

## STARTUPS

### Briter Bridges launches “Innovating Food Systems in East Africa Report” in partnership with World Food Programme And USAID

■ This week, data-driven research firm Briter Bridges launched the “Innovating Food Systems in East Africa Report”. The study produced by Briter Bridges and the World Food Programme (WFP), focuses on the state of play for innovative, digital, and technology-driven solutions that improve the food system across five countries in East Africa.



Afreximbank partners with AfCFTA and The African Union for the launch of The Pan-African Payment and Settlement System

■ The Pan-African Payment and Settlement System – PAPSS – enables the efficient flow of money securely across African borders, minimizing risk and contributing to financial integration across the regions.

PAPSS collaborates with Africa’s central banks to provide a payment and settlement service to which commercial banks, payment service providers, and fintechs across the region can connect as ‘Participants’.

The system will help facilitate increased cross-border payments in the region.



This Week in Fintech Newsletter Launches Fintech Fund focused on early-stage startups

■ Nik Milanovic of This Week in Fintech Newsletter is now looking into investing in early-stage fintech ventures through the Fintech Fund.

Speaking to TechCrunch, Nik stated, “The goal is to make this a community fund, rather than an undifferentiated out-of-the-box fund. Our focus is to give the people & institutions working deeply in fintech a way to reinvest in the fintech ecosystem.”

The Fintech Fund is investing at the pre-seed and seed stages and has backed ten companies so far, including Goldfinch, 3Box, Ponto and Paysail.



Electric Mobility Startup Opibus debuts first-ever electric bus designed and developed in Africa

■ Opibus this week introduced the first all-electric bus in Kenya and the first African-designed electric bus ever. The bus will be significantly lower cost than importing fully built electric buses with superior performance than its diesel counterpart. Considering the electricity charges, which are also substantially lower than the ever-increasing diesel price, the total operating expenses are lowered by 50%. The innovation is set to revolutionize the public transport sector in Africa.

## LEGALTECH NEWS

### Report by Law360 Reveals insights into the LegalTech Market in 2021

■ According to Law360, Legal technology had a record year of investments in 2021, with at least \$9.1 billion through funding or mergers and acquisitions involving companies in the industry. Contracts and e-discovery were the most funded innovations, with minimum investment in alternative dispute resolution and courts.

#### Legal Tech Investments by Category in 2021

2021 was the year of funding for contract software companies, but categories such as e-discovery and GRC were competitive as well.



### Facebook and Instagram explore plans to let users trade NFTs

■ Meta is exploring plans to allow users to create and sell non-fungible tokens (NFTs) on Facebook and Instagram. This would be the biggest show of mainstream support for NFTs to date if launched.



### Twitter Launches feature allowing users to display NFTs on their profiles

■ Twitter is working on a tab that allows users to show off their NFT collection. Users will be able to connect their wallets to their profile and select preferred NFTs that they would like to use as their profile pictures. Users will also be able to tap through to a page that shows detailed information about the NFT, including a description, its creator, and properties.



## BLOCKCHAIN AND DIGITAL CURRENCIES



### Celo Launches the cREAL Stablecoin

■ Celo has launched Celo Real (cREAL), its third stablecoin for mobile payments, in Brazil. This makes Brazil the first — and only — country with a Celo stablecoin, accepted as payment and used to access DeFi apps and services without regional friction.

## BRAZIL

the first — and only — country with a Celo stablecoin that can seamlessly be traded

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

### Entebbe Municipal Council, Sunbird AI Sign MoU to Curb Noise Pollution in Entebbe

■ The Entebbe Municipal Council and Sunbird AI have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to use Ugandan-built noise monitoring sensors to measure, monitor, and record levels of noise and noise pollution in Entebbe. This is part of a larger initiative by Sunbird AI to do environmental sensing. Sunbird AI is a not-for-profit organization focusing on Artificial Intelligence (AI) for social good. Sunbird AI executes its mandate through the development of practical AI solutions for societal challenges which contribute to the generation of evidence for policy formulation.



