

# Organizational and Technical Data Security in the Context of European Data Protection Law

## *An Overview*



# The Speaker



**PhDr. M.A. Dipl.-Betriebswirt (FH) Thomas H. Lenhard, PhD.**

- Government-accredited expert for IT and data protection
- Accredited expert for the European Privacy Seal
- CEO of the medi-ip data protect UG, Bonn
- President of the German Association of Consultants and Experts in Health and Social Services (VBSG e.V.) and Chairman of its section “IT and Data Protection”

[www.it-planung.com](http://www.it-planung.com)

[www.medi-ip-dataprotect.com](http://www.medi-ip-dataprotect.com)







# Structure of the Presentation

- Why do we care about Data Protection/Privacy?
- The link between Data Protection and Data Security
- Data Protection in international environments
- Worse things happen at ... the computer center
- Categories of an data protection audit
- Some considerations about „Hacking“



# Why do we Care About Data Protection/Privacy?

CHARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION  
(2000/C 364/01) Article 8 (Protection of personal data):

- (1) **Everyone** has the right to the protection of personal data concerning him or her.



# Why do we Care About Data Protection/Privacy?

Article 8 Paragraph 2 of the Charter of fundamental rights of the EU gives a complete definition of the requirements that have to be fulfilled for processing personal data:

1. For Processing Personal Data it needs
  - a. The consent of the person concerned or
  - b. a legal basis
2. The use of Personal Data is limited to the purpose for which this data were collected



# Why do we Care About Data Protection/Privacy?

Unanimously, on the 18<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2013, the UN General Assembly has adopted the **resolution** about

„The right to privacy in the digital age“:

Member states confirmed to respect and protect data privacy





# Why do we Care About Data Protection/Privacy?

The aim of Data Protection is not limited to the prevention of unauthorized access to personal data:

Personal data has to be prevented from

- any kind of unauthorized manipulation
- loss and destruction
- unauthorized access
- any lack of availability and operational safety



# The Link Between Data Protection and Data Security

The most important regulations about data protection in the EU are:

**Directive 95/46/EC** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 Oct. 1995 on the „**protection of individuals with regards to the proecssing of personal data and on the free movement of such data**“

**Directive 2002/58/EC** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 July 2002 concerning “**the processing of personal data and the protection of privacy in the electronic communications sector**”  
(Directive on privacy and electronic communications)





# The Link Between Data Protection and Data Security

Technical and organisational measures

Article 4 Paragr. 1 of the Directive 2002/58/EC:

*“The provider of a publicly available electronic communications service **must take appropriate technical and organisational measures** to safeguard security of its services, if necessary in conjunction with the provider of the public communications network with respect to network security” ...*



# The Link Between Data Protection and Data Security

Technical and Organisational measures

Article 4 Paragr. 1 of the Directive 2002/58/EC:

- ... “Having regard to the state of the art and the cost of their implementation, these measures shall ensure a level of security appropriate to the risk presented.”



# The Link Between Data Protection and Data Security

Technical and Organisational measures

## Item #25 of the Directive 95/46/EC:

Whereas the principles of protection must be reflected, on the one hand, in the obligations imposed on persons, public authorities, enterprises, agencies or other bodies responsible for processing, in particular regarding data quality, **technical security** ...





# The Link Between Data Protection and Data Security

Technical and Organisational measures

## Item #46 of the Directive 95/46/EC:

Whereas the protection of the rights and freedoms of data subjects with regard to the processing of personal data requires that appropriate **technical and organizational measures** be taken, ...



# The Link Between Data Protection and Data Security

Technical and Organisational measures

Article 17 Paragr. 1 (Security of Processing) of the Directive 95/46/EC:

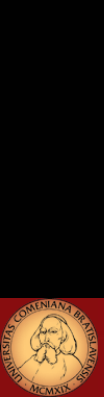
Member States shall provide that the controller **must implement appropriate technical and organizational measures** to protect personal data against accidental or unlawful destruction or accidental loss, alteration, unauthorized disclosure or access, in particular where the processing involves the transmission of data over a network, and against all other unlawful forms of processing.



