

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. It is June 7<sup>th</sup> 2021, and this is the 7at7 series broadcasting from L200, here, and at the same time we are also here, in BigBlueButton.

Every 7th of the month at 7pm we offer an alternative news program about the digital world, and a special topic on digital empowerment.

We? That's a coalition of organizations like the ISOC Switzerland Chapter, the pEp foundation, NetHood, Digitale Gesellschaft, CCC-CH, open network infrastructure, CIRCE, the L200 space, and more: And we aim to answer the question "what type of Internet do we really need?"

To the increasing daily disasters that Internet corporations cause to privacy and democracy, even public health, we want to add positive stories of tangible alternatives: about what all of us could do to create a more healthy and sustainable Internet ecosystem.

After an avalanche of data leakages the previous months, this month there has been a lot of efforts to put a stop on the uncontrollable power of the GAFAM, which is: Google Apple Facebook Amazon Microsoft.

## **SLIDE**

The Financial times reports, that the European Commission investigates if Facebook is undermining rivals in classified advertising. What do you think about it? Do we even need advertising in return for our privacy anyway?

## **SLIDE**

On May 25<sup>th</sup> the European Court of Human Rights, Europe's highest human rights court, confirmed that UK surveillance regime from 2013 was unlawful. But courts decisions arrive always a little bit too late.

## **SLIDE**

Germany's lead data protection regulator for Facebook is banning the social network from processing personal data from WhatsApp users, because it finds the messaging app's new "terms of use" illegal.

A WhatsApp spokesperson said: "As the Hamburg DPA's claims are wrong, the order will not impact the continued roll-out of the update. We remain fully committed to delivering secure and private communications for everyone"

## **SLIDE**

In the mean time, ZEUS News reports, that no account will be deleted and no functionality will be removed unless WhatsApps “new terms of use” are accepted.

Let's see if the law can protect us this time on time, like, just right now!

## **SLIDE**

The law in addition of being slow, it cannot really capture all the fine details of online communication, like how important it is to make choices around human rights equally accessible. How can one explain otherwise that we are still fighting for the obvious? Like the CNIL in France, fighting to make it as easy to refuse the collection of cookies, as to accept them.

## **SLIDE**

And while Internet corporations are abusing or even bypassing laws around the world, they don't even pay their taxes! As CNBC reports, the finance ministers of the most

advanced economies, known as the Group of Seven, have backed a U.S. proposal that calls for corporations around the world to pay at least a 15% tax on earnings. Let's see if the Group of Seven will have a better chance this time.

## **SLIDE**

And while the artificial and human intelligence of such companies toward tax evasion prove to be really effective, the results are not so good as far as freedom of information is concerned.

As the Guardian reports, Microsoft has blamed human error after its search engine “Bing”, blocked image and video results for the phrase “tank man” – a reference to the iconic image of a lone protester facing down tanks during the 1989 protests in Tiananmen Square – on the 32nd anniversary of the military crackdown.

In addition to these institutional efforts to give the Internet back to the people, there are hundreds stories of small communities that try to resist, and create their own local infrastructures with the use of free, libre, and open source software.

The L200 space is one of them. Without even being a hacking community, they are inspired by the discussions at the 7at7 series and decided to buy their own server.

And it just arrived last week! And Panos will have a chat with it, or is it maybe even a her or him?