Monthly news digest
March 2023

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Azerbaijan

"IT Hub Azerbaijan" project has been launched in Azerbaijan

The "IT Hub Azerbaijan" project was launched with the cooperation of the Analysis and Coordination Center of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4SIM), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and a non-profit organization.

At the initial stage within the framework of the project, young people from 19-30 years across Azerbaijan can participate in free-of-charge IT training to increase the attraction of investments in this field. Trainings will be conducted online for 11 months by international experts in computer science, programming, business analysis and other topics.

Source: report.az, February 7, 2023

Last year, hundreds of cyber-attacks on state institutions were prevented

Over the past year, 1,192 special security indicators were blocked and hundreds of cyber attacks have been prevented, thus protecting state institutions against specially targeted cyber attacks. This was announced by the State Service of Special Communication and Information Security of The Republic of Azerbaijan (SCIS) during the "First Summit meeting of IT heads of state institutions". It was mentioned in the meeting that these cyber indicators were revealed as a result of cyber threats sent from state institutions and analyzed by the National Security Agency.

Source: xeberler.az, February 7, 2023

One of the most common types of cyber-attacks on state institutions in Azerbaijan has been revealed

Announced during the "First Summit meeting of IT heads of state institutions" by the State Service of Special Communication and Information Security of The Republic of Azerbaijan that many cyber-attacks are sent to government agencies through e-mail. It was mentioned in the speeches that the state e-mail system's own protection system examines these e-mails and constantly checks

whether they contain malicious parts. Implementation of the new e-mail service is planned to fix the issues.

Source: xeberler.az, February 7, 2023

Software to prevent information leakage of state institutions has been put into use

To strengthen information security in state institutions and eliminate dependence on local and foreign disk carriers, the State Service of Special Communication and Information Security of The Republic of Azerbaijan (SCIS) launched the new "share.gov.az" platform.

The platform allows users to store files to be shared with the other party in a temporary storage system for a period of 5 minutes to 15 days, as well as symmetric encryption with the user's password which is very important in terms of ensuring data protection from outside interference. Only state institutions connected to the "AzStateNet" network can upload files to the platform, but any network user can download files through a link.

Source: apa.az, February 14, 2023

"Microsoft" licenses will no longer be distributed free of charge to government agencies in Azerbaijan

The Ministry of Digital Development and Transport does not plan to extend the contract for free distribution of Microsoft products for state institutions. Several government agencies stated that because of the high prices of "Microsoft" products, they are considering switching to a free system such as Linux, or other alternatives if the licenses were not distributed for free again.

The State Service of Special Communication and Information Security of The Republic of Azerbaijan (SCIS) also announced that they are aware of the mentioned problem and intend to hold discussions in the direction of its solution.

Source: report.az, February 17, 2023

"Electronic Epicrisis" subsystem of the Ministry of Health has been developed

Within the framework of the healthcare transformation initiative approved by the relevant decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and for the purpose of expanding the use of digital health tools, the Healthcare Informatization Center of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Azerbaijan has developed the "Electronic Epicrisis" subsystem of the Unified Health Information System. The system allows to standardize the search and provision of personal medical information based on information requests by ensuring the creation, management and maintenance of a single electronic register of extracts from medical histories of citizens.

Source: apa.az, February 24, 2023

Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan dropped by 7 lines in mobile Internet speed ranking

Uzbekistan ranked 122 among 141 countries in terms of mobile Internet speed.

The Speedtest Global Index has announced the ranking of countries by mobile Internet speed for December 2022; Uzbekistan dropped by 7 lines in the ranking, being placed at 122 with 13.95 Mbps. However, in terms of fixed broadband, the country improved its position slightly, climbing from 90th to 89th (45.03 Mbps).

Source: kun.uz, February 8, 2023

Number of cybercriminals in Tashkent almost doubled over a year

It was noted at the briefing of the capital's police department that, in 2020, law enforcement officers registered 106 crimes in the cyber environment, in 2021, their number increased to 2,281. In 2022, 4,332 such facts were discovered. The main part of cybercrime is the theft of money from bank cards – 2,747 cases. There were also reports of 625 cases of cyber fraud and 874 drug-related crimes.

