Protect

'Who should I trust with my data?': are decentralized technologies the answer to achieving ethical and lawful data governance practices?

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Session's summary

- An intro to the PROTECT project
- Starting point
  - Trust in digital services and data sharing policies
  - Existing and upcoming personal data regulations
- Decentralization as an answer?
  - The case of SOLID
  - 'Who should I trust with my data?' Citizens' think-in
- Individual v. group rights
  - Shared interest or joint good
  - Are group rights a threat to individual rights?
- Reconciling the individual with the group

The PROTECT consortium

CASTLEBRIDGE

University of Twente
The Netherlands

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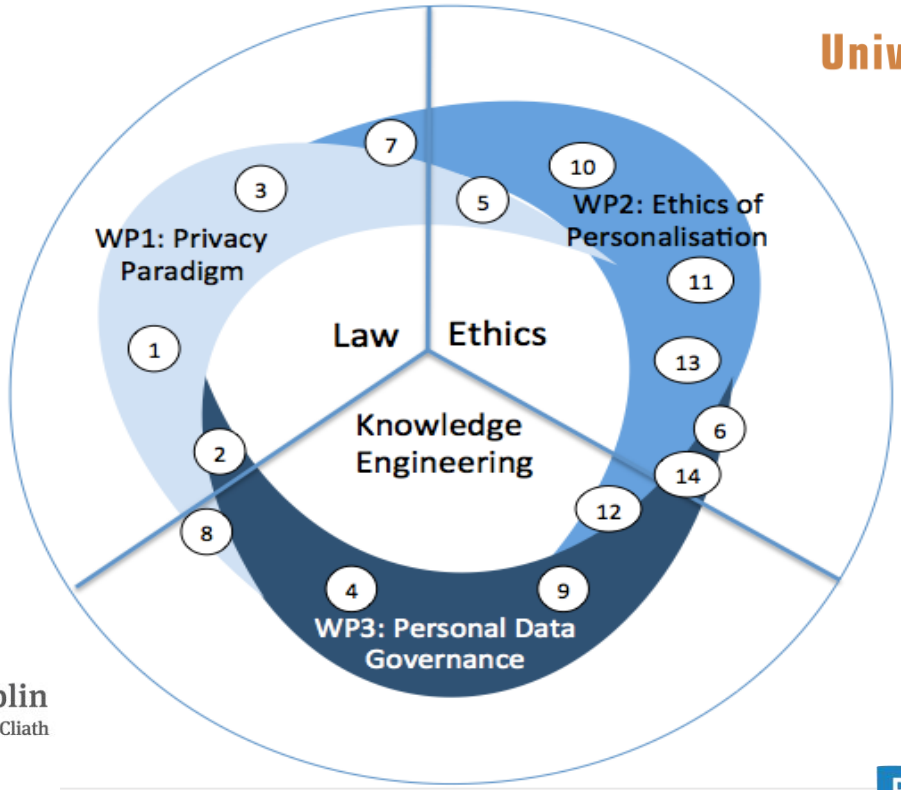

DCU

Trinity College Dublin
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POLITÉCNICA

Starting point: trust in digital services and data sharing policies

- Platform economy and data sharing policies
- Consent as legal basis = overloading data subjects with decisions
- Is decentralization really an answer to this? The promise of SSI/PIMS
- ‘Who should I trust with my data?’

Starting point: existing and upcoming personal data regulations

GDPR and… DGA, eIDAS 2, Data Act…

Individual rights vs. group rights

Individual-centered interests vs. group-centered interests

Is the upcoming regulation introducing something new?

What is the role of peers (decentralization) in this scenario?

GDPR vs decentralised data storage

https://solidproject.org

Solid is a specification for decentralised personal data stores based on interoperable data formats and protocols.

Ownership

Interoperability

Solid's Access Control Authorizations

Beatriz has full access to one of her web resources, located at https:// beatriz.databox.me/docs/file1

```
<#authorization1>
    a acl:Authorization;
    acl:agent  <https://beatriz.databox.me/profile/card#me>;
    acl:accessTo  <https://beatriz.databox.me/docs/file1>;
    acl:mode acl:Read, acl:Write, acl:Control.
```

‘Who should I trust with my data?’ – CERL approach

More information on the use-case scenarios and Think-In results at https://protect.oeg.fi.upm.es/thinkin/

Main findings:

- individual (enforceable) control over personal data through technological developments (personal data stores) could play an important role
- trust on public entities over private ones for the management of said data
- citizens’ responsability to engage with public bodies to ensure adequate information
- relevance of “personal” (in particular, family) relations to foster trust in online services

Grounding collective rights in public or joint goods

- It is required to ascribe rights to those whose data is stored in a group-data Pod to protect their interests.
- Establish rights that a group holds to protect its/their interests-group right.
- The collective approach to group rights: a group does not conceive as a moral entity on its own. The moral standing of a group is reducible to the standing of its members.
- A group right is a right that is shared or jointly held by a set of individuals.
- Those individuals then share in a right together that none of them possesses them separately.

1. Collective rights should be grounded on inherent public good (Raz, 1988): e.g., the right to living in a safe society.
2. Collective rights should be grounded on goods produced or constructed by joint action (Miller, 2001): e.g., the right to the use of a house (jointly built by agents).

- Q: What are the interests of individuals whose data is stored in a group-data pod? Have they met the criteria for public, joint/shared good, which are required to ground collective rights?
- Q: Does decentralized technology enable agents whose data is stored in a group-data pod to participate in joint action and then make it easier to assign them group rights?

The delicate balance between the individual and the group rights grounded on shared interest or joint good

Q: Are group rights a threat to individual rights?

- Due to the logic of collective or joint rights, a group's right cannot impose restrictions on its own members. If individual A cannot hold a right against himself, it seems strange to suggest that individuals A and B, as joint holders of a right, can hold that right against themselves (Jones, 2010).
- Protect the group from the outside world: the group must have rights against the outsider.
- This is particularly crucial to assess whether an individual can opt-out of a group.
- It is critical to investigate how to formulate group rights and what the duties of outsiders are in relation to those right-holders.

Questions for discussion

- What are the interests of the group in general, or a family in particular, whose information is stored in common data spaces in both the common and collective approaches?

- How individuals belong to a group and if opting out is possible?

- What measures, -ethical, legal or technical- can be taken to protect such interests?

- What is the best suited collective framework to govern the relationships of those who participate in common and collective approaches?

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Thanks for your attention and looking forward to your comments!

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