THE MICROSOFT DILEMMA

by Arpad Bondy, Harald Schumann

SYNOPSIS

In Europe the information technology of every state administration and its institutions – military, police, fiscal authorities etc. – is based on Microsoft programmes. This exposes us to a high technical and political security risk. Is our digital sovereignty at stake?

Microsoft is generally considered the dinosaur of the digital age, lagging behind data giants Google, Facebook or Amazon. However, the US Corporation is more powerful today than ever before. The power of its monopoly is nowhere more apparent than in Europe: from Finland to Portugal, from Ireland to Greece, the information technology of every state administration and its institutions – military, police, fiscal authorities etc. – is based on Microsoft programmes. But since digital systems are constantly expanding and increasing in importance, countries are becoming more and more dependent on this single company. And increasingly vulnerable to the weak points inherent in Microsoft. The worldwide "WannaCry"...

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DIRECTOR Arpad Bondy, Harald Schumann · PRODUCER Arpad Bondy · SCREENPLAY Harald Schumann

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Dasselstr. 75-77
50674 Köln
Germany
sales@newdocs.de
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