Accountability for Cloud and other Future Internet Services

The A4Cloud project
Drivers for an accountability-based approach

Increase trust and assurance
Allow more dynamism
Decrease regulatory complexity
Provide effective data governance and control in cloud-based IT

Accountability-based approaches for trust and security

This project is partly funded from the European Commission’s Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) under grant agreement no: 317550 (A4CLOUD).
Conceptual Definition:

- Accountability consists of defining governance to responsibly comply with internal and external criteria, ensuring implementation of appropriate actions, explaining and justifying those actions and remedying any failure to act properly.

- Accountability for an organization consists of accepting responsibility for the stewardship of personal and confidential data with which it is entrusted in a cloud environment, for processing, sharing, storing and otherwise using the data according to contractual and legal requirements from the time it is collected until when the data is destroyed (including onward transfer to and from third parties).

- In addition, it involves committing to legal, ethical and moral obligations, policies, procedures and mechanisms, explaining and demonstrating ethical implementation to internal and external stakeholders and remedying any failure to act properly.
Increasing consumer and business confidence
The realm of accountability research

Inter-disciplinary approach for co-designing Accountability

- Technical: Control & transparency
- Legal: Accountability
- Ethical governance: Informed choice
- Compliance

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Demonstrating visible presence & leadership by partners
Publishing requirements, concepts and approaches early in the project
Targeting communities of interest and identifying early adopters
Engaging in standardisation during the project lifetime
Publishing guidelines and practices for cloud providers and users to use
Reference implementations and pilot services
Raising societal and economic impact

Make all stakeholders accountable for the use of data in the cloud

- Shift the balance of power in the relationship between providers and users of cloud services

Scale of economics on bringing data intensive services to the market

Uptake on new added value services

Novel accountability services businesses on the way

Independent initiative for accountability in cloud services

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Realising the benefits

For cloud service users

• Control and transparency over how their data is used
• Help in assessing trustworthiness of CSPs
• Support in obtaining redress

For service providers

• Techniques to make services more trustworthy
• Ways to satisfy business policies and demonstrate compliance
• Allowing differentiation

For regulators/auditors:

• Assurance about compliance with policies and regulations
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• DG.CONNECT – Unit H4: Trust & Security

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Project Duration: 42 months

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Stay tuned - www.a4cloud.eu
Thank You.