## DATA PROTECTION

### Kenya's Office of the Data Commissioner Launches Strategic Plan and Curriculum

■ The government of Kenya has assured its citizens of the safety of their data saying that it has made tremendous steps towards safeguarding personal information with the recent gazette of the Data Protection Regulations 2021. ICT, Innovation and Youth Affairs CS Joe Mucheru said that other measures that the government has taken to ensure safety of data is the establishment of the office of the Data Commissioner and the launch of the first Data Protection Curriculum for the country at Kenya School of Government (KSG). These remarks were made during the International Data Privacy day and the launch of the strategic plan for the office of the Data Commissioner and data protection curriculum held at the Kenya School of Government, Nairobi. The CS said that the strategic plan was an embodiment of the commitment of the government in ensuring that the regulatory environment for personal data in Kenya is conducive and enabling in the digital era as envisioned in the Kenya Vision 2030 and Third Medium Term Plan 2018–2022.

*Other measures that the government has taken to ensure safety of data is the establishment of the office of the Data Commissioner and the launch of the first Data Protection Curriculum for the country at Kenya School of Government (KSG).*

**ICT, Innovation and Youth Affairs CS  
Joe Mucheru**



### Armenia ratified the Convention 108+ on data protection



■ On 25 January 2022, Ambassador Arman KHACHATRYAN, Permanent Representative of Armenia to the Council of Europe, deposited the instrument of ratification of the Protocol amending the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (CETS No. 223), known as Convention 108+, bringing the number of ratifications to 16.

The Protocol aims to modernize and improve the Convention 108, the only binding international instrument with global relevance in this field. It addresses the new challenges to the protection of privacy resulting from the use of new information and communication technologies having emerged since the adoption of the Convention in 1980. The Protocol strengthens the Convention's mechanism to ensure its effective implementation by introducing innovations and constitutes a bridge between different regions of the world and different normative frameworks, including the new European Union's legislation in the context of transborder data flows.

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

### Saudi Ministry of Commerce, SAIP tighten grip on counterfeiters

■ The Ministry of Commerce and Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property are winning the battle against counterfeiting and fraud in the Kingdom, the authority's spokesman told Arb News.

A recent high-profile case involving a social media influencer, who was caught red-handed by authorities after selling counterfeit goods, demonstrated the need to fight fraud in the Kingdom. Yaseer Hakami, spokesman for the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property, said that the authority made 1,912 online inspection visits during 2021. It further conducted 282 visits to promote awareness of intellectual property rights and obligations.

282

Visits conducted by the authority to promote awareness of intellectual property rights and obligations

1912

Inspection visits made by the authority during 2021

The Authority also recommended 2,079 websites to be blocked for violating the Kingdom's intellectual property laws, made more than 6,400 field inspection tours in 10 cities that resulted in the confiscation of more than 95,000 items.

### Meta goes Brazil to trademark Bitcoin and crypto services

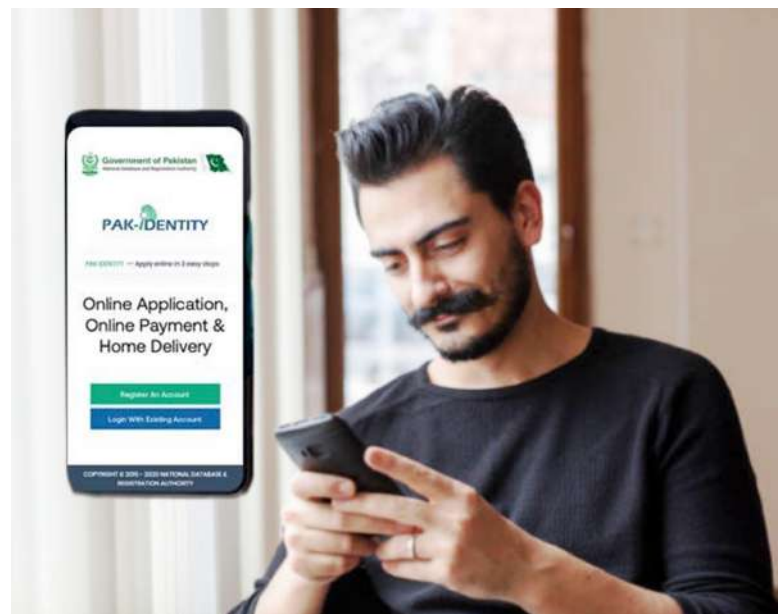
■ Meta, the world's biggest social media platform, has filed a trademark registration with the Brazilian authorities to design, develop and provision hardware and software for various Bitcoin (BTC) and crypto-related services. Meta recently rebranded from Facebook as a move to better align with the Metaverse developments despite regulatory hurdles faced during its numerous previous attempts to enter the crypto space.

