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REVIEW ARTICLE

The salient features of personal data protection laws with special reference to cloud technologies. A comparative study between European countries and Russia

Zharova Anna *

Department of Innovations and Business in IT, Faculty of Business Informatics, National Research University, Higher School of Economics, 33 Kirpichnaya Str., Moscow, Russia

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Abstract This article describes the basic directions of state policy in the use and implementation of cloud computing. It answers the question about the applicability of foreign cloud services for the processing of personal data of citizens of Russia. It describes the systematization of cloud services in Russia and the EU. It defines some specific measures to ensure the protection of personal data using the standards of the EU and Russia.

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* Tel.: +7 (495) 771 32 38.
E-mail address: ajarova@hse.ru.
URL: http://www.hse.ru/en/org/persons/index_best.html?ltr=Z.

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1. Introduction

The term "cloud computing" is often used in various spheres of public life. It refers to technology created to optimize business processes and improve the service quality of different service providers and to increase people's informatization level. Questions on people's interpersonal relationships arise more acutely in the field of medicine, government, banking and the private sector. The application of cloud computing is a strategically important development for computer technologies and offers the opportunity to provide different services.

The active introduction of cloud computing posed questions for legislators about the specifics of regulating people's behavior online. These questions concern data security when it is stored in the cloud, and whether cloud computing is privately- or government-owned. Questions about the requirements for cloud Internet Service Provider's (ISP) effective functions, as well as an ISP's responsibility for its own actions and those of third parties, remain unanswered. Is it possible to be sure that technology which allows us access to cloud computing is reliable and safe? What if public information and IT systems are hosted abroad?

In this article we will not consider the questions of the processing of state secrets or publicly accessible data by cloud computing. Rather we will address the main issues with cloud computing as far as data protection is concerned. Kristina Irion has described this problem, saying "many governments have raised concerns about national data sovereignty when government information is moved to the cloud. How can confidentiality of public information assets residing in the cloud be ensured? What if public information and IT systems are hosted abroad?..." [[16], p. 41]

I will consider the difficulties that legislation encounters when trying to ensure the protection of limited-access data, such as personal details.

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