COVID-19 Pandemic

3 February 2021**18:30-20:15****Technology and the Law: Examining and Addressing Bias |2021 JOSTL Symposium**

This symposium will bring together scholars with expertise on issues of bias and discrimination in different contexts in order to evaluate these issues from a cross-disciplinary perspective.

19 February 2021**9:00 AM – 5:00 PM EST**

Opportunities**EDRi Campaigns Intern (Remote)**

The EDRi Brussels office is currently looking for an intern to support our campaigns on biometric mass surveillance and platform power. The internship will mainly focus on layout and digital design, coalition building and campaign coordination.

Law Commission, Research Assistants

Every year, the Law Commission recruits a number of research assistants to help make the law simple, modern and fair. They look for exceptional candidates from all backgrounds, all of whom have a passion for law reform.

Center for Technology & Democracy, Summer Internship

The Center for Democracy & Technology (CDT) is currently accepting applications for internships in Summer 2021. College and law school students, recent graduates, and graduate students with an interest in internet and technology policy, human rights, and/or civil liberties are invited to apply.

World Wide Web Foundation, Development Manager

From time to time, the Web Foundation looks for exceptional people to join our fight for a web that is safe and empowering for everyone. They are a small but global team with colleagues working across Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe, as well as in our hubs in Washington DC and London.

Internews, Multiple Positions

Apply for positions in California, Washington DC, and London offices or in their international programs.

Brave, Privacy Engineer and Project Manager

Brave is looking for a privacy engineer who is also interested in project management responsibilities. The position would be split between implementing new privacy features, and helping oversee other parts of Brave's privacy projects.

HateAid, Policy and Advocacy Officer EU

HateAid gGmbH was founded in 2018. They are the first organization in Germany to offer protection from digital violence to those affected and at the same time to support effective sanctioning of the perpetrators.

Read/Write/Listen

In 2021, coronavirus will reshape digital rules

The pandemic hung over the year like a dark cloud, forcing billions of people into national lockdowns, and despite the rollout of a vaccine, the global economy is in a recession the effects of which will likely linger for years.

Why 'free speech' needs a new definition in the age of the internet and Trump

tweets – Peter Ives

The day following the storming of Capitol Hill by Trump supporters, whose use of the Confederate flag signalled a white supremacist insurrection, Simon & Schuster announced that it was cancelling the publication of Sen. Josh Hawley's book, *The Tyranny of Big Tech*. Simon & Schuster justified their decision based on Hawley's involvement in challenging the election results and helping incite the violence.

The Wired Wig Podcast | Data in Law: Predicting Case Judgements with Jozef Maruščák

Law is typically a human driven profession, but can court decisions be predicted? CourtQuant, an AI platform which predicts legal case outcomes and found the optimal lawyer to argue the case.

Jumbled-up sentences show that AIs still don't really understand language

Many AIs that appear to understand language and that score better than humans on a common set of comprehension tasks don't notice when the words in a sentence are jumbled up, which shows that they don't really understand language at all. They also reveal an easy way to make them better.

Interesting fact of the month

Did you know that China has robots doing the Covid test on its citizens? They have just been deployed in China for mass testing. It is called Lingcai, and it is able to complete throat swab sampling for Covid-19 nucleic acid tests in a completely isolated environment. But they are not the only ones! Taiwan has also been using robots to test and in Egypt, they were testing a remote-controlled robot called Cira-03 which can also do blood tests and display the results on a screen attached to its chest.

Robots are playing an important part in different countries are some are used in hospitals and others for disinfecting areas. It seems that technology is advancing quickly and it is possible that soon we might start to see robots around us more and more.



LETS Make a Change

Technology does also play a role in being more sustainable and can help us learn more about how we can help on a daily basis. There are some actions suggested by the UN that you can do to help:

1. Water saving

Water is a precious resource: Less than 3% of the world's water is fresh (drinkable). You can save water by taking shorter showers, turning off the tap when brushing your teeth,

installing a low-flow toilet, and many other ways. Severe water scarcity affects about 4 billion people, or nearly two-thirds of the world population, at least one month each year.

2. Fashion

When buying online, why not check out some of the second-hand stores or buy clothes made with recycled cotton? Checking the materials is important! The fashion industry (clothing and footwear) produces more than 8% of the greenhouse gases and 20% of global wastewater annually. Also, 85% of textiles end up in landfills or are incinerated although most of these materials could be reused.

3. E-waste

When disposing of electronic and electrical equipment check where they can be disposed of. E-waste materials are often categorized as reusable goods and can also be exported to middle- and low-income countries. From 2010 to 2019, e-waste generated globally grew from 5.3 to 7.3 kilograms per capita annually. Recycling of e-waste increased at a much slower pace – from 0.8 to 1.3 kilograms per capita annually.

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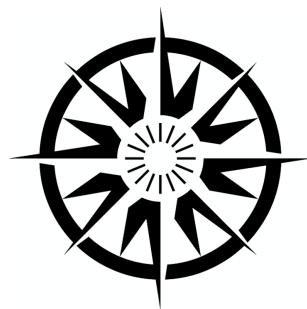
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