Press Release

Experts draw up a roadmap for the secure use of Big Data

- 12-point plan to help enterprises use big data responsibly, securely and innovatively
- Pseudonymous processing and privacy by design don’t offer adequate data protection
- The debate has to focus on technical procedures; security, transparency and data privacy are the highest priorities
- Collected data should always be encrypted and stored in distributed data repositories for evaluation on a legitimate request basis only

New York/Berlin, 1.12.2017 – Leading data experts have drafted a position paper proposing a 12-point plan for data security in the corporate sector. One author of “How to use Big Data?”, Emmanuel Letouzé (Director of Data-Pop Alliance), also proposes moving the emphasis away from the regulation of data collection to a debate on privacy preserving technical procedures that safeguard big data-driven innovation.

Solutions such as pseudonymous processing and privacy by design do not guarantee effective data protection, security and transparency, nor do they satisfy the requirements for innovative economics.

Letouzé developed a 12-point plan to encourage the corporate sector to use big data in a socially responsible way that doesn’t impact their innovativeness. Their recommendations include focussing projects and resources on solving public, socially relevant problems, the in-depth analysis of current risks and the communication of results through data visualisations.

In the foreword to “How to use Big Data?” Alex Pentland (Professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology), data expert, writes: “We will move towards social systems where human interactions are less confrontational; decisions more rational...”
The paper was developed in collaboration with the Vodafone Institute through a series of high-profile dialogues and debates in Berlin, Brussels, Madrid and Dublin involving experts such as Giovanni Buttarelli (European Data Protection Supervisor), Kenneth Cukier (The Economist, author of the best-seller “Big Data”) and Andrew Keen (“The Internet is not the Answer”).

Download full paper (PDF)

Data-Pop Alliance

Data-Pop Alliance is a global coalition on Big Data and development created by the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, MIT Media Lab, and Overseas Development Institute that brings together researchers, experts, practitioners, and activists to promote a people-centred Big Data revolution through collaborative research, capacity building, and community engagement.

Vodafone Institute for Society and Communications

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