

BTO - Meeting between CAB Gabriel and Symantec - AI, IoT, Competence Centre, Cybersecurity, ePrivacy - 5/09/2018

Date of the meeting: 5/09/2018

Participants:

Commission: [Carl-Christian BUHR](#) [REDACTED]

Symantec: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Topics discussed: CERT-EU; AI & machine learning; IoT; Symantec's Privacy & Data Protection Lab in Germany; Competence Centre; Cybersecurity; ePrivacy

Follow-up: No

CERT-EU event

Symantec considers that it was a good event and Commissioner Gabriel made a good statement.

AI & machine learning / IoT

Symantec considers that machine learning (ML) and being able to deceive machine learning is an amazing and fascinating topic. For instance, how fragile ML implementations are for purposes of accounting or driving an autonomous vehicle (not for cyber purposes). It never considers an adversary in the model. Another fascinating topic is algorithms of facial recognition. Symantec tried to put something on the face to try to deceive machines. It turns out that you can print something on the rim of the glasses so it looks like camouflage, and the machine would think that this is another person. Euphoria around AI and ML but all you can say, measure, is outside. We don't know how to measure the downside of the application. Frontier of AI. Solution: you use other kinds of statistical input to make a decision. Look at the influence functions - how much they influence the consequences. If we can narrow the gaps of the edges of ML, that would be great. We need to understand the failure. IoT is another fascinating example. Optimising your decisions based on utility. According to Symantec, people have not done a good job at describing the risks, but just utilities.

Symantec's Privacy & Data Protection Lab in Germany

Symantec just opened a Privacy & Data Protection Lab in Germany to research privacy and is busy with it. The lab is conveniently co-located in Saarland with an Institute of the Helmholtz Centre. The lab takes privacy from a cross-sectoral approach, so broadly cybersecurity. Symantec hires people who understand triggers for people, for instance what if you go on a website you are not convinced it's good but not bad either. Change the symmetry of the browser: you feel like something's wrong. People are then much more attentive to the decisions they make then. Disconnect between perception and reality for the use of certain things.

Competence Centre

Symantec has research centres in DE, FR and IE in the EU, and is interested in participation. Symantec inquired how industry groups could participate.

One part of the initiative will be a body pooling resources at EU level, rolling out of technology and capacity building. It will be a body that will have the task of implementing the programmes Horizon and Digital Europe, but MS and industry will remain important. Consortia will be able to apply for funding just as today. Certain restrictions in participation will be in place. But any company whose business is in the EU can apply. Nonetheless, there's a debate on this at the moment.

Symantec considers that opening and interoperable ecosystems is the only way of securing.

Cybersecurity Act

Symantec tried to be constructive from the beginning; is in favour of it; believes stakeholders' involvement is positive. COM and ENISA have a role to play and they are comfortable with that. They want international standards and when there are none, then EU. International standards enable export outside the EU. Tech information schemes proposed by EP: Symantec is not in favour of making any of the schemes mandatory through the Act, wants to stick to COM position to make it voluntarily. Aligned very much with COM. If this ends up being mandatory Symantec can of course comply. It would be expensive as a lot of new tech would need to be certified and that could ultimately harm SMEs.

ePrivacy

Symantec doesn't think they have seen a big change in the Council regarding the security aspects of the proposal. While there was an attempt, it does not give desired clarity; there are discussions in the Council they are aware of. Symantec does not want to be a stumbling block. They want it to be fixed. Regarding security, 14 companies co-signed a letter recommending more clarity last 3 September.

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