# The link between Data Protection and Data Security

European Law does not only define that personal data have to be protected

European Law does also define that **there must be technical and organisational measures** to protect personal data







# The Link Between Data Protection and Data Security

The technical and organisational measures for protecting data can be summarized under the term

## DATA SECURITY

It is an essential part of **Data Protection/Privacy**



# The Link Between Data Protection and Data Security

Since technical and organisational measures involve, the European Law speaks about

- appropriate technical and organisational measures
- **the state of the art**



# The Link Between Data Protection and Data Security

The state of the art ...

... in the context of data security is found in standards like the  
**ISO 27001** (one of the most important standards in IT)

Even if standards do not constitute a legal obligation, special acts demand for the “state of the art”





# Data Protection in International Environments

Using an external data center (sic!) or an external provider for processing or storing personal data means in general

processing data as a service

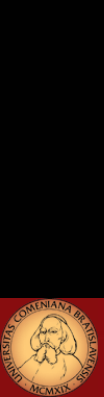
As long as a service provider is located in the European Community and data is not transmitted into a third country, it is assumed that the required level of data protection is ensured



# Data Protection in International Environments

**Safe countries** for data processing:

- States of the European Economic Area (EEA)  
= **EU Member States, Norway, Liechtenstein, Iceland**
- **Switzerland** (special bilateral agreements)





# Data Protection in International Environments

**Unsafe countries** for data processing:

All countries that are not defined as being a safe country ...

e.g. Togo, Bangladesh, India, Russia, Taiwan, Nigeria, North Korea,  
...and also the **USA**





# Data Protection in International Environments

**Directive 95/46/EC prohibits** in principle **the transfer of personal data** from EU Member States in countries that do not have a comparable level of data protection.

Since the United States of America are the biggest trading partner of the European Union a special solution has been launched by the EU:

## The Safe Harbor System



# Data Protection in International Environments

If an US-Company is member of the Safe Harbor System, it is assumed that the required level of data protection is ensured.

Members of the Safe Harbor System are e.g.

- Hewlett-Packard
- IBM
- Microsoft



# Data Protection in International Environments


Three methods are available to ensure the necessary level of data protection in third countries:

- The Safe Harbor System
- Binding Corporate Rules
- EU-Standard-Clauses (in contracts)




# Worse Things Happen at ... the Computer Center





# Worse Things Happen at ... the Computer Center

Data Security does not only mean using a Firewall



# Worse Things Happen at ... the Computer Center

Some disciplines that belong to Data Security:

Electricity and high-frequency technology

Fire protection

Water protection

Lightning protection

Protection against burglary, theft and sabotage

...





# Worse Things Happen at ... the Computer Center

Some disciplines that belong to Data Security:

...

