

CommsWire

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LABOR PROMISES ENCRYPTION LAW INQUIRY



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LABOR PLEDGES ECONOMIC INQUIRY INTO ENCRYPTION LAW

The Australian Labor Party has pledged to hold an inquiry examining economic impacts of the Federal Government's encryption law after the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security completes its [ongoing review](#) and submits a report on 3 April.

The pledge was made by Shadow Minister for Human Services and the Digital Economy, Ed Husic, at a forum in Sydney on Wednesday, organised under the banner of Safe Encryption Australia, and attended by about 320 people either in or associated with the tech industry.



Pictured above from left: Girl Geek Academy chief executive Sarah Moran, Shadow Minister for Human Services and the Digital Economy Ed Husic, Fastmail chief of staff Nicola Nye, NUIX founder and cyber investor Eddie Sheehy and Atlassian co-founder and chair Scott Farquhar at Wednesday's forum.

Husic, incidentally, was the only politician from a major political party to attend the forum which was organised by tech website InnovationAus and StartupAUS.

Husic, who was part of the panel for the event, said there were a number of Labor politicians who were aware of the serious implications the law, in its current form, posed to the Australian technology industry.

He said that he was aware of the pathetic level of consultation undertaken by the government before the bill was introduced and also the fact that many major players were not consulted.

Labor wanted to consult and make changes that would prevent the law from harming the industry, he added.

Two prominent Australian tech industry representatives — Senetas chairman and founder Francis Galbally and Atlassian co-founder and chairman Scott Farquhar (below) — stressed that a lack of changes would mean that industries would have to move out of Australia to keep their customers.



Atlassian, the biggest Australian tech company, and Senetas, which ships something in the region of \$2 billion of product to a multitude of customers, including the Israeli parliament, were not consulted prior to the drafting of the bill.

Galbally, who has given forceful presentations to the PJCIS during hearings in 2018, said he did not want to shift his company as he loved the country.

But he said he would have no option unless the law - officially known as the Telecommunications and Other Legislation Amendment (Assistance and Access) Act 2018 - underwent some radical

changes.



Among the things Galbally (left) listed were definitions for systemic weaknesses and vulnerabilities, and the degree of scrutiny that was carried out before requests were made for changes to existing technologies.

Others who participated in the event were Nuix founder and cyber investor Eddie Sheehy, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Innovation and Enterprise) UTS, Glenn Wightwick, and Girl Geek Academy chief executive Sarah Moran who acted as the moderator.

The Australian Parliament is expected to discuss the amendments to the law on 2 April when it reconvenes, before the PJCIS submits its report on 3 April.

Sam Varghese



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IMPORT, SALE OF SOME IPHONE MODELS MAY BE BARRED IN US

Apple may have to stop selling some iPhone models in the US if a judgment that found it had infringed on two patents owned by multinational semiconductor and telecommunications equipment company Qualcomm is enforced.

The recommendation to ban some iPhone models which contain modems from Qualcomm rival Intel came from Administrative Judge Mary-Joan McNamara of the US International Trade Commission, *The Verge* [reported](#).



The judge's [order](#) did not make it clear as to which iPhone models would be affected.

The judgment has to be reviewed by the ITC. A second case brought by Qualcomm is likely to be decided on Wednesday US time but that will not result in any ban on sales.

Last week, Qualcomm was [awarded](#) US\$31 million in damages for the infringement of three of its patents by Apple, from 6 July 2017 till the end of the trial on 15 March.

The verdict, by a jury in the US District Court for the Southern District of California, found that the iPhone 7, 7 Plus, 8, 8 Plus and X infringed two patents, and the iPhone 8, 8 Plus and X infringe a third.

The three patents in question cover technologies that were invented by Qualcomm in San Diego, a statement from the company said at the time.

Sam Varghese



John de Ridder

Telecommunications Economist

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OPTUS ANNOUNCES PRE-ORDERS FOR HUAWEI P30 SMARTPHONES

Optus has started taking pre-orders for the much anticipated Huawei P30 and P30 Pro smartphones, complete with dual-sim capability and AI powered camera system.

Optus said on Wednesday it will be offering the P30 Series smartphones with Dual-SIM capability, providing customers with the versatility between business and personal use of the device.

And Optus says the P30 and P30 Pro smartphone also introduces a “revolutionary” camera system including the AI-Powered Leica camera system, the superspectrum Sensor and the ultra-wide angle lens.



In addition to the photography innovation, Optus notes that the device has a long-lasting battery performance and a rapid supercharge technology.

Optus is offering the Huawei P30 (128GB) to purchase on the 24 month My Plan Plus from \$65 per month (\$45 plan plus \$20 per month handset repayments; minimum total

cost \$1,560 over 24 months).

