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Structures and Metaphors for Trust in the Cloud

Abstract: With the continuous advancements of Cloud computations, privacy and security research becomes of high importance of the design of future Cloud solutions. An EU project “PrismaCloud –Privacy and Security Maintaining services in the Cloud ”(Horizon 2020) aims to develop cryptographic tools, mechanisms and techniques for secure services for the Cloud. PrismaCloud aims to protect data security and user privacy primarily.

Since PrismaCloud will be focusing on cryptographic schemes (e.g., anonymous credentials, malleable signatures), these technologies might be counter-intuitive to users, thus an important goal is to design metaphors and analogies to evoke the right mental models in users to facilitate Trust in the Cloud.

Aiming for solutions addressing the needs and requirements of end users, HCI methods and guidelines play an important role in addressing usability aspects with human focus in PrismaCloud. Since our interest is focused on users’ expectations and opinions, we aim to produce qualitative data via semi-structured interviews. The interviews with stakeholders are used for eliciting security requirements for the project, in order to understand their needs, opinions, motivations for Cloud cryptographic solutions.

Preliminary results will be presented after conducting the interviews during May, 2015, with an initial analysis at the seminar.