Protection against espionage

Prevention against Human errors and technical failures

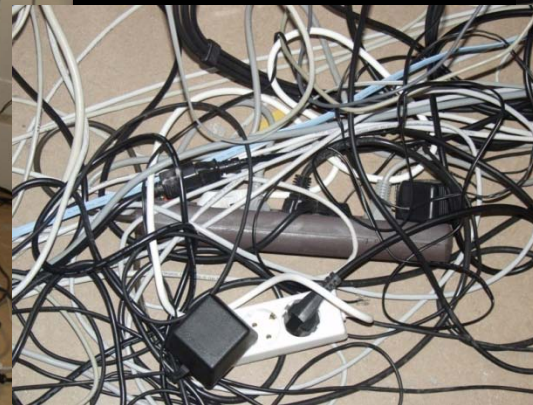
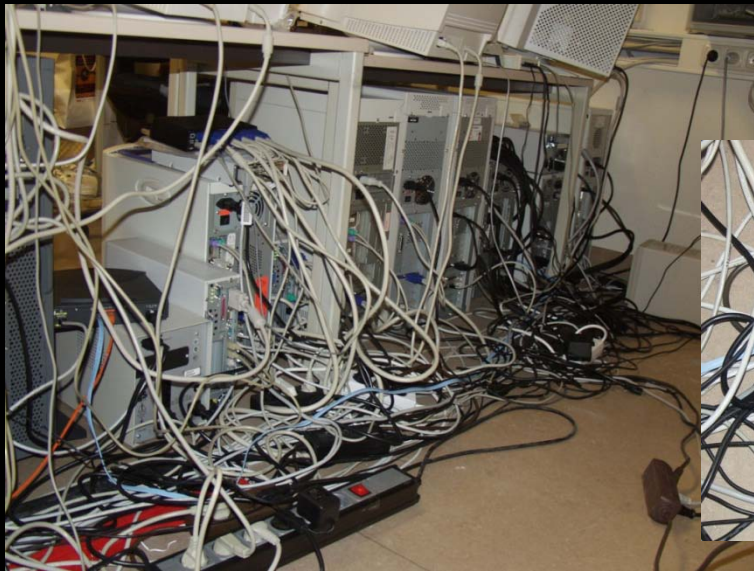
High-availability of systems (and data)

