

# Data Protection by Default – Requirements, Solutions, Questions

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[www.datenschutzzentrum.de](http://www.datenschutzzentrum.de)

## Setting of ULD

- Data Protection Authority (DPA) for both the public and private sector
- Also responsible for freedom of information

Schleswig-Holstein	
State of Germany	
	
Flag	Coat of arms
	
Coordinates: 54°28'12"N 9°30'50"E	
Country	Germany
Capital	Kiel
Government	
• Minister-President	Torsten Albig (SPD)
• Governing parties	SPD / Greens / SSW
• Bundesrat votes	4 (of 69)
Area	
• Total	15,763.18 km <sup>2</sup> (6,086.20 sq mi)
Population (2014-12-31) <sup>[1]</sup>	
• Total	2,830,864
• Density	180/km <sup>2</sup> (470/sq mi)

Source: [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schleswig-Holstein](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schleswig-Holstein)



Data Protection by Default



Source: [www.maps-for-free.com](http://www.maps-for-free.com)

## Overview

- Privacy by Default
- Data Protection by Design and by Default: not the same!
- How to?
- Potential undesired effects
- Conclusion

## Privacy by Default à la Cavoukian

“Privacy by default”:

- Part of “privacy by design”
- Privacy as the default setting:  
“If an individual does nothing, their privacy still remains intact.  
**No action is required on the part of the individual to protect their privacy – it is built into the system, by default.”**



Photo: anncavoukian.com

- *But what about an acting individual?*
- *Is full system functionality achievable?*

## Comment on early GDPR draft by the EDPS (2012)



“The principle of data protection by default aims at protecting the data subject in situations in which there might be a lack of understanding or control on the processing of their data, especially in a technological context.

The idea behind the principle is that privacy intrusive features of a certain product or service are initially limited to what is necessary for the simple use of it.

The data subject should in principle be left the choice to allow use of his or her personal data in a broader way.”

[http://www.edps.europa.eu/EDPSWEB/webdav/site/mySite/shared/Documents/Consultation/Opinions/2012/12-03-07\\_EDPS\\_Reform\\_package\\_EN.pdf](http://www.edps.europa.eu/EDPSWEB/webdav/site/mySite/shared/Documents/Consultation/Opinions/2012/12-03-07_EDPS_Reform_package_EN.pdf)

## Characteristics of defaults in design

- **Default** means:
  - **Initial pre-setting** (not only software UI)
  - Changes are **possible ...**
  - ... but usually **not needed**
  - Usually many users **won't change it**
  - In software design: “principle of least astonishment”



Leon et al. (2012): Why Johnny can't opt out: a usability evaluation of tools to limit online behavioral advertising

- Defaults can be **powerful**:

The **default effect** is the tendency for the vast majority of people to accept the default in an interaction. This occurs when avoiding the default is virtually effortless and increases with each step that is required to avoid the default. The default effect has significant implications for marketing, **choice architecture**, user experience, ethics and law.

<http://simplicable.com/new/default-effect>

E.g.: non-default actions for consent or buying goods

## Data Protection by Design & by Default

- Art. 25 GDPR
- Targeted at controllers + data processors
- Producers of IT systems "should be encouraged" (Rec. 78)

### Art. 25 Data Protection by Design and by Default

1. Taking into account the **state of the art**, the **cost of implementation** and the **nature, scope, context and purposes of processing** as well as the **risks of varying likelihood and severity for rights and freedoms of natural persons** posed by the processing, the **controller** shall, both at the time of the determination of the means for processing and at the time of the processing itself, **implement appropriate technical and organisational measures**, [...]

- Objective: **to design systems + services** from early on, for the full lifecycle ...
  - a) ... in a **data-minimising** way
  - b) ... with the most **data protection-friendly pre-settings**

## Data Protection by Design & by Default

- Art. 25 GDPR
- Targeted at controllers + data processors
- Producers of IT systems "should be encouraged" (Rec. 78)

### Art. 25 Data Protection by Design and by Default

2. The **controller** shall **implement appropriate technical and organisational measures** for ensuring that, by default, only personal data which are necessary for each specific **purpose** of the processing are processed. That obligation applies to the **amount** of personal data collected, the **extent** of their processing, the **period of their storage** and their **accessibility**. [...]

- Objective: **to design systems + services** from early on, for the full lifecycle ...
  - a) ... in a **data-minimising** way
  - b) ... with the most **data protection-friendly pre-settings**



## **Conditions “state of the art” and “the cost of implementation”?**

Identical wording in Art. 25 + Art. 32 “Security of processing”