The Huawei P30 Pro (256GB) is also available to purchase on the Optus My Plan Plus from \$80 per month (\$45 plan plus \$35 per month handset repayments; minimum total cost \$1,920 over 24 months).

Both handsets are available in the Breathing Crystal or Aurora colours.

Optus says all customers who place their pre-order for the new Huawei P30 and P30 Pro by 15 April 2019, can also redeem a bonus Sonos One Speaker valued at \$299.

Ben White, Optus’ Managing Director of Product and Marketing said, “For customers using separate smartphones for work and personal use, the Dual-SIM handset provides a convenient option to use a single handset across a suite of Optus’ My Plan Plus plans.

“The Huawei P30 Series innovative photography experience also makes this phone ideal for customers who use their phone for capturing those unforgettable moments.”

The Huawei P30 and P30 Pro have been available for pre-order from 9.00am (AEDT), Wednesday March 27 before the on-sale date of Tuesday April 16.

Peter Dinham

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ERICSSON LAUNCHES NEW SOLUTION TO 'ACCELERATE' PATH TO 5G

Swedish communications giant Ericsson says it has launched an easy-to-use cellular connectivity solution aimed at accelerating industry 4.0 digital transformation.

The solution – Industry Connect – is designed to enable communication service providers to offer dedicated cellular networks at factories and warehouses starting with 4G/LTE, with a clear path to 5G.

According to Ericsson the offering strengthens its private networks and IoT portfolios by making 4G and 5G technologies accessible to new industrial markets.

Purpose-built for industrial environments such as factories and warehouses, the dedicated cellular connectivity solution is aimed at enabling secure, reliable coverage with high device density and predictable latency.

“The solution aims to make cellular technology rapidly deployable for factory and warehouse staff,” Ericsson says.

“With industrial-grade wireless connectivity, Ericsson Industry Connect can enable innovative Industry 4.0 use cases such as: digital twin inspection (a real-time digital replica of a physical entity) with massive amounts of sensors, mobility for human machine interface (HMI) instructions for workers, collision avoidance and remote control for autonomous guided vehicles (AGVs), and collaborative robotics for automated operations.”

Åsa Tamsons, Senior Vice President, Head of Business Area Technologies and New Businesses, Ericsson, says: “Ericsson Industry Connect is built on design thinking to meet industrial customers’ requirements on speed, reliability and security, while being easy to install and manage”.

“It helps enterprises to accelerate their automation and operational efficiency to the next level. It complements service providers’ offerings to enterprises with a solution that is easy to scale.”

Ericsson said Swedish provider of transport solutions, Scania, has already implemented Industry Connect in its smart production lab in Södertälje, Sweden.

Roger Hartonen, Senior Manager Industrial IT, Scania Group, says: “High quality, fast, and secure connectivity of our industrial environment is now an absolute must for us. Ericsson Industry Connect gives us reliable wireless connectivity which will enable flexibility for us on the factory floor.”

According to Pierce Owen, Principal Analyst, ABI Research, “the technology case for private LTE has existed for some time now, but with Industry Connect, Ericsson has productised that technology in a way that empowers implementers and operators to deliver the benefits of private LTE to factories and warehouses with a real business case.”

Peter Dinham

US SMARTPHONE MARKET DOWN FOR 14TH STRAIGHT MONTH

Smartphone sell-through in the US fell for the 14th consecutive month in January, with a 2.7% fall year-on-year, the analyst firm Counterpoint Research says, adding that this was the second consecutive year when sales decreased in the first month of the year.

The firm said there was a 12% drop in January 2018 compared to the corresponding month a year prior.

Counterpoint research director Jeff Fieldhack said there were a few reasons for the downward trend.

"First, there were no flagship stockouts exiting 2018. There were near normal premium device channel inventories," he said.

"On the pre-paid side, the US Government shutdown delayed the potential early tax season bump in sales. Pre-paid and national retail tax season promotions were pushed from late January to mid-February. However, early indications suggest the pre-paid bump was small in 2019."

In other OEM news during January, Apple gained 1% in US market share with the sales mix shifting to the iPhone XR, with the display and lower price being driving factors.

Other notable developments:

- Samsung's Note 9 was the top-selling Android smartphone, but despite a continued strong showing by the Galaxy S9, Samsung lost some share as many consumers wait for the S10.
- LG gained share with decent V40 sales. However, most of the gains were because of LG devices were selling well within pre-paid — such as the LG Stylo 4.
- Motorola was hurt by the continued weakness within pre-paid. The E5 variants remain the company's top-sellers and remain very successful within Boost, Metro and Cricket.
- ZTE volumes are still a small fraction of what they were before the US sanctions. But the company launched a new device within Verizon pre-paid channels, the ZTE Visible R2. More carrier launches are expected in 2H2019.
- The top-selling premium price tier devices (above US\$600) continued to be Apple and Samsung. The Google Pixel 3 was a distant third.

Sam Varghese

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