Protection against a loss of data

**Reliability of Systems**

# Worse Things Happen at ... the Computer Center

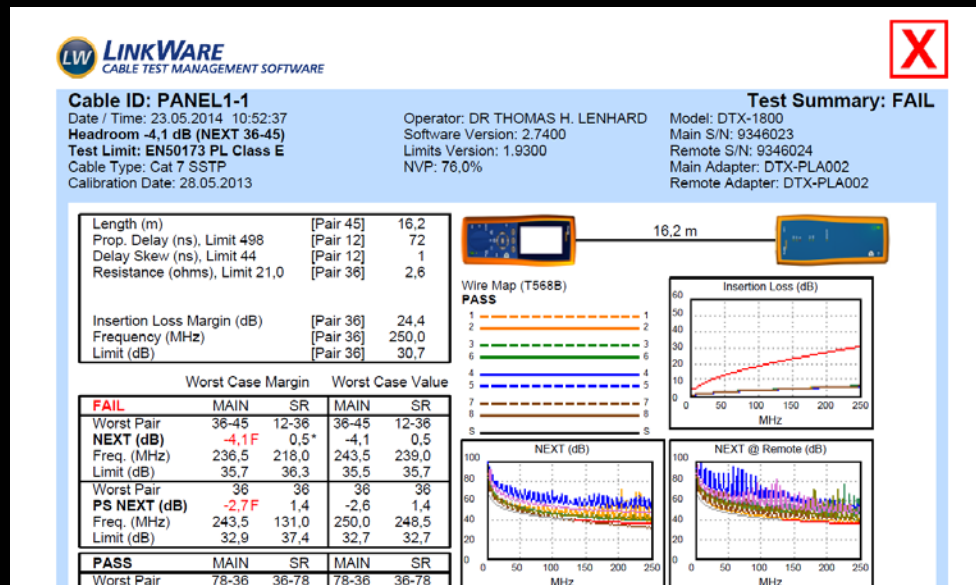
Impressions of IT installations





# Worse Things Happen at ... the Computer Center

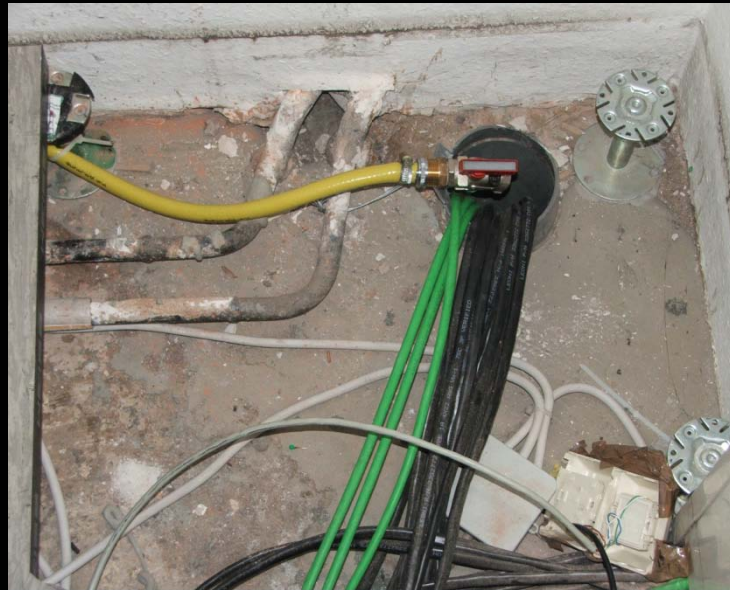
Impressions of IT installations





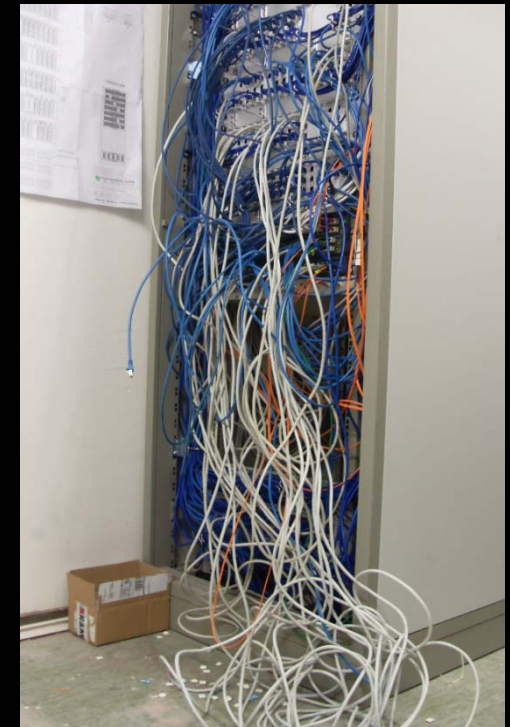
# Worse Things Happen at ... the Computer Center

Impressions of IT installations



# Worse Things Happen at ... the Computer Center

Impressions of IT installations





# Worse Things Happen at ... the Computer Center

Impressions of IT installations







# Worse Things Happen at ... the Computer Center

Sometimes the administrator is the biggest threat to IT security ...



# Categories of an Data Protection Audit

- **Entry Control (datacenter, server room, building)**
- **Admission Control**
- **Control of Access Permissions**
- Transfer Control
- Input Control (Validation)
- Control of Order
- **Availability Control**



# Categories of an Data Protection Audit

Basic Questions:

Which kinds of personal data are processed?

Which level of data protection/security is needed/necessary?



# Categories of an Data Protection Audit

## Entry Control (datacenter, serverroom, building)

- camera surveillance
- Intrusion detection (physical)
- Secure locking system / RFID-Tokens / Using Codes
- List of visitors
- Regulations about the permission to enter a server room
- Measures against unauthorized entry into the computer center or into office rooms
- ...



# Categories of an Data Protection Audit

## Admission Control

- Firewalls
- Intrusion Detection System (Software)
- Monitoring
- Standard procedures for locking unused network socket (e.g. RJ45)
- Data Encryption



# Categories of an Data Protection Audit

## Control of Access Permissions

- Regulations about the complexity of passwords
- Procedures to set up, lock or delete user accounts
- Concept about user group and user rights
- Logging of activities and access to personal data
- Regulations about handling passwords (employee training)
- Password protected screen saver
- Directions, e.g. locking out when leaving the office





# Categories of an Data Protection Audit

## Availability Control

- Backup concept
- Emergency manual
- Anti-Virus concept
- Concept about availability (e.g. Clustering)
- Risk management
- ...