In particular, many appeals were received from the victims living in the capital's Almazar, Chilanzar and Yunusabad districts. The Cybersecurity Center announced the holding of Cyber 10 Day events to create "digital immunity" among the population.

Source: kun.uz, February 24, 2023

Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan has developed a national standard for the Internet of Things

In Kazakhstan, the national standard in the field of the Internet of Things - the NB-IoT Wireless Data Transfer Protocol has been developed. This creates conditions for accelerating digital transformation and improving efficiency in many areas of the Kazakhstani economy.

Since the adopted standard is national, it can be used by all mobile operators and companies implementing Internet of Things technologies. Devices connected to the NB-IoT network have high communication stability, reaching 100% data transmission from controlled objects. This is ensured by the fact that NB-IoT operates in a licensed frequency range, as well as through round-the-clock network monitoring and technical support from the operator.

Source: profit.kz, February 10, 2023

Kazakhtelecom increases the speed of the Internet in rural areas of the Abay region

Over the past year, Kazakhtelecom has provided new digital opportunities to the residents of six villages in the Ayaguz district of the newly formed Abay region through the radio bridge technology as part of a project to reconstruct telecommunications networks. Modernization affected such villages as Bidayik, Koryk, Kosagash, Orken, Sary-Arka, Baikoshkar and Madeniet.

The new data transmission network is organized using sectorial antennas: the main mast of the radio bridge that sends the signal is placed either on the roof of the tallest building in the village or

on a natural hill, and small-sized directional antennas that receive the signal are on the roof or on the wall of customers' houses. Circular coverage is provided within a radius of up to 5 kilometers.

Source: profit.kz, February 16, 2023

Kazakhstan wants to ban telecom operators from imposing unnecessary services on subscribers

The Agency for the Protection and Development of Competition of the Republic of Kazakhstan (AZRK) proposed to ban telecom operators from imposing unnecessary services on subscribers and raising tariffs. According to the agency, earlier Kazakhstanis appealed to them with complaints about mobile operators on a unilateral increase in the cost of tariff plans with a change in the volume of services included in the tariff plan (increase in gigabytes, minutes of voice calls, SMS messages).

The analysis showed that mobile operators make minor unsolicited changes to the volume of included services on the tariff plan and the cost of the tariff plan is growing accordingly. In order to prevent these cases, AZRK developed certain recommendations to the authorized body in the field of communications.

Source: profit.kz, February 24, 2023

It has been announced when Kazakhstanis will be able to use Digital Tenge

The National Bank of Kazakhstan announced when the digital tenge will be introduced. "If you remember, we have extended the full introduction of the digital tenge for several years. This year, we are currently in the process of selecting pilot state bodies and pilot social payments. That is, by the end of the year, Kazakhstanis will actually be able to use digital tenge to receive certain social payments and participate in public procurement in those government agencies that fall into our pilot project", - said the representative of the National Bank of Kazakhstan.

Source: profit.kz, February 27, 2023

Kyrgyzstan

A unique Digital Code is being developed in Kyrgyzstan

Announced by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic at the annual international forum "Digital Almaty" that a unique Digital Code is being developed in Kyrgyzstan.

"Kyrgyzstan is working daily to create balanced conditions for the development of digital technologies. If we talk about revolutions in the digital world, then we are developing a unique Digital Code to regulate the relations that arise with the active implementation of digital solutions in public administration", - stated the representative of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Source: kabar.kg, February 3, 2023

Representatives of 16 Japanese IT companies to visit Kyrgyzstan

Representatives of 16 Japanese IT companies will visit Kyrgyzstan. They will meet with local counterparts to discuss collaboration opportunities. This was reported in the High Technology Park (HTP) of the Kyrgyz Republic.

"The purpose of their visit is to develop cooperation between IT companies of the two countries, to study the possibilities of using local highly qualified personnel in the field of information technology. Kyrgyzstan, as follows from the JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization) message, has a great potential for human resources in the field of science and mathematics, and the number of companies with the technological capabilities to implement partnerships with IT companies in developed countries is steadily growing", - the HTP noted.

Source: kabar.kg, February 28, 2023

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