



NEWSLETTER

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The SCIO Held a Press Conference on the Development of Industry and Information Technology

On March 3, 2021, the State Council Information Office (“SCIO”) reported that it held a press conference on the development of industry and information technology on March 1. Yaqing Xiao, Minister of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (“MIIT”) gave an introduction at the press conference. According to him, since 2020, the MIIT has carried out special app rectification activities, focusing on behaviors such as illegally obtaining mobile phone authority such as microphones, contacts, etc. He also mentioned that, in 2021, the MIIT will continue focusing on the key issues reported by the public, dealing with the use of personal information in accordance with the data minimization principle, and resolutely removing the apps that refuse to rectify from the relevant app stores; in terms of regulation, the MIIT will improve its technology equipment capabilities and detect information protection loopholes. ([More](#))

MIIT Requires 10 Apps to be Removed from App Stores for Infringing User Rights and Interests

On March 3, 2021, the MIIT released a circular stating that it will require 10 apps that have not completed rectification as required to be removed from the relevant app stores. On February 5, 2021, the MIIT released a list of 26 apps that illegally accessed to user’s microphones, contacts, photo albums, etc and asking them to rectify within certain time period. As the time of the circular, the reinspection results of third-party testing agencies reveals that there are still 10 apps that have not fulfill such requirements. As a result, according to *Cybersecurity Law* and *Interim Provisions on the Administration of the Pre-Installation and Distribution of Application Software for Smart Mobile Terminals* and other laws and regulations, the MIIT requires the relevant app stores to remove the 10 listed apps. ([More](#))

Guangdong Establishes the First Digital Government Standardization Technical Committee in China

On March 3, 2021, the Guangdong Provincial Administration for Market Regulation released a circular, stating that Guangdong will establish the Digital Government Standardization Technical Committee (“Committee”) to promote the reform and construction of a digital government. The newly established committee will be composed of 40 influential and representative experts from various fields such as social governance, data, regulation-making and standard-setting, and cybersecurity. The main responsibility of the committee is to lead the relevant units to carry out the research and drafting work of digital-government-related standards, ultimately helping the reform and construction of Guangdong digital government. ([More](#))

Overseas News

CDEI Releases COVID-19 Repository & Public Attitudes Report

On March 5, 2021, the Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation of United Kingdom (“CDEI”) published a new research on the use of AI and data-driven technology in the UK’s COVID-19 response. The report

highlights trends and patterns that the CDEI has identified from producing its COVID-19 repository, which is a database for novel use-cases of artificial intelligence and data specifically being used to counter and mitigate the effects of COVID-19. The report also contains detailed findings from a longitudinal survey, which it commissioned to understand UK public opinion towards the use of AI and data-driven technology in the UK's COVID-19 response. The key findings of the report are “public support for greater use of digital technology depends on trust in how it is governed” and “aside from advancing vaccine research, AI did not play the outsized role many thought it would in relief efforts.” ([More](#))

OAIC Approves Amendments to the Privacy Code 2014

On March 4, 2021, the Office of the Australia Information Commissioner (“OAIC”) has approved amendments to the *Privacy (Market and Social Research) Code 2014*. The updated code is initiated and developed by the Association of Market and Social Research Organisations (“AMSRO”), which sets out how AMSRO members must comply with the Australia Privacy Principles in the *Privacy Act 1988* in the conduct of market and social research. Under the updated version, members must notify AMSRO of any notifications made to the OAIC under the Notifiable Data Breaches (NDB) Scheme and of any serious data breach. The updated version also require AMSRO to review the operation of the code annually. ([More](#))

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