

JCS special issue on EU-funded ICT research on Trust and Security



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Security and trust are essential pillars of our society. Today, secure and reliable ICT systems and the trustworthiness of the services they provide play a key role in the development of the Information Society. However, whilst ICT is pervading more and more human activities, citizens and businesses also feel increasingly concerned about the protection of their privacy and assets. In the digital world of today, massive amounts of personal data are being unwittingly left behind, generated or collected (e.g., for security surveillance, personalisation of e-services or social networking) and stored sometimes for a life-time or more.

This evolution raises new, unprecedented trust and security challenges for our society and economy. Increasingly, interconnected networks and service infrastructures and the forthcoming interconnection to the physical world (the so-called Internet of Things), are bound to bring unprecedented complexity and opportunities with unforeseen legal and societal effects.

Aiming at providing convincing solutions to the above challenges, the European Commission has initiated a combination of different actions, including research, policy, legislation, international collaboration and awareness initiatives, involving all key stakeholders.

In particular, research is needed to coherently address security, trust and privacy from a technological, as well as from an economic, legal and social perspective, in an effort to ensure innovation and economic growth in a society providing freedom and security for its citizens. To this purpose, the European Commission is supporting excellent European research in secure and trustworthy networks and service infrastructures, as an integral part of the European Union’s Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development (FPs). Research in ICT security and trust was promoted by the *Information Society Technologies* (IST) Theme under FP6 (2002–2006) and FP7 (2007–2013).

The research aims at building an open, secure and trustworthy Information Society in Europe, where citizens and organisations can fully reap the benefits from the new technologies. Central to this research is the objective to enable users to manage and

protect their digital assets, identities and personal data when they interact in the digital world. Funded projects explore scenarios for future evolution of technology, as well as their impact on the economy and society. They provide valuable feedback on future policy and regulatory options and contribute to the emergence of a coherent view on the way our free and democratic Information Society should develop.

I warmly welcome this special issue of the *IOS Journal of Computer Security*, as it provides the opportunity to draw attention to the European Commission's efforts in the field of ICT security, trust and privacy. The examples of IST-FP6 projects selected for this special issue are representative of the research carried out by EU-funded projects in the field of ICT security and trust.

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