Data Protection: Europe-wide Certification of Cloud Services

Certificates Confirm that Providers Comply with the New EU General Data Protection Regulation – Uniform Standards also Are in the Interest of Cloud Clients, Certification Authorities, and End Consumers

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The AUDITOR (EuropeAn CloUD ServicE DaTa PrOtectioN CeRtiFicatioN) research project is aimed at designing, implementing in an exemplary way, and testing an EU-wide data protection certification of cloud services for long-term application. "We want to enhance comparability of cloud services offered by companies from various EU member states and, thus, provide transparency," says Professor Ali Sunyaev of KIT’s Institute of Applied Informatics and Formal Description Methods. He manages the project with the Critical Information Data Protection: Europe-wide Certification of Cloud Services

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Infrastructures (CII) Lab at KIT. “This will be advantageous for all parties: Cloud clients are guaranteed compliance with data protection, cloud providers have an official confirmation of this security, certification authorities are given uniform standards, and the data of the end consumer are protected.”

To reach the objective of a standardized certification, more than 25 partners of industry and science cooperate under the project funded with EUR 1.7 million by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi). Among these partners are the German Federal Office for Information Security, Microsoft Deutschland, SAP, and TÜV.

First, scientists will develop a catalog of criteria for a certification according to GDPR. These criteria are to be standardized to form the basis of a DIN-SPEC (a preliminary DIN standard). It will serve as a basis of a European standard and the development of an EU-wide acknowledged data protection certification scheme.

Then, the project partners will develop a concept for using this certification scheme and will focus in particular on organizational structures and processes for certification. For this, modular certification and auditing processes will be specified and business models will be analyzed for the process.

In the course of the project of two years’ duration, the developed certification process and the catalog of criteria are planned to be tested and validated in practice.

More about the KIT Information · Systems · Technologies Center: http://www.kcist.kit.edu

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