Transparency Versus Security of Privacy-Sensitive Data: How to Deal with This Tension as a (public) Organisation

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SUMMARY

Transparency versus security of privacy-sensitive data:

How to deal with this tension as a (public) organisation

In recent years there have been calls for more transparency in (geospatial) data, especially when it comes to data owned by governments, as it promotes accountability and protects citizen's rights (e.g. the right to privacy). On the other hand, with the increasing dissemination of (geospatial) data and a growing risk of privacy violations, data misuse and cyber-attacks, the importance of robust data security is underlined. However, the right to public access to data and the right to privacy are apparently at odds with each other. Public access to data requires transparency, while privacy requires restraint or even secrecy. This paper explores the intricate balance that (public) organizations should strike to safeguard sensitive data while maintaining transparency of the same data based on experiences and best practices from Kadaster.

The tension between transparency and security of data creates a challenge which also applies to the Netherlands' Cadastre, Land Registry and Mapping Agency (Kadaster). Kadaster is developing a system to deal with this challenge to counter several issues, such as: How do we ensure that Kadaster is transparent about the personal data that they have provided about someone?; How does Kadaster ensure that the personal data of people who are threatened do not end up on the street?; Are the measures Kadaster takes for this purpose legally and ethically justified?; What is Kadaster allowed to do as a government organization and what do we need to do as

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Kadaster?

Kadaster organizes its systems in such a way that the above issues can be addressed and at the same time unauthorized consultations, irregularities and abuse can be detected. In this paper, we delve into the evolving landscape of privacy-sensitive data, and we offer insights and best practices how Kadaster organizes its systems to deal with the tension between transparency and security.

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