

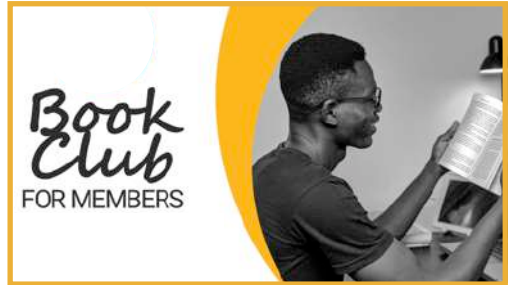
BLOCKCHAIN AND DIGITAL CURRENCIES

Central Bank of Kenya issues Discussion Paper on Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)



DIGITAL IDENTITY

Ghana's National ID recognized as an ePassport for travel across 42,000 airports globally



Newsletter

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STARTUPS

NIGERIA



CcHub Launches Createch Accelerator 1.0 aimed at businesses at the Intersection of Technology and Creativity

■ The Creative Economy Practice at CcHUB has launched a call for applications for Createch Accelerator 1.0. The Accelerator Programme is for founders and teams running businesses at the intersection of technology and creativity. Createch Accelerator 1.0 focuses on companies using innovation or applying technology to enhance Value Chains, solve market failures or enhance value capture across African Creative Economies.



Norebase now enables "Business Name in Nigeria" registration

■ Norebase, a company solving business scaling in Africa, has announced that you can now register your Business Name in Nigeria, from your mobile phone and laptop, directly where you are. The feature allows registration for sole proprietorships and partnerships at NGN 25,000 (\$50) with an expected roll-out to other African countries in the coming months.

KENYA

Kenyan MPs back Bill requiring SACCOs to list loan defaulters

■ The Kenyan Parliament has backed a Bill that will compel savings and credit co-operative societies (SACCOs) to share information with credit reference bureaus (CRBs) in what promises to expose hundreds of thousands of defaulters. The Sacco Societies (Amendment) Bill sailed through second reading in Parliament last evening. The proposed law was among the 23 bills that the High Court in 2020 declared unconstitutional for having been passed by the National Assembly without the input of the Senate.



BLOCKCHAIN AND DIGITAL CURRENCIES



Central Bank of Kenya issues Discussion Paper on Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDC)

■ Central Bank of Kenya has issued a Discussion Paper on Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDC) to help assess the applicability of a CBDC in the country.

This could position the currency in competition with deposits kept in commercial banks. The Digital Currency is exchangeable on an individual basis with physical cash. The introduction of this form of currency could complement mobile money and facilitate international payments.

The paper has drawn the attention of enthusiasts and practitioners in both law and technology as the Bank invites comments from the public by May 20, 2022.

According to the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), 86 percent of central banks are actively researching the potential for CBDCs, 60 percent are experimenting with the technology, and 14 percent deploying pilot projects.

86%

Central banks actively researching the potential for CBDCs

60%

Central banks experimenting with the technology

14%

Central banks deploying pilot projects.

Nestcoin partners with Zuri, the team behind HNG Internship 8.0, to create an 8-week intensive program on Blockchain Training

■ Nestcoin has partnered with Zuri the team behind HNG Internship 8.0 to create Block Games, an 8-week intensive program focused on training developers on how to solve problems using blockchain technology. The program is open to Web2.0 builders looking to transition, tech enthusiasts who has basic blockchain knowledge, and beginners looking to start a career in tech.



Apple set out to introduce a new feature in iPhones to act as intangible credit cards

■ Apple intends to introduce a new 'tap to pay' feature later this year to facilitate payment processing. This proposed development could ease cashless payments. Apple intends to work with fintech companies such as Stripe to process such payments.



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Researchers at the University of Cambridge’s Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence (LCFI) set out to better understand the relationship between Artificial Intelligence and Human Values



■ Researchers at the University of Cambridge’s Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence (LCFI) have been awarded

nearly two million Euros to build a better understanding of how AI can undermine “core human values.

The grant will allow LCFI and its partners to work with the AI industry to develop anti-discriminatory design principles that put ethics at the heart of technological progress.

The LCFI team will create toolkits and training for AI developers to prevent existing structural inequalities – from gender to class and race – from becoming embedded into emerging technology, and sending such social injustices into hyperdrive.

Paradigm Initiative publishes Artificial Intelligence in Kenya Policy Brief

■ Paradigm Initiative has published an Artificial Intelligence in Kenya Policy Brief. The brief highlights AI adoption in Kenya, the challenges, and the risks. In the publication, Paradigm Initiative calls for a framework that strikes a balance between promoting AI innovation and protecting human rights.

