

PRESSECOMMUNIQUÉ

[09.03.2021]

OPRUFF FIR ENG CHAT-LÉISUNG DÉI EIST VERTRAUE VERDÉNGT

Dem Bierger an den Entreprises digital Léisungen ze bidden, dorënner och Chat-Léisungen (instant messaging), déi engem säi Recht op Dateschutz respektéieren an am Aklang sinn mat de moraleschen a legale Prinzipien, ass fir all europäesch Demokratie zu enger vun de gréissten Erausfuerderunge ginn. Fir den aktuelle Limitten, déi eis vun de groussen Acteuren an dësem Domaine imposéiert ginn entgéint ze wierken, muss iwwert eng alternativ Kommunikatiounsléisung nogeduecht ginn, déi en héicht Mooss u Sécherheet a Vertraue bitt an op oppene Standarde baséiert, an dat ënnert dem europäeschen an nationale juristesche Kader.

Elo wou d'Digitalisatioun vun eise Gesellschaften wéint der Pandemie vum Covid-19 méi séier virugeet, erliichteren Chat-Léisungen den Austausch am Alldag wesentlech. Dës Kommunikatiouns-Outil'en erweisen sech als praktesch an si quasi onëmgängelech. D'Kontroll iwwert engem seng eegen Donnéeën ass allerdéngs méisam a limitéiert.

D'Nuwell iwwert d'Ännerungen an der Notzung vu perséinlechen Donnéeën bei WhatsApp de 4. Januar dëst Joer, war wéi Bensin op d'Feier an huet vill User dozou bruecht op alternativ Plattformen ze wiesselen.

Och wann et aner Ubidder um Marché gëtt, bedriewen d'Hauptfournisseuren monolithesch Servicer, bei deenen de User un eng eenzel Firma gebonne muss sinn an domat och un deenen hier Geschäftsbedéngungen (déi meeschtens net immens explizitt kommunizéiert ginn). Zwar goufen op nationalem an europäeschem Niveau Instrumenter agefouert fir dem Schutz vu perséinlechen Daten e legale Kader ze ginn (z.B. RDGP Reglementatioun), mee d'Praxis gëtt keng Satisfactioun. Déi inherent an offensichtlech Problemer am aktuelle Kontext vum Messaging dierfen net ignoréiert ginn a verlaangen no enger Strategie fir Verännerung.

Duerch d'Zesummeféierung vun Acteuren am digitale Secteur zu Lëtzebuerg an den Opruff fir Ënnerstëtzung vu private Firmen, öffentlechen Organisatiounen a vun de Bierger, soll d'Entwécklung vun enger alternativer nationaler Chat-Léisung gefërdert ginn, déi folgend Garantie virgesäit:

- si soll den héchsten Niveau u Sécherheet a Vertraue bidden,
- si soll sech net op eng eenzel Entitéit stäipen an eng dezentral an federéiert Architektur bedriewen,
- si soll op oppene Standarde baséieren,
- si soll an europäeschen Datenzenter kënnen bedriwwe ginn an den europäesche gesetzleche Bestëmmungen ënnerleien,
- si soll déi national Kommunikatioun an Datenzenter kënnen sécheren, déi hire Sëtz zu Lëtzebuerg hunn an déi de lëtzebuergesche Rechtskader erfëllen.

Liest de Position Paper „Trustworthy Instant Messaging“ den zu dësem Zweck erstallt gouf a schléisst Iech dem Mouvement un: <https://trustworthy.messaging.lu/>

Ugespéngelt: Position Paper “Trustworthy Instant Messaging” (format PDF), mat der aktueller Lëscht vun de Signataireen.

Contact: yolande.roller@securitymadein.lu

Position Paper

Raising awareness about the usage of our personal data by using instant messaging apps and calling for a communication solution respecting GDPR and high security standards that enforce and protect European values and rights.

Early January, the very successful messaging application WhatsApp announced a change in its terms of usage, that allow, among the others, a further usage of personal data by its parent company, Facebook. These changes leave the WhatsApp users only the choice between allowing Facebook to reuse personal data or stop using the service and lose access to an admittedly convenient communication platform.

While the outcry triggered by Facebook's move has been significant, and people are flocking to alternative providers, the underlying issues with the current landscape of instant messaging needs to be highlighted - as well as a strategy for a change explored.

It is undeniable that instant messaging is a critical tool for quick and efficient communications, ranging from a purely personal text up to highly sensitive professional exchanges. While different application providers and alternatives to WhatsApp do exist, all the well-known big players are running monolithic services and thus users are subject to the persistence of a single company and the evolution of its own T&C. These T&C are in fact, most of the time imposed on users as an opt out and communicated through non-transparent and non-user-friendly means.

This reality is highly unsatisfactory, considering also the fact that, although important national or EU-wide legal instruments (e.g. the GDPR) were put into place in the last years, personal data of EU residents might be transferred to third countries and leave the scope of a data protection regime. After the invalidation of the Privacy Shield by the Court of Justice and the multiple privacy-related issues that Facebook faced in the last years - that it was not able to address convincingly - it has become essential for all European countries to rely on and provide to its enterprises and citizens access to messaging solutions that respect everyone's right to data privacy, in line with the highest moral and legal principles of every European democratic society.

Luxembourg and the next steps...

In order to move towards to a future solution that does cater for the essential needs that a trustworthy communication platform provides, we encourage and support the deployment of an instant messaging platform delivering the following guarantees:

- to offer the highest level of security and trust,
- not to rely on a single entity and to operate a decentralised and federated architecture,
- to be based on open standards,
- to be able to run in EU based datacentres and under EU legal regimes,
- to be able to secure national communications within Luxembourg based datacentres and under Luxembourg legal framework.

A standard defining a secure, decentralised and federated communication protocol does exist and has been put into production by several European countries. Supported by multiple open-source as well as vendor driven deployments, this standard implements all aforementioned requirements, rights and values.

France, Germany and the UK, are already using applications based on the open and interoperable matrix standard. Building on these examples we call on every company, each individual, and all public entities, to join the effort to save and protect the right to privacy and other fundamental rights of individuals, put at risk by the widespread use of all these communication apps. All citizens shall be able to exercise the right to control their own data.

Contact: trustworthy@messaging.lu

List of supporters:

- SECURITYMADEIN.LU
- Fondation Restena
- LU-CIX Management
- GovCERT
- Conostix
- Omnis Cloud
- Luxembourg Institute of Health
- POST Luxembourg
- cegecom
- EBRC
- LuxNetwork
- POST Telecom
- Broadcasting Center Europe
- Chambre des Métiers
- CEL SA - Société agréée PSF
- LuxConnect
- root
- PwC Luxembourg
- Syndicat Intercommunal de Gestion Informatique
- Global Media Systems
- Confédération luxembourgeoise du commerce
- Syndicat des Villes et Communes Luxembourgeoises
- Association pour la Protection des Données au Luxembourg
- Encryption Europe
- Université du Luxembourg

- [YOU]

Access the updated list of supporters here: <https://trustworthy.messaging.lu>