



Press Release

Initiative „Strong Authentication – now!“ started to prevent cyber crime

[September 5th 2017] In the light of several security incidents concerning online service providers and the accompanying cases of identity theft, which affected millions of users, experts from various associations joined forces to start the initiative „Strong Authentication – now!“ (<https://2fa.jetzt>). Its aim at promoting the practical application of strong authentication mechanisms on the internet by raising the awareness of both users and providers of online services and to pave the way for the usage of secure authentication processes on the internet.

Preventing cyber crime – Digitisation requires secure online services!

The trading of electronic identities has evolved into a profitable business model for cyber criminals. The vast number of proven security incidents concerning online service providers, accompanied by often times million-fold cases of identity theft, has been reaching alarming proportions. On the darknet the trade of stolen data is flourishing. Additionally, users make it easy for attackers by using simple passwords for multiple systems and not changing them.

In an increasingly digitised society the secure electronic identity and its application present a good, which is worth to be protected. While there are various secure and user-friendly authentication mechanisms which could be used on the internet, users and service providers only rarely use them in practice. Despite known weaknesses the login at online services is usually done with user name and password, which does not provide sufficient protection for secure transactions. In the future this will have to be remedied through stronger mechanisms.

Experts request „Strong Authentication – now!“ and invite for participation

Against this background renowned experts from associations, companies and institutions formed the initiative „Strong Authentication – now!“. The first work result include a technology neutral [white paper](#) about strong authentication, which will be published during D-A-CH Security 2017. This close collaboration aims to raise public awareness for secure usage of online services.

The initiative's central goal is the promotion of the practical application of strong authentication mechanisms on the internet by raising both the awareness of **users** and **providers of online services** in order to pave the way for the usage of secure authentication mechanisms



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on the internet. The non-profit initiative is open to all who see the promotion of strong authentication as a desirable goal.

About the initiative „Strong Authentication – now!“

In the initiative „Strong Authentication – now!“ (<https://2fa.jetzt>) experts from various associations joined forces to set up a taskforce, which goal is to promote the practical application of strong authentication mechanisms on the internet by raising the awareness of both users and providers of online services. The non-profit initiative „Strong Authentication – now!“ is open for new partners and currently supported by the following associations, companies and institutions:

- Accessec GmbH (<https://accessec.com/>)
- AUTHADA GmbH (<https://authada.de>)
- Bankstil Blog (<https://bankstil.de/>)
- Bankverlag GmbH (<https://www.bank-verlag.de/>)
- Bürgerservice.org e.V. (<https://buergerservice.org>)
- Bundesdruckerei GmbH (<https://www.bundesdruckerei.de/>)
- digitronic computersysteme GmbH (<https://www.digitronic.net/>)
- eco – Verband der Internetwirtschaft e.V. (<https://www.eco.de/>)
- ecsec GmbH (<https://ecsec.de>)
- Giesecke & Devrient GmbH (<https://www.gi-de.com>)
- Institut für Internet-Sicherheit – if(is) (<https://www.internet-sicherheit.de/>)
- KikuSema GmbH (<http://www.kikusema.com/>)
- NetKnights GmbH (<https://netknights.it/>)
- Nitrokey UG (<https://www.nitrokey.com>)
- OMNISECURE (<https://omnisecure.berlin>)
- OSB Alliance – Open Source Business Alliance e.V. (<http://osb-alliance.de>)
- procilon IT-Solutions GmbH (<https://www.procilon.de>)
- REINER Kartengeräte GmbH und Co. KG (<https://www.reiner-sct.com>)
- REMPARTEC GmbH (<http://www.rempartec.com/>)
- Ruhr Universität Bochum (<http://www.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/>)
- Security-Insider (<http://www.security-insider.de/>)
- SRC Security Research & Consulting GmbH (<https://www.src-gmbh.de>)
- TeleTrusT – Bundesverband IT-Sicherheit e.V. (<https://www.teletrust.de>)
- XignSys GmbH (<https://www.xignsys.com>)
- Yubico (<https://www.yubico.com>)

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