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 25</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Data protection by design and by default</b></p> <p>1. Taking into account the state of the art, the cost of implementation and processing as well as the risks of varying likelihood and severity for rights and processing, the controller shall, both at the time of the determination of the processing itself, implement appropriate technical and organisational measures designed to implement data-protection principles, such as data minimisation, necessary safeguards into the processing in order to meet the requirements of data subjects.</p> <p>2. The controller shall implement appropriate technical and organisational measures only personal data which are necessary for each specific purpose of the processing. In particular, such measures shall ensure that by default personal data are not made available to an indefinite number of natural persons.</p> <p>3. An approved certification mechanism pursuant to Article 42 may be used to demonstrate compliance with the requirements set out in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 32</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Security of processing</b></p> <p>1. Taking into account the state of the art, the costs of implementation and the nature, scope, context of processing as well as the risk of varying likelihood and severity for the rights and freedoms of natural persons, the controller and the processor shall implement appropriate technical and organisational measures to ensure security appropriate to the risk, including inter alia as appropriate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the pseudonymisation and encryption of personal data;</li> <li>(b) the ability to ensure the ongoing confidentiality, integrity, availability and resilience of processing services;</li> <li>(c) the ability to restore the availability and access to personal data in a timely manner in the event of a technical incident;</li> <li>(d) a process for regularly testing, assessing and evaluating the effectiveness of technical and organisational measures ensuring the security of the processing.</li> </ul> <p>2. In assessing the appropriate level of security account shall be taken in particular of the risks that are likely to result from the processing, in particular from accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure of personal data transmitted, stored or otherwise processed.</p> <p>3. Adherence to an approved code of conduct as referred to in Article 40 or an approved certification mechanism referred to in Article 42 may be used as an element by which to demonstrate compliance with the requirements in paragraph 1 of this Article.</p> <p>4. The controller and processor shall take steps to ensure that any natural person acting under the authority of the controller or processor does not process personal data in a manner that is not permitted by this Regulation.</p>
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Several potentially limiting conditions (= upper + lower bound)

## **Conditions “state of the art” and “the cost of implementation”?**

On EU level nothing new, see Data Protection Directive 95/46/EC

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 17</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Security of processing</b></p> <p>1. Member States shall provide that the controller must implement appropriate technical and organizational measures to protect personal data against accidental or unlawful destruction or accidental loss, alteration, unauthorized disclosure or access, in particular where the processing involves the transmission of data over a network, and against all other unlawful forms of processing.</p> <p>Having regard to the state of the art and the cost of their implementation, such measures shall ensure a level of security appropriate to the risks represented by the processing and the nature of the data to be protected.</p> <p>2. The Member States shall provide that the controller must, where processing is carried out on his behalf, choose a processor providing sufficient guarantees in respect of the technical security measures and</p>
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No potentially limiting conditions (SotA, costs, risks): more powerful?

## Data Protection by Default

### Article 25 Data protection by design and by default

Related to the "purpose limitation" principle (Art. 5)

(2) The controller shall implement appropriate technical and organisational measures for ensuring that, by default, only personal data which are necessary for each specific purpose of the processing are processed.

That obligation applies to the amount of personal data collected, the extent of their processing, the period of their storage and their accessibility.

In particular, such measures shall ensure that by default personal data are not made accessible without the individual's intervention to an indefinite number of natural persons.

Influences access rights, encryption, location of storage (country/processor), ...

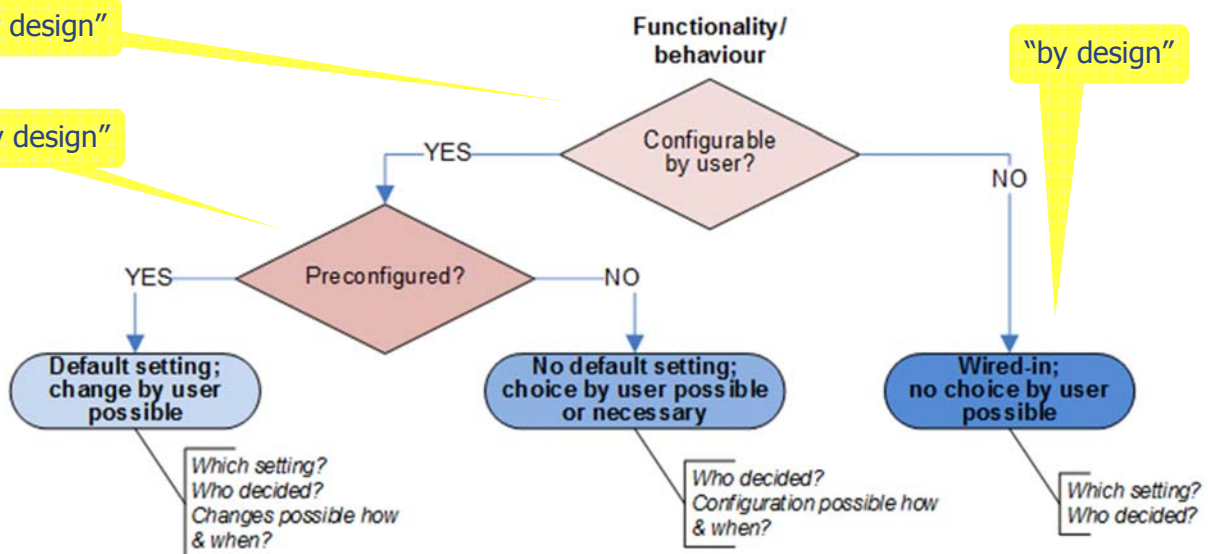
Social network clause

## Three cases for "(pre-)configurability"

"by design"

"by design"

