

Session time and room: A5

Session topic: Protecting Critical Data Infrastructures

Session proposer:

Andre Kudra, co-hosted by Manuel (HonkHase) Atug and Christian Schülke

Attendees: Teemu Ropponen, Crt Ahlin, Heidi Nyqvist

Notes:

What to expect? - Problem Statement

Mankind has become dependent on digital data storages and services to an extent deemed unthinkable a few decades ago. In both our real-world and online lives, all our infrastructures are increasingly interwoven. Risks of poor infrastructure protection for our personal freedom and privacy are pointed out by those deeply involved. They are in a constant struggle for a just, fair, and secure world which relies on its technologies in a responsible manner. Security of (digital) infrastructures is a crucial and contemporary topic for everyone caring about personal freedom and of the society she lives in. The perspective taken in the session is a societal one with a certain technical element. The session features unique insights into real decentralized organizations which get together and act without the boundaries of legal entities.

Session thematic learnings

- 🔒 How IT/data infrastructures got compromised in confidentiality and/or integrity and/or availability,
- 🔒 the impact of this on the operating organization and its clients/users,
- 🔒 how incidents might be prevented.

Session collaboration learnings

- 🔒 Learning from [AG KRITIS](#) as a truly decentral organization.
- 🔒 Insights in this proven model of getting people from different backgrounds and organizations work together on a joint goal.

We rely on our data infrastructures being available at any time. What if they fail? E. g. communication infrastructure transporting our data - in written, audible or visible form - are a vital part of our daily lives.

Aspect 1 of this session was to raise the awareness for this and point out how outages can impact our data infrastructures, and consequently our daily lives.

Aspect 2 of this session suits ideally the MyData conference motto "Radical collaboration for designing the new normal". AG KRITIS has a proven track record of bringing expertise of people from different organizations and backgrounds together. They are joined under its mission of protecting critical infrastructures. AG KRITIS is a German working group consisting of 42 women and men, all experts in critical infrastructures. AG KRITIS is a volunteer-based decentralized organization, completely independent from state or private sector actors.

Manuel provided insights into protecting critical infrastructures (as defined by EU NIS Directive and the German implementation, the IT-Sicherheitsgesetz). He outlined the "disaster chain" starting with a longer (~5 days) and wide-scale power outage ("blackout") and consequences of this: IT infrastructure breaks down, hospitals cannot operate their medical equipment, gas stations cannot pump gas any more, cooling in supermarkets is off and much more. After about five days, the civil structures will break down, leading to situations similar to civil war.