

'Clouds' under suspicion

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Cloud computing acts as a tool in the fight against cyber – crime due to the large amount of information, content and traffic communicated and stored thereon. This information if and when made available to authorities, contributes to forensics- crime investigation. Several factors, such as different laws on privacy and personal data, technical tracing of the servers, jurisdiction, are involved in the process. At the same time, clouds can be considered as facilitators of illegal online activity. This paper focuses on the role the clouds (Saas, Paas, Iaas) and service providers play either as police cooperators or as possible accomplices in online crime. Technical traits and architecture of clouds in combination with legal framework and investigatory authorities' practices in several jurisdictions (EU, USA) are discussed. Implicating issues of online privacy, access to data, property rights in data, cloud contract terms etc are also considered.