Preamble: objectives

As the influence of personal data in contemporary society continues to expand, the need to share the knowledge, control, use and value of personal data with the people it concerns becomes increasingly urgent.

Although we use different words to describe what we do–Self Data, MyData, Personal Cloud, VRM (Vendor Relationship Management), PIMS (Personal Information Management Systems)–we share the same goal: to empower individuals with their personal data. Through the use of their own data, we want to help people develop the skills they need to increase their knowledge, make informed decisions, and interact more consciously and efficiently with other organizations, communities and individuals.

Individual empowerment will never supplant the need to protect personal privacy and personal data, but its prospect opens up a new, more positive dimension to that protection. It also paves the way for the development of new uses, new services, new kinds of relationships between individuals and organizations and new modes of collaboration.

We together hold the conviction that the sustainable growth of a data-driven economy must rest on trust. This trust can only exist if organizations share the power of data with their customers and users.

A definition of "roles" in Self Data

Note: the same actor (especially a business or administration) can fulfill several roles at once.

- **User**: an individual or household that produces, gathers, manages and makes use of their own personal data, for their own purposes and under their control, with or without the help of a platform.

- **Data controller**: holds personal data about individuals/users–be it captured, collected, or co-produced.

- **Platform**: allows the user to collect personal data (or access permissions to its data through APIs and other connectors), gather it into a secure personal space, and manage and exploit the data either individually or with the help of third-party services.

- **Reuser, Third party service provider**: provider of services and applications that rely on personal data to provide benefits to users who choose to install and/or use them.

With the above principles and definitions in mind, we are committed to the following principles:

>> Protection and control of personal data

1. We respect European regulations and the national laws that govern the protection of personal data and privacy.

2. Access to, addition of or retrieval of users’ personal data from a secure personal space, installation and activation of an application or service that uses this data, as well as data sharing with third parties, may only occur on the basis of free, informed and explicit user consent, and under the user’s permanent control. Consent shall specify any and all personal data concerned, what ends are sought, as well as the location, storage conditions and shelf life of data. Consent shall be renewed when necessary, particularly at times when parameters (such as type or purpose) change. Consent can easily be withdrawn at any time.

3. Platform users may at any time correct or delete saved personal data. Such
deletion shall take effect within a reasonable span of time, and shall apply to all copies of the data saved in the personal space, unless a user explicitly requests or accepts its conservation.

4. The storage, use and exchange of personal data and digital identities shall be secured at the highest level of the state of the art. Service designers and application programmers shall respect the principles of privacy by design. Any security problems affecting users’ personal data and/or their digital identity shall be reported to them as soon as possible.

5. Self Data aims to provide individuals with operable knowledge, and effective control and use of their data, to develop their informational self-determination and empowerment. All activities and knowledge related to the Self Data are evaluated against this objective.

6. Users are free to use the data they have provided, transmitted, produced and co-produced, or that has been captured or collected via their activity, in any way that makes sense to them, to the exclusion of outright data sale or rental against monetary compensation. Apart from restrictions imposed by current legislation, no restrictions shall be placed on data use when freely chosen and/or consented to by the user.

7. Special effort shall be made to ensure transparency, clarity and education that enables individuals to understand their data and make best use of it: data documentation, simple visualizations, dashboard reporting of data usage, collective action towards “digital literacy”...

8. In the spirit of the emerging right to data portability, users shall always have the right to recover the sum of the data and content stored in their personal spaces, in a structured, commonly used and machine-readable format, and may reuse this data and content as they wish.

This Charter is open, it can be signed by all the actors who recognize themselves in its principles, and who want to participate in the Self Data dynamic.

>> Empowered individuals

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