The Digital Society Institute at ESMT Berlin

Supported by leading global companies in Germany, the Digital Society Institute Berlin was founded at ESMT Berlin in order to support the economic and social development of digitization through strategic research and development. The Institute designs effective, responsible strategies for politics, business and society in Europe's digital future, and develops innovative technologies for novel approaches to digitization. The Digital Society Institute is directed by Dr. Sandro Gaycken, a leading international researcher in the fields of technology and society, strategic digitization and cyber security, with more than 80 scientific publications to his name. He is a frequent speaker at Harvard, Stanford, Oxford and MIT, as well as an Oxford Fellow, EastWest Fellow, IEEE Reviewer, and NATO SPS Director. Dr Gaycken additionally advises numerous government institutions and large corporations on cyber strategies. The institute's Deputy Director, Martin Schallbruch, was formerly responsible for digitization, IT and cyber security in the German federal government, where he served as Director General for Information Technology, Digital Society, and Cyber Security in the Ministry of the Interior. He has extensive experience in legislation and national infrastructure projects, and is an expert on the cooperation between the public and private sector in the field of digitization.

Areas of expertise

- Digital Society and Strategy
  The Digital Society Institute develops scientifically-based cybersecurity and privacy strategies for manageable and tractable digitization.
- Digital risks and the evaluation of solutions
  Digital risks and security approaches aren't easily quantifiable at present. By developing methods for the evaluation, ranking and assessment cyber-risks and counter-measures, the DSI will make the appraisal of problems and solutions easier and more straight forward.
- Innovation and regulation
  Digitization requires dynamic regulation that promotes innovation, creating a stable framework for investment. The DSI is developing new concepts that combine the safeguarding of freedom and security with incentives to develop technical solutions.
- High Assurance technologies
  In technical development, the DSI is focused on approaches to high assurance computing that create an intangible Trusted Computing Base. Examples are moving target defenses, formal verification methods, microchips and hardware security. With these approaches, security problems can be solved completely and inadequate security approaches can be replaced.

Examples of Activities 2016

Conference "Defending Democracy. Increasing Innovation"; Conference "CyberNorms 4.0" at MIT; Partner events on cyber security concepts, European regulation, responsibility for software deficiencies, industry 4.0 with the Deutscher Bundestag and DAX-30 companies; Management of strategic NATO projects; Development projects on moving target defense and industrial cybersecurity; Studies and publications on Cyberreadiness for SMEs as well as Secure Industrial and Embedded Computing.

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