

*Diplomatic Council*

## **Diplomatic Council warns against unsafe cloud services for data transmission**

*Berlin (ots)* - Dr. Thomas Lapp, Chairman of the Global Information Security Forum at the Diplomatic Council:

Similar functions, but serious differences in security

-TeamDrive and SSP Europe 's Secure Data Space are the most secure Sync & Share Cloud Services  
- End-to-end encryption, zero knowledge, and hybrid data storage are the most important security criteria

The Diplomatic Council (DC, [www.diplomatic-council.org](http://www.diplomatic-council.org)), a global Think Tank that advises the United Nations, has developed a joint report with the National Initiative for Information and Internet Security (NIFIS) on so-called "Cloud Sync & Share Services ", so Internet services for synchronizing data across different devices. The "Think Tank" has identified "serious differences in data security and data protection" with almost the same scope of services. According to the report, the two German services TeamDrive and SSP Europe's Secure Data Space are the safest.

### **Three criteria for safety**

Common alternatives from US vendors such as Dropbox, Box, Google Drive or Microsoft One Drive are not recommended because they do not support critical security criteria such as end-to-end encryption, zero knowledge system, and hybrid data storage. The Global Information Security Forum of the Diplomatic Council considers these three security features to be particularly important. The end-to-end encryption ensures that the data is neither encrypted during transmission nor during storage on the Internet. A zero knowledge system means that even the provider cannot decrypt the data and therefore cannot read it - even in the case of an official arrangement, for example. In hybrid data storage, the user has the choice of location and can implement additional classifications. Redundant storage and unalterable versioning mean that no data is lost, for example by technical failure or by an attack from the Internet. The data remain in each case recoverable. In the "Think Tank" report, a hybrid data storage is referred to as a "cloud criterion in the selection of a cloud-based sync & share service", so that in the event of a data loss in the cloud, all data are "non-existent".

As "notable", the global Think Tank states that "the two German-based services Telekom MagentaCloud and Strato HiDrive fail on practically all fields relevant to safety". The Diplomatic Council report states: "Without end-to-end encryption, without a zero-knowledge concept, without hybrid data storage, without audit trail space and without 2-factor authentication, no certainty security can be certified."

An audit trail space makes it possible to check who has access to the data at any time and who has changed, moved or deleted data, especially for years. The 2-factor authentication means that for each access to the data two hurdles must be overcome. Typical example: After the access attempt by means of a password in the Web, a PIN is sent to a previously stored mobile phone number, which must also be entered into the web in order to prove the access authorization.

## **12 services in comparison**

Overall, the Diplomatic Council has targeted twelve Cloud-based Sync & Share Services: Dropbox, Box, Google Drive, Microsoft One Drive for Business, Spider Oak, Syncplicity, TeamDrive, Secure Data Space, Telekom MagentaCloud, Strato HiDrive, Ctera Portal and Tresorit. According to the report TeamDrive and Secure Data Space are the safest services and the Global Information Security Forum of the "Think Tank" also benefit them that they are the only ones to bear the German data protection seal of the Independent State Center for Data Protection Schleswig-Holstein. According to the study, TeamDrive is the only service recommended by the German Lawyers Association (DAV) for professional secrets such as lawyers and notaries. As a professional secrecy the criminal code of the Federal Republic of Germany, for example, also names officers, doctors, tax consultants, auditors and public servants. In the case of an offense, a prison sentence of up to one year is imminent. According to the diplomatic council, a service that meets this high standard is particularly recommendable for the industry.

Dr. Thomas Lapp, Chairman of the Global Information Security Forum at the Diplomatic Council and Chairman of the National Initiative for Information and Internet Security, said: "It is to be hoped that the operators of all services will immediately recognize the security deficiencies of their services and improve them as soon as possible. A high level of safety is in the interests of all stakeholders. "

The Diplomatic Council (UNO reg.) is a global Think Tank accredited to the United Nations with advisory status to connect diplomacy, business and society. For this purpose, the Diplomatic Council links a global economic network with the level of diplomatic communication. As members, diplomats and personalities from business and society as well as responsible companies, scientific research and academic education institutions are welcome.

The original article can be found at <http://www.presseportal.de/pm/83471/3556257>