

No data protection without data security

In the comment, Dr. Dieter Steiner, Managing Director of the IT security provider SSP Europe, explains how IT managers can use encryption solutions to strengthen data protection and data security in their own company.

At the Internet Conference DLD (Digital Life Design), EU Digital Commissioner Günther Oettinger announced that, in the course of unification of the digital market in Europe, the far-reaching and long-awaited European Data Protection Regulation should be adopted by the end of the year. This is intended to create a uniform legal framework for data protection throughout the EU. Data protectionists and the Federal Council are still skeptical about the draft so far, because they believe that they will not bring any more data protection in Germany.

The need for data protection is more urgent than ever before: the NSA affair has not yet been forgotten, as the Parisian terrorist attacks are discussing an encryption ban or at least access to intelligence services. And in 2014 the number of high-impact data scales has continued to increase, with a total of 580 million stolen records. Companies need to deal with how responsibly to deal with sensitive data and how to ensure that their data, as well as the data of their customers and business partners, are secure. Data protection is just an empty promise without effective data security. Unsafe data processing methods favor data protection violations. And in terms of data security, there is still a lot of catching up to be done in German companies, especially in medium-sized companies. The current DsIN safety monitor Germany has shown that in German companies the degree of digitization is growing steadily, but security awareness is decreasing.

Protection against misuse or manipulation

The Internet is part of almost every company working day and the mobile connection of communication to the company networks is increasingly growing. More and more sensitive information is processed and sent via the Internet and e-mail. In more than half of the companies (57 per cent) this is done without protection. Sixty percent of companies do not, or only partially, deal with the risks of Internet and e-mail communication. This also applies to the legal requirements for protection against access, misuse or manipulation. In principle, companies are just as negligent as sending business information via postcards or placing contracts on advertising columns.

It is important to strengthen the risk awareness and understanding of weaknesses in the company. Decision-makers and employees need to be sensitized, which can happen by risks from the outside or through carefree action in the company. In particular, manufacturers of IT security solutions are also required to provide more awareness. Because there are easy-to-use solutions that make the exchange of files and the distribution of confidential documents highly secure. In his lecture at the DLD conference, Günther Oettinger pointed out the thesis that European IT companies are no longer competitive. It certainly does not apply to IT security. Especially German suppliers currently have significant competitive advantages over US manufacturers, with most German companies having concerns about built-in backdoors. These advantages are to be exploited in order to further strengthen data security and thus data protection in Germany.

The original article can be found at <http://www.it-zoom.de/it-director/e/kein-datenschutz-ohne-datensicherheit-10380/>