

International Working Group

on Data Protection

in Telecommunications

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P R E S S R E L E A S E

Working Papers on Smart Devices for Children and Privacy of Children in Online Services

released

The international Working Group on Data Protection in Telecommunications (the so-called Berlin Group), chaired by the Berlin Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information, Maja Smoltczyk, has accepted two working papers at its 65th meeting in Bled (Slovenia). After the conclusion of a written consent procedure the Working Papers have now been finally adopted.

Children spend a significant amount of time using online services, apps and smart devices. They are particularly vulnerable with regards to the protection of their data: children lack awareness for the risks associated with the collection and processing of personal data. Products and services for children must therefore meet high standards for transparency, validity of consent and privacy by design and by default.

The Working Paper on Protecting the Privacy of Children in Online Services highlights the risks and challenges associated with online services used by children. It calls upon service providers to ensure transparency and obtain valid parental consent for the processing of children's data. It also provides recommendations for policy makers, online service developers, and regulators.

The Working Paper on Privacy Risks with Smart Devices for Children examines the particular issues associated with smart toys: lack of transparency, security flaws, unlawful processing of data and possible abuse of smart toys by adults for surveillance purposes. The Working Paper elaborates recommendations to cope with these issues for all parties concerned: producers, users, schools and authorities.

The Working Papers are available for download at www.datenschutz-berlin.de/infothek-und-service/veroeffentlichungen/working-paper/

About the International Working Group on Data Protection in Telecommunications (Berlin Group)

The International Working Group on Data Protection in Telecommunications (IWGDPT, also known als “Berlin Group”) includes representatives from Data Protection Authorities and international organisations dealing with privacy matters from all over the world. It was founded in 1983 at the initiative of the Berlin Commissioner for Data Protection, who has since then been chairing the Group. The Group has adopted numerous recommendations (“Common Positions” and “Working Papers”) aimed at improving the protection of privacy in telecommunications. Since the beginning of the 90s the Group has focused particularly on the protection of privacy on the internet.

More information about the Work of the Group and the documents adopted by the Group are available for download on the website of the Group at <https://www.datenschutz-berlin.de/datenschutz/zusammenarbeit-und-gremien/>

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The Working Group has been initiated

by Data Protection Commissioners

from different countries in order

to improve privacy and data protection

in telecommunications and media