eHealth Network – COVID 19 – Technical working group on contact tracing apps

2021-04-28 – 11:00-12:00

Participants
Commission Units: SANTE (A1, A4, B3), CNECT (H3), HADEA

Agenda

1. Updates on issue on GAEN API

Discussion

The controllers of the national contact tracing applications were also invited to join the discussions on the potential vulnerability on the GAEN API.

1. Updates on issue on GAEN API

The Commission debriefed on the latest state of play on the potential vulnerability identified by an external company in the US. The Commission was made aware of a potential vulnerability in Google’s implementation of the GAEN API last week, and informed the Member States about this, in its policy role of secretariat of the eHealth Network. This was followed up by an ad hoc meeting on 26/04 where the issue was discussed.

The findings of the report have been published by its authors here, and has also been captured by specialised sites.

Several Member States voiced their concerns about this vulnerability and several informed that they are investigating it. Several Member States have released statements on this matter, including e.g. __________. While investigating, although a data breach has not been confirmed, some Member States have informed their DPAs. There exist different opinions on the impact of this potential vulnerability on users’ privacy and the potential harm to fundamental rights. __ discovered the bug when performing security check in 2020, informed DPA but considered the vulnerability not critical, __ is considering the removal of the national app from the app market. MS will continue their analysis.
commercial interests

out of scope

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