DIGITAL IDENTITY

Ghana’s National ID recognized as an ePassport for travel across 42,000 airports globally

■ Ghana’s National ID has been recognized as an e-passport for travel across 42,000 airports globally.

The announcement follows the country’s “Key Ceremony” at the headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal Canada. The ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD) is a central repository for exchanging the information required to authenticate ePassports.



South Africa Set to Launch Smart Driving License in 2023

■ South Africa’s planned new smart card driving license will be introduced in October 2023, with the existing card phased out over a five-year period. Transport minister Fikile Mbalula reiterated this at a briefing last week, during which he provided an update on the department of transport’s driving license interventions. The Minister said the new driving license card will have advanced security features and meet international standards, meaning it can also be used as an alternative form of identification.

DATA PROTECTION NEWS

France’s Data Protection Authority (CNIL) rules that Google Analytics breaches GDPR

■ France’s data protection authority (CNIL) has ruled that the use of Google Analytics by websites is in breach of the GDPR Privacy laws, due to the transferring of users’ personal data to Google in the United States.

In a statement, CNIL said that an unnamed local website’s use of Google Analytics was non-compliant with Article 44 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which regulates personal data transfers outside the E.U bloc, to so-called third countries, that are not considered to have essentially equivalent privacy protections. The CNIL directed that the French website manager in question had one month to comply with EU Regulation.

This ruling by the French data protection watchdog comes only weeks after the Austrian Data Protection Authority, also decided that the use of Google Analytics violates the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), due to the risk of U.S intelligence agencies being able to access site users’ personal data.



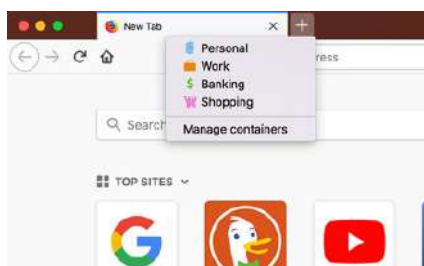
DATA PROTECTION NEWS

A Bill for Child Protection - Earn It Act, reignites a battle over privacy and free speech among US legislators

■ Tech companies may lose their legal protection under section 230 of the Earn It Act for having posts related to children exploitation shared on their platforms. The Bill though aimed for good has been criticized for its future impact on internet regulation and on-line freedom of speech. Critics such as civil society groups and other lawmakers have stated that the bill when passed into law may erode consumer privacy.

Internet advocates have mentioned that this bill may not secure children online but would end up harming other groups instead. They argue that they might weaken encryption that guards against the interference of private communications. Lawmakers may use this bill to also take down legal content that promotes content for sexual workers as well as the LGBTQ community.

Firefox VPN service is now operable within its Multi Account Containers feature



■ Mozilla introduced multi account containers as an add on feature that enables users to separate their varied personas online. Users may separate their work and private lives in different containers

and further personalise this separation using different labeling features such as colours and tags. Since the containers enclose website cookies and trackers, a user may access the same site using different accounts. Users have cited this enhancement as a productivity hack. Later in, mozillaVPN was released. Mozilla then combined the two features to offer more protection for users within the containers. Further, Mozilla released a new VPN multi hop feature that offers an extra layer of protection for users with high privacy risks.

IEBC turns down suggestions to include huduma number in polls

■ The independent electoral commission has turned down suggestions to include huduma number in polls citing time as the major limiting factor. Such inclusion would extensively impact the commissions operations with respect to Voter Registration and updating records in their database.

Moreover, incorporating NIIMS in the polls compromises the independence of the commission as they do not have granted access to directly procure huduma number data. This assertion results in the commission relying on another body for the data.

Indian Army Chinar Corps Facebook and Instagram accounts blocked with no legitimate reason

■ Indian Army Chinar Corps Social Media accounts were blocked with no valid reasons. Chinar Corps is a key Indian Army. The social media accounts were created with the main aim to counter misinfor-

mation online on the ground realities in Jammu and Kashmir. Despite reporting the matter to Facebook and efforts by the Defence ministry to address the issue, there has been no response made yet.



