

Personal Data Protection in the era of cloud computing. New challenges for european regulators.

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It is widely acknowledged that we are entering in an era of revolutionary changes in the field of Information and Communication Technologies .

The spread of broadband internet connections has led internet to function not only as a communications network but also as a platform for new computing applications .

The most recent application is the so called " cloud computing", which permits the running of software applications or the storage of data to be performed at remote servers which are connected to our computers through the Internet. Examples of these applications are the web-based email services, online computer back up, data storage sites services, file transfer services e.t.c

These applications though, raise considerably strong concerns among privacy advocates , scholars and data protection agencies on a number of privacy and personal data issues in relation to their unique features that might easily put at risk privacy rights and undermine current personal data protection policies.

The personal data which might include sensitive information is transmitted, processed, and stored in remote places .The responsibility to secure this information falls into the hands of the hosting company. It is very important to determine the role of controllers and processors, to examine how much control and involvement over their personal data individuals have , how does the host company secure this data from possible breaches and which law applies in the clouds.

Our goal is to address these important data protection and privacy concerns within the relevant current european union legal framework and determine whether it can be the adequate response to these concerns.