

Privacy Laws in Germany and Europe

Johannes Waldmann, HTWK Leipzig

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Privacy: Definitions

- ▶ “data protection” (Datenschutz)
protecting the rights of individuals with respect to processing information (data) that is, or can be, associated to their person. (processing by individuals, companies, state institutions)
- ▶ “data security” (Datensicherheit)
technical methods, tools and procedures that are helpful to achieve this goal (and others)

this talk: focus on the legal aspects, in Germany and European Union

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- ▶ gives the correct general idea, but certainly
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... is necessary for society to function

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- ▶ companies: process personal data ...

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 - of employees, e.g., wages,
 - of customers, e.g. banks, insurance, car rental, ... (discuss: supermarket?)
 - of unrelated, unsuspecting third persons, e.g., for market research
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Privacy Laws: Historic precedents

- German/European privacy laws influenced by:
- ▶ confidentiality for certain professions
medical doctors, attorneys, priests, journalists
 - ▶ German national census (Volkszählung) 1983
declared unlawful by highest German court because it violates basic human right of *informational self-determination* (informationelle Selbstbestimmung)
 - ▶ East German (1949–1989) citizens under constant surveillance by state secret service, using collected (and fabricated) data for accusations, imprisonment, expatriation

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Law Making in Germany

fundamental procedure

- ▶ citizens elect parliamentarians
- ▶ parliament (discussed and) passes laws
- ▶ president signs and formally announces laws

on several levels

- ▶ state (e.g., city of Leipzig belongs to state of
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discuss: location of online service providers
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- ▶ know the laws, help (both sides) in applying them
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Public and Private Sector

laws for processing of personal data by public (state) institutions are very strict,

- ▶ purpose is to protect the citizen
- because the state is much more powerful
- and the citizen has no choice

laws for processing of personal data by private (commercial) entities are somewhat different:

- ▶ people are free to enter/negotiate contracts
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- ▶ browser identification (including OS name)
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<http://ec.europa.eu/justice/data-protection/reform/>

- ▶ right to “be forgotten”
- ▶ whenever consent is required, it must be given explicitly, rather than be assumed
- ▶ right of data portability (change of provider)
- ▶ applicable also for processing outside EU

Is this “killing internet economy”?

- ▶ hopefully, it kills the worst instances of it
- ▶ it improves the market (creates jobs) for privacy-sensitive service providers

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What Can You Do Now?

as individuals

- ▶ know how much of your (and your friends’) personal data you are paying for “free” services
 - ▶ think of the long-term implications (your employment, credit approval, health insurance)
 - ▶ know your citizen rights, and exercise them
- as (future) IT professionals: (all of the above and) learn and apply technologies for privacy:
- ▶ design systems that use personal data sparingly
 - ▶ secure communication on insecure channels
 - ▶ secure storage on untrusted servers

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Security in Untrusted Environments

the message should be encrypted, but the (decryption) key cannot be transported safely. solutions for secure end-to-end encryption:

- ▶ public (encryption) key
 - ▶ decryption key remains private
 - ▶ RSA (relies on hardness of factoring)
 - ▶ used in PGP (email end-to-end encryption) and for authenticity (signature) checking
- ▶ construction of shared (session) keys
 - ▶ Diffie-Hellman (. . . of discrete logarithm)
 - ▶ used in HTTPS, SSH, TLS

Separate Service from Authentication

- ▶ service provider (SP) delegates authentication to identity provider (IdP),
- ▶ SP does not receive/store password information
- ▶ example: Shibboleth protocol, example:
 - ▶ example: eduroam (guest WiFi access)
 - ▶ SP can provide anonymous services (IdP does not tell authenticated user's identity to SP)

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Experiments: Your Data on the Web

- ▶ find out what information your browser sends: in a shell, run `nc -l -p 9999` (keep running); in browser, open `http://localhost:9999/`
- ▶ find out to what additional web sites your data gets sent (Firefox → Tools → Web Developer → Network, ctrl-shift-Q)
- ▶ confirm that your browsers sends keystrokes as you type search terms (same method)
- ▶ view your cross-site tracking cookies with Lightbeam (previously: Collusion) Firefox plugin
- ▶ compare to data in the "EU cookie sweep" (find the official report, using a safe search engine)

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Experiment: break RSA encryption

- ▶ private key: (p, q) both prime
- ▶ public key: (e, m) where $m = pq$ and $\gcd(e, \phi(m)) = 1$ with $\phi(m) = (p-1)(q-1)$
- ▶ encryption of cleartext t is $t^e \bmod m$
- ▶ decryption of ciphertext c is $c^A \bmod m$ where A, B such that $A \cdot e + B \cdot \phi(m) = 1$, compute A, B by extended Euclidean algorithm
- ▶ proof: $Ae \equiv 1 \pmod{\phi(m)}$, thus $(c^e)^A \equiv c^1$ using Fermat's "little" theorem $c^{\phi(m)} \equiv 1 \pmod{m}$
- ▶ Ex: $p = 3, q = 11, m = 33, e = 3, \phi(m) = 20, A = 7, B = -1, 7 \xrightarrow{enc} 7^3 \equiv 13 \xrightarrow{dec} 13^7 \equiv 7.$

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Extended Euclidean Algorithm

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- ▶ Proof: modify Euclid's algorithm (for computing $\gcd(a, b)$) in such a way that it also computes c, d .

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- ▶ common, public: base g , prime modulus p
- ▶ A's secret is number a , send $g^a \bmod p$ to B
- ▶ B's secret is number b , send $g^b \bmod p$ to A
- ▶ shared secret then is $s = (g^a)^b = (g^b)^a \bmod p$
- ▶ use s for standard (symmetric) encryption
- ▶ Ex: $g = 2, p = 19,$
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