

USA¹: Twitter defending Tweets

by *Diana Haider*

The case deals with a Twitter user who was accused of having caused disturbance during the Occupy Wall Street protest in New York last year. As a reaction to this, New York's Criminal Court applied for his tweets. Twitter filed a memorandum declaring that the users are the owners of their postings and content.

South Africa²: Asking prospective employees for their Facebook password is illegal

by *Laura Rathmanner*

Following current issues in the US concerning the practice of demanding Facebook usernames and passwords from employees and job applicants, the discussion about the legality of these methods has now reached South Africa. However, according to law firm Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr, as discrimination due to race, gender, pregnancy, sexual orientation, HIV status, political opinion, conscience, language, religion and similar grounds is prohibited in Section 6 of the Employment Equity Act 55 of 1998 (EEA) and the access to a social network account would allow the employer to get such information local employees will not have to face similar problems.

Russia³: Русский Банк applies for registration of the "Like Button"

by *Andrej Diligenski*

The Bank Русский стандарт applied for Registration of a Trademark "Like Button" at the Federal Service for Intellectual Property (Rospatent).

¹ Twitter resists subpoena to release user's data without warrant, 08.05.2012;

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9226998/Twitter_resists_subpoena_to_release_user_39_s_data_without_warrant?taxonomyId=167

² SA law protects against employer Facebook prying, 07.05.2012; <http://businesstech.co.za/news/internet/11749/sa-law-protects-against-employer-facebook-prying>

³ Банк «Русский стандарт» регистрирует Like!, 10.05.2012; <http://marker.ru/news/524012>

China⁴: Social media behind the Great Wall

by Daniel Piff

It is clear that a free social media access in China is not given, but a scientist team of the Carnegie Mellon University wants to prove in their study in which manner the censorship works. Content of the study was a comparison between reports on Twitter and the Chinese social network Sina Weibo. Out of 1.3 million observed messages approximately 213.000 messages were deleted on Sina Weibo, but not one on Twitter. It should also be mentioned that in the southeast of the country far more messages were deleted than in the southwest.

India⁵: Google and Facebook have to remove contents

by Tatiana Horevajova

Google and Facebook have confirmed that they remove insulting contents of the web pages of their Indian subsidiary. Previously, an Indian court had already announced measures "such as in China," if religious sensitivities would be ignored. The companies were asked to remove content from their website that could be considered offensive by Hindus, Muslims and Christians.

UK⁶: Facebook hacker sentenced to eight months in prison

by Tatiana Horevajova

A 26-year-old computer science student from Yorkshire in the North East of England has been convicted of a hacker attack on Facebook to eight months in prison. He admitted that he neither wanted nor has forwarded information to enrich himself. He cracked the user account of a Facebook employee and found his way to secret internal data. He just wanted to uncover security vulnerabilities and update this to Facebook.

⁴ Forscher weisen Social-Media-Zensur in China nach, 27.03.2012; <http://www.spiegel.de/netzwelt/web/forscher-belegen-internet-zensur-in-china-a-823987.html>

⁵ Google und Facebook müssen Inhalte löschen, 15.05.2012; <http://futurezone.at/netzpolitik/7285-google-und-facebook-muessen-inhalte-loeschen.php>

⁶ Facebook-Hacker muss acht Monate ins Gefängnis, 15.05.2012; <http://www.spiegel.de/netzwelt/netzpolitik/hartes-urteil-facebook-hacker-muss-acht-monate-ins-gefaengnis-a-816129.html>

