

## France

### **French Data Protection Authority Launches Discussion Group**

The French Data Protection Authority has [launched a discussion group](#) on algorithms and ethics. The debate covers questions such as: Is this a new industrial revolution, or a simple way to improve productivity? Are algorithms the new decision makers? Do they have the effect of enclosing us in an information bubble, endangering cultural openness and democratic pluralism? The discussion group is open to any interested stakeholders.

## Germany

### **ZITiS Starts Work in Munich**

In a [press release](#), the Federal Ministry of the Interior (FMI) announced that the Central Location for Information Technology in the Security Sector (Zentrale Stelle für Informationstechnik im Sicherheitsbereich) (ZITiS) is being set up in Munich as a new body under FMI. The goal of ZITiS is to help with the struggle against terrorism, cybercrime and cyber espionage. ZITiS is designed to be a body for research, development and consultation, particularly in areas such as cryptanalysis, Big Data or digital forensics but it shall not have powers of intervention. The current plan is for ZITiS to grow in size over the next five years, employing 400 people by 2022.

## UK

### **ICO Responds to Ofgem's Call for Evidence on Smart Energy System**

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) recently [published its response](#) to Ofgem's call for evidence on a "Smart, Flexible Energy System". In its response, the ICO recognised the "importance of creating a smart and flexible energy network" through devices such as smart meters, pointing to flexible pricing and storage systems as useful tools in managing the electricity network in the future. The ICO cautioned that the large amounts of personal data, which will be generated and transmitted by these new technologies, will be governed by the Data Access Privacy Framework (DAPF). The DAPF limits the extent to which energy providers will be able to access customers' energy consumption data with half-hourly usage data only available in anonymised or aggregated form. The ICO warned against the use of profiling or targeting to encourage specific customers to change their usage habits except where opt-ins are in place. In relation to smart appliances more generally, the ICO emphasised the importance of ensuring that consumers are given sufficient information to make informed choices about which services they wish to use. In preparation for the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) coming into force on 25 May 2018, the ICO reiterated that any consents smart appliance manufacturers obtain from consumers must meet the requirements set out under the GDPR.

## US

### **Federal Trade Commission Releases Report on Cross-Device Tracking**

On 23 January 2017, the US Federal Trade Commission (FTC) released a [Staff Report on Cross-Device Tracking](#). The FTC Staff Report reviewed the uses of cross-device tracking technology and outlined industry self-regulatory efforts to guide use of the technology in advertising and other commercial contexts. The Report acknowledged the benefits and challenges presented by cross-device tracking and advised advertisers, online publishers, technology companies and others engaged in cross-device tracking to provide consumers with transparency, choice and security, per traditional privacy principles.

Commissioner Maureen K. Ohlhausen – whom President Donald Trump has designated to serve as acting chair of the Federal Trade Commission – issued a [concurring statement](#) noting that the FTC Staff Report on Cross-Device Tracking "does not alter the FTC's longstanding privacy principles but simply discusses their application in the context of a new technology."

## Contacts



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