
TOWARDS A SECURE AND TRUSTWORTHY INTERNET – ABSTRACT

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Abstract: Identity management with proper privacy protection and user empowerment is of pivotal importance for creating the necessary trust for a continued development of the information society. On May 2nd, 2007, the Commission adopted a Communication on Promoting Data Protection by Privacy Enhancing Technologies (PETs).

The Communication underlines that privacy is a fundamental right and is implemented in EU directives and Member State legislation. However, this may be insufficient when personal data are disseminated worldwide. Furthermore, the development of ICT constantly offers new services and benefits, but also new risks arise. Particularly in areas such as education and human resource management many personal data are processed, and measures should be taken to preserve the long-term trust in the underlying services.

The Communication calls for follow-up actions, including stepping up research and development, promoting the use of PETs by data controllers, standardization, and last but not least raising consumer awareness and facilitating informed choice making.

Keywords: trust, digital identity

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