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Shifting from strategy to execution in 2026

Issue 6

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1. Barbados locks in 2026 "must-happens" for infra, instant payments and Trident ID

Barbados' year-end technology review sets three concrete 2026 "must-happens": (1) modernise fragile core government systems and create a resilient digital state, (2) scale BimPay, the new national instant-payment platform launching March 31, 2026, and (3) make Trident ID the backbone of seamless digital public services with legal e-signatures and strong privacy safeguards. **Barbados Today**

Why it matters This is a rare, public, time-bound roadmap from a Caribbean government that explicitly links infrastructure resilience, real-time payments, and digital ID into one transformation arc, backed by hard data on 120% mobile penetration and ~80% internet usage.

Impact Rating: High (clear national blueprint, highly portable)

- **Pilot Watch:** Trident ID + BimPay + **alpha.gov.bb** is effectively a DPI stack in progress that others can benchmark against.

2. Guyana's digital health push: 50 new telemedicine sites and a training institute

Guyana's Ministry of Health is planning 50 new telemedicine sites as part of what officials describe as "one of the most extensive telemedicine networks" in the region, and has launched a Digital Health Training Institute to build the workforce needed to sustain these systems. **News Room Guyana**

Why it matters This is a live example of scaling digital health as *infrastructure* (networked sites, EMR, tele-consults) and as *capacity* (a dedicated training institute), backed by a clear political narrative about modernising healthcare and showcasing achievements at CARPHA's 2026

Impact Rating: High (regional model for rural care + skills)

- **Pilot Watch:** This is a template for combining connectivity, clinical workflows, and training into one programme rather than scattered pilots.

3. Belize's Digital Workspace: an internal platform for managing gov ICT demand

Belize's Ministry of E-Governance has launched a Digital Workspace – a modern intranet built on SharePoint with real-time updates, staff directory, unified calendar and search – plus an E-Governance Dashboard through which line ministries (via the CITO network) can submit digital/ICT project requests. The dashboard is expected to go live by January 2026.[Breaking Belize News](#)

Why it matters Instead of chasing digital projects by email, Belize is creating a central intake, tracking and coordination platform for ICT work, with Azure AD-based security and remote access – a very pragmatic "gov as product team" pattern.

Impact Rating: Medium–High (governance + execution capacity)

- **Pilot Watch:** This is an internal DPI building block every govtech unit needs.

4. CARICOM Knowledge Management Web Portal: towards a regional digital-data backbone

Regional IT stakeholders met in Trinidad & Tobago (19–20 November 2025) to review and validate the CARICOM Knowledge Management Web Portal and Framework (KMF), funded under the 11th EDF-ICT4D to support the CARICOM Single ICT Space and a data-driven digital economy. The portal will host regional indicators and allow Member States to upload/validate national datasets and generate national and regional reports. [winnmediaskn.com](#)

Why it matters This is essentially a shared regional data and knowledge layer for digital transformation, intended to support evidence-based planning, digital governance and transparency; once live, donors and partners will treat it as the "source of truth" for digital reports.

Impact Rating: High (standards + visibility for your performance)

- **Pilot Watch:** Every country will need a practical way to pipeline data into KMF.

5. Connectivity named the "cornerstone" of regional progress at CCS 2025

At the Connected Caribbean Summit 2025 in Grenada, CARICOM Secretary-General Dr Carla Barnett explicitly framed connectivity – digital networks, air travel, and maritime transport – as central to achieving CSME goals, calling for targeted investments, LTE/5G/AI adoption, and public–private partnerships to tackle limited flights, high costs, and uneven infrastructure. [CARICOM](#)

Why it matters This is political cover for big-ticket investments: it links last-mile connectivity, 5G rollout and AI adoption with aviation and shipping in one narrative, under the Single ICT Space and Regional Digital Development Strategy umbrellas.**CARICOM**

Impact Rating: Medium–High (strategic framing + financing leverage)

- **Pilot Watch:** Think "connectivity corridors" not isolated projects.

6. Caribbean Innovation Days: Guadeloupe, CARIRI and a bridge to Africa

The 2025 Caribbean Innovation Days in Guadeloupe (1–4 December) brought together ~300 participants, 100 ultramarine and Caribbean startups, 25 island projects and 20 investors for four days of AI/digital/territorial innovation, including a cooperation agreement between I-NOVA Technopole Guadeloupe and CARIRI (Trinidad & Tobago).**CIOMAG**

Why it matters This is emerging as a serious platform for island territories to co-develop AI, digital and climate solutions, with an explicit Caribbean–Africa bridge around "frugal innovation" and sovereign digital infrastructure.

