

Trust as a foundational element for data sharing: the Gaia-X Trust Framework

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Trust, defined as the favourable response of a decision-making party assessing the risk regarding another party's ability to fulfil a promise, is an essential enabler for data sharing.

Participants in a data space need to have verifiable information about each other's identities and rely on each other's compliance with the data space rules, possibly including compliance with domain-specific standards and overarching legal requirements.

The Gaia-X Trust Framework, combining the most established standards on conformity assessment and digital attestations, provides the means to assess compliance with the requirements set to operate in data spaces while ensuring data sovereignty, security and transparency. Furthermore, it promotes organizational and semantic interoperability, by contributing to the alignment of business processes, focusing on the users' needs, and ensuring that the meaning of the exchanged information is preserved throughout the exchanges between parties.

The accreditation by the data space governance authority of the data space Trust Anchors, parties allowed to issue attestations about specific claims within a defined scope, is an essential component of the operationalisation of the Trust Framework.

From a technical standpoint, among the elements that constitute the Framework, asymmetric cryptography and linked data principles are used to build a machine-readable knowledge graph of claims about the objects of assessment, verify at any time the content integrity of the claims and keep track of the origin of claims and the parties issuing them

Finally, the Gaia-X Trust Framework introduces automation in the process of verification of compliance and speeds it up, with the result of lowering the costs and the barriers to participation in data spaces and involvement in data sharing processes, especially for SMEs.

Topic

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