# Categories of an Data Protection Audit

It is necessary for any data security/protection concept that the employees are trained regularly about ...

- Handling hard- and software
- Handling personal data
- Confidentiality obligation
- Risks, when using IT
- Dangers of viruses, trojan and other malware
- Dangers of hacking



# Some Considerations About „Hacking“

The danger of an privacy incident can be lowered significant or minimized by realizing consequently organisational and technicals measures.

**Hacking is only the second largest treath, because hackers use organisational and technical vulnerabilities** (in many cases, this is the result of insufficient planning and bad administration)





# Some Considerations About „Hacking“

Some simple examples:

Criminals use „hacked“ Wlans in order to deseive people. Sometimes WLans are not encrypted!

It needs less than 10 Minutes to hack an Wlan-Access-Point that uses the obsolete encryption WEP (Tool: Backtrack, Kali-Linux)



# Some Considerations About „Hacking“

Some simple examples:

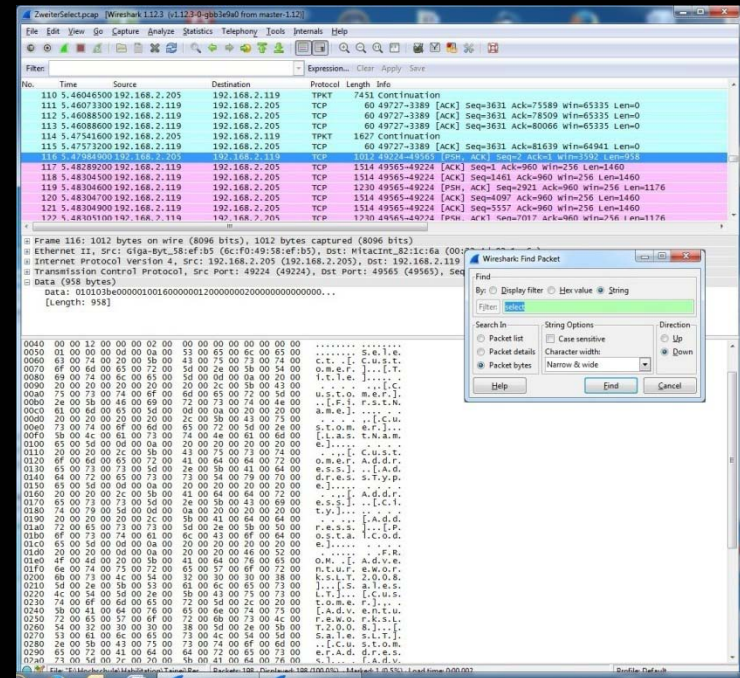
A defence company was hacked out from a computer room of European University in the 90's. Internet connection was available without authentication.

A vulnerability of former unix/linux distribution was used for this hack. The passwords were decrypted using dictionaries.

# Some Considerations About „Hacking“

Some simple examples:

If data is not encrypted in the network, TCP-packages can be logged very easy. Message can be read. (Tool: Wireshark) or VoIP-Calls can be replicated (Tool: Backtrack)



A SQL-Message is „sniffed“





# Some Considerations About „Hacking“

Some simple examples:

A very popular method to infect a companies network is to leave some USB-Sticks with some malware at the parking area of this company.

If a screen is not secured/locked while employees go to lunch, it needs less than one minute to install any malware or even to decrypt a passwords (e.g. in MS-Outlook)



# Conclusion

Data Security is an important item of data protection/privacy  
European data protection law defines a frame to protect our personal data by pointing to the state of the art  
European data protection law facilitates the cooperation of European and international companies  
Most cases of hacking and many privacy incidents could be avoided, if companies would scrupulously and consequent act according to the existing regulations and standards

**But data protection/privacy can only be succesful if you remember one thing:**



**Keep your eyes open!**

**Thank you for your attention!**