Meta threatens to stop access to its platforms in Europe

■ Meta, formally known as Facebook, threatened to curtail its users in Europe from accessing Facebook and Instagram if a new regional data transfer framework could not be made. This contention follows the European Court rejecting agreements between the European Union and the United States that were meant to offer a standardised data transfer framework. The Court of Justice held that the United States laws offered weak data protection. Unfortunately, Meta are placed at a disadvantaged position as governments are increasingly becoming confident in not caving in on big tech cooperation demands. Moreover, Meta recorded a drop in its active users and revenue. Fearing a downward trend, the company is desperate to develop strategies to salvage the losses. Meta ironically backtracked its statement, reframing that the position they took was simply a risk assessment one. This situation presents itself as a conundrum to the company which will eventually have to comply with European Union regulations or cut the provision of some of its services in the region. Both options may be disadvantageous to the company in different ways. In the former, Meta will need to invest in data centres for data processing in the region and in the latter, Meta stands to lose more users to other platforms thus recording further losses.

DIGITAL GOVERNANCE

Kenyan appointed to the Internet Governance Forum

■ Kenya's Fiona Asonga was recently appointed to the Internet Governance Forum Support Association's Executive Committee. She also serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the Technology Service Providers of Kenya. Fiona will join the Association to further its objective to promote and support the United Nations Internet Governance Forum's both national and regional endeavours.



ANTITRUST LAWS

European Union takes a step back on regulating Big Tech with Digital Markets Act

■ The Digital Markets Act was proposed in 2020 and is set to be passed in 2022. It is intended to act as an antitrust law and for consumer. The Act addresses how dominant Tech Companies stifle competition and access to these markets by other players. One proposed provision is to prohibit tech companies from locking their users to solely using their products by allowing for the deletion of preinstalled apps. Marshall Van, a professor of Information Systems at Boston University argues that the act's provision to restrict mergers and acquisitions is against value creation. He further asserts that large companies acquiring smaller companies could just as well offer competition to existing dominant companies.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Kenya's Copyright Bill proposes revised revenue share for ring-back tune artists

■ Musicians are a step away from earning 52 percent of sales generated by Safaricom's Skiza Tunes after MPs approved a proposed copyright law during the second reading. This means that musicians will earn more from ring-back tunes if lawmakers pass the Copyright (Amendment) Bill, 2021 sponsored by Homa Bay Woman Representative, Gladys Wanga. The bill awaits the last reading to become law.

Tiktok influencer Azziaad Trademarks her name and logo

■ After an unopposed and successful registration with the Kenya Industrial Property Institute, Azziaad has officially trademarked her name and logo. The visible tiktok influencer cited the eventual use of the trademarked name and logo in 'clothing, footwear and headgear' as her secondary meaning as is required for registration. She joins other Kenyan celebrities such as Huddah Monroe and Shix Kapienga who have their names trademarked.

Nkosana Makate, 'please call me' inventor wins court case against Vodacom

■ South African inventor, Nkosana Makate celebrates win in court case against Vodacom. Makate is the mind behind the widely used 'please call me' feature in the telecommunications sector. Makate refused to settle for Vodacom's initial offer of 3 million dollars asserting that the functionality has amassed the company 5 percent of its 13.2 billion dollars revenue over 18 years. Court ordered that they offer a better settlement.



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.

[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.

[The Blockchain Conference - 2022 - June 23 - 25th](#)

The African Women In Technology is hosting The Blockchain Conference. This event will be hosted Virtually & In-Person in Kenya from June 23 - 25th 2022. Learn about Bitcoin, DeFi, NFTs, The Metaverse, DESO, and more.

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

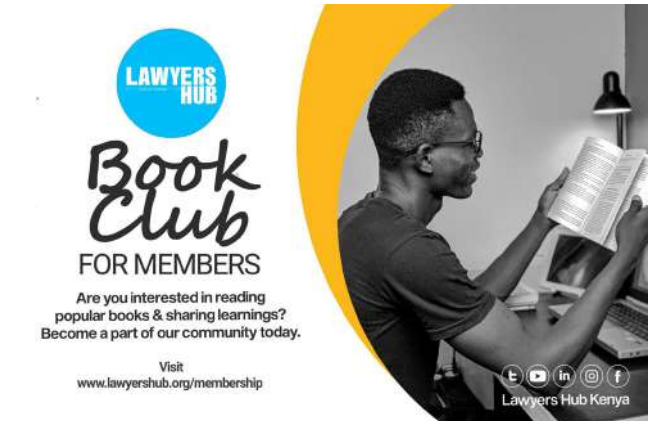
Lawyers need to learn the fundamentals of coding as the legal industry becomes more tech and data-driven. The Lawyers Hub has taken the initiative to ensure that its members develop these skills by curating a coding course for members.



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!

**Book a tour with us today!
Sign up today to get access to these amazing offers.
Visit 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

T: +254784840228 (to book your slot)



www.digitalpolicy.africa

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