"by design"



Ex.: anonymous use, no tracking

Ex.: choice of payment system

Ex.: encrypted communication

## *Two different types of configuration*

1. Configuration of a **process necessary for the purpose** within the application

Not so easy answer on the best default  
– depending on the purpose / functionality

2. Configuration of **an additional process** that is not strictly needed for the original purpose (≠ “simple use” / “basic functionality”)

Easy answer: Default = “NO”  
if additional purpose / party / personal data processing

## *Checks for defaults w.r.t. necessary processes*

Check:

- What do users **expect**? Rights & freedoms/interests?
  - In general?
  - On a more individual base?
- Where is **user interaction necessary**?
  - To decide on important parameters
    - Where to process data? Which jurisdiction?
    - Which additional parties?
    - Costs?
  - E.g.: choice of payment system
  - E.g.: choice of cloud storage location

Granularity?  
Usability?  
User guidance?

“One size fits all”  
doesn’t work here

## Scenarios for undermining the idea of DP by Default

### By obstructing functionality or usability:

- Providing defaults that won't work conveniently
- Demanding user decisions too frequently

In all these cases:  
Blaming DP law + authorities

### By ignoring "simple use" options:

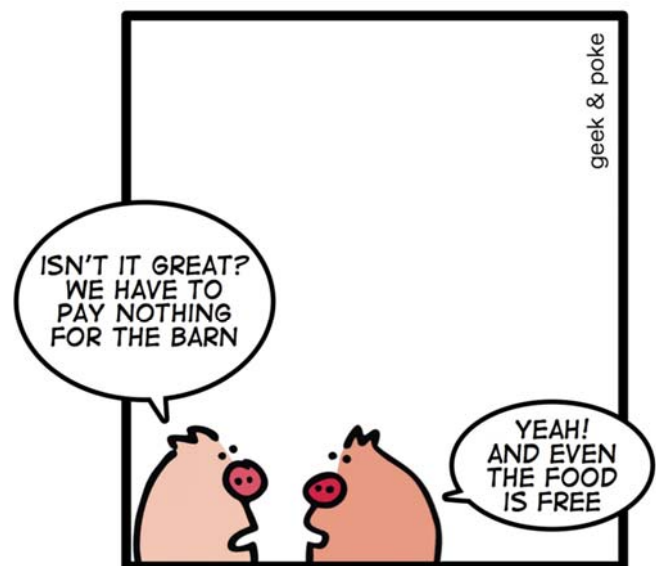
- Offering only services for purposes which need the data (e.g. personalised information)
- Relying on greedy technologies / infrastructures

### By collecting more data:

- Data for finding out the best default for the user
- Good default, but any change will cause massive data collection (consent)

## Potential side effects of DP by Default

- No default "payment by data":  
effect on business models,  
increasing prices
- Smart meter example  
(in standard implementation):  
transmission of only 1 value/year  
instead of smaller intervals  
not helpful for energy transition
- Disguising other default decisions  
(lock-in mechanisms)



PIGS TALKING ABOUT THE "FREE" MODEL

<http://geek-and-poke.com/geekandpoke/2010/12/21/the-free-model.html>



## Conclusion

- “Data Protection by Default”
  - ... is a rather **absolute** requirement
  - ... can be a game changer
  - ... and “... by Design” are **unlike twins**
  
- Practical **guidance** is necessary:
  - How to figure out (the) best default(s)?
  - Best for which user groups?
  
- Many **open questions** in practice:
  - How to achieve by controllers?
  - How to supervise by DPAs?



 Photo: Leon Riskin

## ***BTW:*** ***All translations are equivalent, aren't they?***

- [FR] Article 25: Protection des données **dès la conception** et protection des données par défaut
- [ES] Artículo 25: Protección de datos **desde el diseño** y por defecto
- [NL] Artikel 25: Gegevensbescherming door **ontwerp** en door standaardinstellingen
- [DA] Artikel 25: Databeskyttelse gennem **design** og databeskyttelse gennem standardindstillinger
- [SV] Artikel 25: **Inbyggd** dataskydd och dataskydd som standard
- [DE] Artikel 25: Datenschutz durch **Technikgestaltung** und durch datenschutzfreundliche Voreinstellungen

## Check your language on Art. 25 (2)!

2. The controller shall implement appropriate technical and organisational measures for ensuring that, by default, only personal data which are necessary for each specific purpose of the processing are processed. That obligation applies to the amount of personal data collected, the extent of their processing, the period of their storage and their accessibility. [...]

(2) Der Verantwortliche trifft geeignete technische und organisatorische Maßnahmen, die sicherstellen, dass durch Voreinstellung **grundsätzlich** nur personenbezogene Daten, deren Verarbeitung für den jeweiligen bestimmten Verarbeitungszweck erforderlich ist, verarbeitet werden. Diese Verpflichtung gilt für die Menge der erhobenen personenbezogenen Daten, den Umfang ihrer Verarbeitung, ihre Speicherfrist und ihre Zugänglichkeit. [...]

**MISTAKE:**  
extra word in the German version: "grundsätzlich" ("as a rule")

# Thanks for your attention!

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