



You Tube departure from Russia

The use of pirated content in Russia may significantly increase in the event of a decision by leading foreign video-sharing websites and servers to leave the country due to the planned imposition of restrictions on their foreign ownership at no more than 20 percent of such video services. These norms, however, will not apply to video services, the content of which is posted exclusively by users, as well as services with a daily audience of less than 100,000 people. Similar rules limiting foreign control in the Russian publishing media have been in force in the country since 2017. It is feared that approval of the amendments may result in the growth of the use of pirated content in Russia because it will be distributed by providers able to fill the vacant niche.

Ecommerce and Cyber crime

A global survey on internet security and trust found users are worried about privacy, and cybercriminals, internet companies, and governments. This lack of trust is hurting the potential of electronic commerce, the survey revealed at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). People in China, India and Indonesia are more inclined to pay for e-commerce purchases through their smartphone contrary to countries such as France, Germany and Japan.

Copyright in Nigeria

“Okafor’s Law” is in a tug of war between the script writer and the producer. The former claimed the movie is his story idea and was produced without crediting him. The Federal Court ruled in favour of the movie producer, since the script writer presented the court a script which does not resemble the “Okafor’s Law”. Critics argue that Copyright awareness is on the rise in Nigeria.

Buzzfeed sued over copyright infringement

Buzzfeed has been sued for copyright infringement for misusing images from Guinness Book of World Records without permission namely: three images - a woman with the world’s longest fingernails, the world’s biggest dog and the tallest fashion model were specifically clicked for the Guinness Book of World Records.

Car wars on social apps

Google’s Waymo claims Uber stole technology for a critical component for driverless cars, as the one of the world’s most-powerful tech titans wages a fierce legal battle to protect its intellectual property in an emerging area of the automotive industry.

Streaming to public is restrictively defined by ECJ

The European Court of Justice (ECJ) ruled that “the sale of a multimedia player which enables films that are available illegally

on the internet to be viewed easily and for free on a television screen could constitute an infringement of copyright” in a Dutch referral case. The court ruled this supply constituted a “communication to the public” without consent of the copyright holders, according to Article 3(1) of the European Union Copyright Directive.

China expands its data localization

The Cybersecurity Administration of China (CAC) has released the draft Security Assessment Measures for Cross-Border Transfer of Personal Information and Important (the Draft Measures) to be effective on 1st June 2017.

Singapore decides landmark piracy case

The Singapore High Court has made it difficult for copyright holders to target Internet users for alleged piracy unless they can prove causal link. The Court dismissed claim ordering telcos to release data of subscribers who allegedly downloaded the movies: Fathers And Daughters, and Queen Of The Desert.

Patent in disarray

A recent US Supreme Court decision in *SCA Hygiene Prods. Aktiebolag v. First Quality Baby Prods* stunned many patent experts, as the decision will benefit patent trolls and other unscrupulous patent owners, at the expense of companies just trying to make and sell their products as laches cannot be invoked as a defence against a claim for damages brought within the six-year limitation period. On the positive side, however, the ruling brings US patent law more in line with Europe’s patent law.

Indian filmmaker challenges censorship laws

Filmmaker Amol Palekar has challenged India’s censorship laws in the Supreme Court as being arbitrary in nature. The petition avers that while content on television and the internet is censorship free, cinema movies is treated differently in violation of the right to equality as enshrined under Article 14 of the Constitution.

Sony complains to USITC against set top boxes

Sony filed a complaint at the US International Trade Commission (USITC) against teleco Arris International for breach of patents in various products sold by Arris. The investigation targets set-top boxes from Arris to Comcast and DirecTV.

UK Supreme Court rejects tobacco plain packaging appeal

The UK Supreme Court has rejected an appeal from the tobacco industry challenging the plain packaging EU Directive 40/14 which directs packaging to be of olive green colour and health warnings images covering 65% of the front and back of every packet. The measures come into effect on the 21st May 2017.

The E-Bulletin of the ABU Legal Division is a fortnightly initiative to bring news and other updates to members.

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