CLOUD ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT

Cloud services allow enterprises to outsource non-core aspects of their business to third parties. The complexity of the service provision eco-system may not be visible to an individual or business end user. However, it should ideally be possible to hold each provider accountable for how it manages, uses, and passes on data and other related information. As such, cloud service users may hand over valuable and sensitive information to cloud service providers without an awareness of what they are committing to or understanding of the risks, with no control over what the service does with the data, no knowledge of the potential consequences, or means for redress in the event of a problem.

The Cloud Accountability Project (or A4Cloud for short) 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 A4Cloud 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.

The consortium consists of a multi-disciplinary team of researchers and practitioners from industry (multi-nationals and SMEs), Universities and Research Institutes. The project is led by HP Labs (UK) and the other partners are ATC (Greece), CSA EMEA (UK), ARMINES (France), EURECOM (France), Furtwangen University (Germany), Karlstad University (Sweden), Queen Mary, University of London (UK), SAP AG (Germany), SINTEF (Norway), Tilburg University (Netherlands), University of Stavanger (Norway) and University of Malaga (Spain).

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