Accelerating this effort, Meta filed a trademark registration with the Brazilian National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI) for crypto products and services related to trading, wallets and exchanges platforms. It published the application for registration on Jan. 25 and is currently awaiting opposition prior INPI approval.

## DIGITAL IDENTITY

### Indian Govt Working on 'One Digital ID' That Links PAN, Aadhaar, Passport

■ The Central government is seemingly working on the successor of the Aadhaar Card. According to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's (MeitY) proposed plan the government is working on a new model of "Federated Digital Identities" to link multiple digital IDs such as driving licence, passport numbers, PAN, and so on- all into one. This new digital ID will seemingly be present in the form of a unique ID, similar to the Aadhaar card number. The proposed plan suggests the umbrella digital identity will "empower" a citizen by "putting her in control of these identities and providing her with the option of choosing which one to use for what purpose." The Federal Digital Identity will also seemingly serve as a one-stop destination to store Central and State-related ID data. As expected, this digital ID could be used for KYC or eKYC (know your customer) processes.



### Pakistan's Nadra converting ID cards into digital wallets

■ The National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra) is working to make the computerised national identity cards digital wallets under the government's Digital Pakistan vision and an update to an already existing app will likely be made available later this year. "Translating this vision into reality, we have launched the 'Pak Identity' mobile app as a key building block of digital ID to facilitate applicants of national identity cards through an online portal. The app helps capture biometric fingerprints, facial recognition and scan documents needed for processing a person's ID card using smartphones, without visiting a Nadra office or embassy," Nadra chief Tariq Malik said. He further explained that in a short span, 75,000 overseas Pakistanis have processed their national identity cards [called Nicop] from the comfort of their homes by using the app, which is supported by two-factor authentication. The app is available on both Android and iOS platforms.

## DIGITAL IDENTITY



*Facial recognition is less accurate with dark skin tones*

**Representative, California Democrat  
Ted Lieu**



## U.S. Treasury Weighs Alternatives to ID.me After Privacy Concerns Raised

■ The U.S. Treasury said it is considering alternatives to facial-recognition technology by commercial provider ID.me to verify identities for online taxpayer accounts after some lawmakers raised privacy concerns. The Internal Revenue Service announced in November that it will transition this year to identity verification using ID.me technology for accessing online services including tax records and Child Tax Credit information. The process involves uploading a “selfie” photograph to create an ID.me account and gained more attention this week as the IRS kicked off its annual tax return filing season.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Ron Wyden said on Twitter that he was “very disturbed” by the prospect of taxpayers submitting to facial recognition while Representative Ted Lieu, a California Democrat, called the move a “very, very bad idea,” adding that facial recognition is less accurate with dark skin tones. The American Civil Liberties Union called the ID.me facial recognition technology “biased” and “glitchy.”

“The IRS is consistently looking for ways to make the filing process more secure but to be clear, no American is required to take a selfie in order to file their tax return,” the department said in a statement.

## EVENTS

### Africa Tech Summit Nairobi -

**23rd - 24th February**

Africa Tech Summit Nairobi connects tech leaders from the African ecosystem and international players under one roof. Network with key stakeholders including tech corporates, mobile operators, fintechs, DeFi & crypto ventures, investors, leading start-ups, regulators and industry stakeholders driving business and investment forward. Following successful Summits in Rwanda, the fourth edition convenes in Nairobi, Kenya.

### Adaptive Leadership Excellence

**Programme - 3rd February**

The Leadership Group Limited extends an invitation to attend a Leadership Excellence Programme themed: Adaptive Leadership: Embracing Agility to Succeed in a Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambitious (VUCA) work Environment which will take place on 3rd February 2022 from 8:30am to 4:00pm at Radisson Blu Hotel, Arboretum. The programme aims to strengthen participants’ leadership capabilities as you seek to steer your organization towards further growth and competitiveness.

