CLOUD ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT

Increasing consumer and business confidence

OVERVIEW

The Cloud Accountability Project (A4Cloud) focuses on the Accountability for Cloud and Other Future Internet Services as the most critical prerequisite for effective governance and control of corporate and private data processed by cloud-based IT services. The project will increase trust in cloud computing by devising methods and tools, through which cloud stakeholders can be made accountable for the privacy and confidentiality of information held in the cloud. These methods and tools will combine risk analysis, policy enforcement, monitoring and compliance auditing. They will contribute to the governance of cloud activities, providing transparency and assisting legal, regulatory and socio-economic policy enforcement.

OBJECTIVES

The Cloud Accountability Project (A4Cloud) has four interlocking objectives to bring users, providers, and regulators together in chains of accountability for data in the cloud, clarifying liability and providing greater transparency overall:

- Enable cloud service providers to give their users appropriate control and transparency over how their data is used.
- Enable users to make choices about how cloud service providers may use and will protect data in the cloud.
- Monitor and check compliance with users' expectations, business policies, and regulations.
- Implement accountability ethically and effectively.

APPROACH

The Cloud Accountability Project (A4Cloud) exploits an orchestrated set of mechanisms for addressing accountability in a preventive (mitigating risk), detective (monitoring and identifying risk and policy violation) and corrective (managing incidents and providing redress) way. The project will combine socio-economic, legal, regulatory and technical approaches and bring these together into a coherent and interoperable system of tools and services, enabling a shift to Accountability-based approaches for trust and security in the cloud.

Technical   Legal   Ethical

Accountability
Informed choice
Control and transparency
Compliance

This approach follows an inter-disciplinary co-design of the Accountability assets by implementing it in different perspectives (technical, legal, socio-economic and ethical) and addressing the four main objectives of the project.

Tools that help service providers be accountable for how they use data in the cloud

The project brings together a multidisciplinary consortium of researchers and practitioners from industry (multi-nationals and SMEs), Universities and Research Institutes.

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