



Press release

itrust consulting s.à r.l.

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Move securely withing the cyberworld

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To Luxembourg's press editors

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10 years itrust consulting

On 21st of June 2017 itrust consulting celebrated its 10th anniversary, in the beautiful Lalux auditorium in Leudelage. Four expert speakers provided excellent presentations, containing very clear messages to the audience.

First, Viviane Reding, former Vice-President of the European Commission and current member of the European Parliament explained the challenges involved in building the European regulation on data protection, and how Snowden's revelations helped to reach political consensus on achieving better data privacy. This was crucial to preserving European citizens' trust in their digital data. She illustrated the importance of achieving this task by using studies showing that after observing the last 300 likes by a given person on Facebook, a big data analyser knows that person better than his or her partner. She also mentioned other studies showing that beyond better tailoring of ads, such analysers could predict, or even influence one's behaviour in an election. An emphasis was placed on the point that political and legal policy change takes tremendous time to agree on and implement, while change and progress in IT is extraordinarily fast.

Prof. Bart Preneel from KU Leuven, in his talk on "Does Privacy Exist in the Future Cyberworld?", explained that the IoT market has been predicted to grow to \$3 trillion in 2020, of which less than 0,02% are spent on security. Knowing that already today, pacemakers are designed without security and can be easily attacked by experts, he recommended keeping a close watch on certain current trends: the IoT makes IT more intrusive, the technology of Big data and Data Analytics for Security allows its operators to know each user better than his or her friends, big data means even bigger breaches, and big data can be used for mass surveillance. He noted that the crypto wars between privacy advocates and government security agencies have returned, with the latter claiming that they need unhindered access to all electronic communications. To illustrate this, France and Germany are nowadays pushing for limits on encryption, without offering real evidence that this effectively helps fighting terrorism. He concluded by explaining how even the security agencies themselves are sometimes incapable of protecting their own offensive cyber tools, as evidenced by the very recent WannaCry outbreak.

Larissa Best, co-founder and representative of the think tank Équilibre of which the Ministère de l'Économie is a shareholder, helped the audience get a better understanding of the gender gap in the current IT sector, and how closing this gap could be not only a great societal step forward, but even a

wise business decision, given that studies show that roughly 85% of all purchasing decisions are made by women. She also presented an interesting theory on how the gap initially came to be, by showing that the IT industry had always been heavily tied to the gaming industry, and how the gaming industry has always been traditionally marketed much more towards boys. She concluded by giving some tips on how to eliminate the gap, from offering flexible working hours and encouraging the option of working from home, to providing constructive and positive working environments.

Finally, Dr. Carlo Harpes, the founder and managing director of itrust consulting recalled itrust's history, and showed how out-of-the-box thinking helped his small company to survive and grow. He complemented his 10-year-old principle of "tailoring information security to business requirements" by principles related to trust ("Be certified before your customers ask it of you"), efficiency ("Run a single management system"), effectiveness ("Be prepared for disruptive changes"), and flexibility ("You don't decide"). He finally combined his principles in an extension to the existing slogan: "Move securely within the cyberworld".

The academic symposium was enhanced by the young musical talents of the PHP Quartett, who created a pleasant atmosphere through jazz interpretations of well-known songs.

About itrust consulting

itrust consulting, an SME from Luxembourg specialising in Information Security helps its customers from both the public and private sectors protect their information against any divulgation, manipulation, or unavailability. Its services are related to building, implementing, and auditing Information Security Management Systems, assessing and treating risk with its own TRICK Service tool, deploying security experts whenever needed (SECaaS, or Security as a Service), on request hacking of our customers and handling cybersecurity incidents (malware.lu CERT), or designing and operating security solutions for ICT. These services benefit intensively from co-funded national and European research projects.