Impact Rating: Medium (ecosystem + dealflow enabler)

- **Pilot Watch:** Ideal entry point for gov-backed pilots that need startups + investors + public partners in one room.

7. SheSecures: Ja-CIRT women turn a cyber competition into a talent pipeline signal

Two Tier Two analysts from Jamaica's Cyber Incident Response Team (Ja-CIRT), Monique Satchwell and Rheana Hagigal, took first place overall in the SheSecures Jamaica cybersecurity competition, with a second Ja-CIRT team placing second and MOCA analysts taking third; the competition, run with the Ministry of National Security and Peace and the OAS, targets women and girls 16+ with hands-on cyber training and CTF-style challenges. **Jamaica Observer**

Why it matters This is a concrete, repeatable model for building a cyber talent pipeline, especially for women, while strengthening CSIRT capability and national cyber resilience – at a fraction of the cost of traditional training.

Impact Rating: Medium (skills + diversity + CSIRT maturity)

- **Pilot Watch:** Extremely adaptable across the region.

8. AI-powered sexual extortion & digital-age policing: Jamaica and Belize highlight new risks

A *Jamaica Star* report warns that women and girls in the Caribbean are facing a "dangerous new frontier" of sexual violence as predators use AI tools to generate fake nude images and pornographic videos for extortion and humiliation, while a *Stabroek News* commentary urges stronger protections for women and girls in a digital age. **Jamaica Star**

In parallel, the Belize Police Department has launched a strategic planning workshop explicitly aimed at modernising crime-fighting in an era of cybercrime, transnational networks and social media-driven threats. **GBM Media**

Why it matters Digital trust is now directly tied to how well states handle AI-enabled image abuse, online gender-based violence and cross-border cybercrime – and both legal frameworks and operational capabilities are lagging.

Impact Rating: High (safety, legitimacy, and trust in digital channels)

- **Pilot Watch:** Pilots must be tightly coupled to law, policing and victim support, not just "awareness campaigns.

Trendline – 2026: From "strategy" to hard deliverables with dates and owners

Across these signals, a clear shift is visible:

- **Dated commitments, not vague aspirations.** Barbados, Guyana and Belize are all pinning concrete deliverables to specific dates – BimPay launch and Trident ID expansion, telemedicine sites and a digital health institute, a working Digital Workspace and dashboard in early 2026.
- **Regional rails for data and connectivity.** CARICOM's KMF and the CCS 2025 connectivity agenda create shared reference points for indicators, investment narratives, and infrastructure priorities, not just national one-offs.
- **Safety and talent joining the core stack.** SheSecures, AI-powered sexual extortion stories, and Belize's policing strategy show cyber skills and digital safety moving from side projects into frontline concerns for security and justice institutions.

Verified Future – Trust = ID + Data + Safety (or nothing works)

Looking 18–36 months out, these developments point to a "verified future" where digital trust in the Caribbean depends on three tightly coupled layers:

1. **Identity & Transactions:** Systems like Trident ID and BimPay will only succeed if citizens are confident their identities and payments are secure, private and recognised in law (e-signatures, liability, redress).
2. **Data & Evidence:** Regional platforms like the CARICOM KMF will become the scoreboard for how well countries are actually transforming; donors will benchmark you against these shared indicators, not your internal dashboards
3. **Safety & Protection:** AI-enabled sexual extortion, image abuse and digital violence against women and girls are already eroding trust in online spaces; if governments fail to respond with modern laws, rapid-takedown routes and trained cyber-policing, citizens will rationally avoid using digital channels for sensitive services.

Practical "trust stack" moves for 2026 plans:

- **Bundle ID, payments and signatures into a single trust roadmap.** Treat digital ID, instant-payments rails and legal e-signatures as one programme with shared privacy, security and redress mechanisms – Barbados has already drawn the diagram.
- **Align your metrics with KMF before it goes live.** Whatever you send into CARICOM's portal will define your reputation; invest a little now in data quality, ownership and automation so you're not scrambling later.

- **Stand up a "digital harms" playbook.** Combine cybercrime, CSIRT, regulators and social services into a single operational protocol for AI-generated abuse and image-based violence – and test it, like you'd test a DR plan.

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