Master’s Thesis

Technical Representation and Utilization of GDPR-Required Transparency Information

Context
Transparency is one of the core established principles of data protection / privacy regulations within Europe and beyond. The European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) therefore obligates any party collecting and processing personal data to provide respective information to data subjects (cf. Art. 11-15 of the GDPR). At the same time, the GDPR strongly fosters the principle of “data protection / privacy by design”

Problem
So far, transparency-related information has primarily been provided in textual form through privacy policies etc. For individuals to actually benefit from transparency obligations, however, technical approaches are inevitable. In particular, this is the case for settings involving multiple services operated by different controllers. Currently existing “transparency enhancing technologies”, however, do hardly pay regard to the concrete legal requirements given by the GDPR. Companies aiming to actually implement the principle of “data protection / privacy by design” with regard to legal transparency obligations thus clearly lack available technologies in this regard.

Approach
In order to pave the way for future scenarios of massively interconnected services operating on personal data, an easy-to-use technical solution for incorporating GDPR-compliant transparency information in Web-APIs shall be developed. Preferably, this is done through extending / building upon established API specification frameworks such as OpenAPI. Existing approaches for transparency-enhancing-tools/technologies (TETs) must be carefully taken into account. The feasibility of the developed approach must be demonstrated through appropriate implementations on service- and customer-side.

Skills: Strong implementation skills in the context of API specification frameworks and languages, interest in and at least basic knowledge of legal aspects of information systems engineering.

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