### Mozilla Festival

**7th-10th march 2022**

MozFest is a celebration for, by, and about people who love the internet, showcasing world-changing ideas and technology through exhibitions, talks and interactive sessions. It will be a unique hybrid: part art, tech and society convening, part maker festival, and the premiere gathering for activists in diverse global movements fighting for a more humane digital world.

### Tech Unite Africa

**28th-29th January**

The conference will take place in January and will bring together tech companies and enthusiasts from all over the world. The two-day conference and seminar sessions will allow IT enthusiasts to interact and discuss their ideas. The event also provides a wonderful opportunity for tech and related sectors to attract new customers and clients.

**LAWYERS HUB MEMBERSHIP**

Join our membership and be a part of a great community that includes legal and tech professionals, students, start-ups, organizations, and government representatives. Over the past year, members have benefited through Networking Opportunities, Collaboration Opportunities, Invitations to speak at events, Mentorship, Access to TheLawyer’s Hub Innovation Space, and cutting-edge technology tools. This year, we have revamped our offers to make it even better and more accessible to many across Kenya & beyond our borders. These benefits include;

**1. CODING FOR LAWYERS**

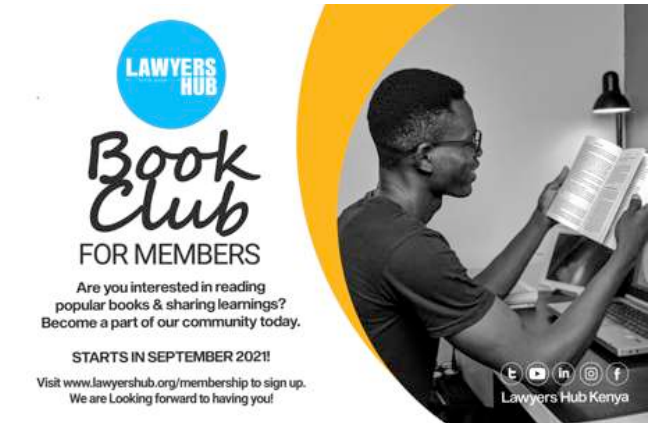
Lawyers need to learn the fundamentals of coding as the legal industry becomes more tech and data-driven. The Lawyers Hub has taken the initiative to ensure that its members develop these skills by curating a coding course for members.



**2. BOOK CLUB**

The aim of our book club is to bring together like minded individuals through shared learning in books, to understand diverse perspectives and increase our members’ systematic reading habits, fostering growth by creating a safe environment to share or debate ideas.

New read: No Rules Rules; Netflix and the culture of Reinvention by Reed Hasting and Erin Meyer. Applications to join are open.



**3. DANCE CLASS**

We care about our members’ mental health and fitness as these are crucial to everyone’s wellbeing. The Lawyers Hub hosts two choreographed dance classes every Friday that will tick all your mental health boxes in Upper Hill at Ack Garden House. You also get to network with working groups. Your 1st dance class is on the house. Join us!

**4. DISCOUNTS ON LAWYERS HUB AMENITIES**

Have you been looking for an office to work from? Tired of working from home and need a change in the work environment? Having issues with power or the internet? The Lawyers Hub has amazing deals on its amenities for members such as 10% discounts on virtual office, private office, hot desks, meeting and conference rooms, and event space with great features suited to help you take your business to the next level. We also have amazing deals on our media and events services for virtual, physical, and hybrid events if you are looking to convene conferences, trainings, host webinars, launches, AGMs, you name it!

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**Visit [www.lawyershub.org/membership](http://www.lawyershub.org/membership) or call +254784840228 for inquiries.**

The Lawyers Hub and the Africa Digital Policy Institute invites your organization to enroll and attend a training on Data Protection and Compliance. It is crucial for members of your organization to be equipped with this knowledge and to be conversant with GDPR and Data Protection Act 2019.

E: [hello@lawyershub.ke](mailto:hello@lawyershub.ke)

T: +254784840228 (to book your slot)



[www.digitalpolicy.africa](http://www.digitalpolicy.africa)

# Data Protection Compliance Training for Companies

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