Japanese-German Business Association

4th meeting of the "IT" working group within DJW
Düsseldorf, 30.06.2014

Summary

Hacking a company network and spying data is quite easily done when companies do not care enough about the fact that data security comprises more than just encryption; especially when intruders do not attack the application layer but the transport layer by copying a data stream on its way through the internet.

In his talk, Mr. Christian Rupprecht (EAD Corryn) explained security risks of internet communication with a focus on German/Japanese companies. Data security is a compound work of art that requires activities at every level, so take everything into account when choosing the right providers for your company network. The following comparison will make this clear: Running a company network and driving a car have some aspects in common. Nobody would drive a tuned sports car across a field path may be even with potholes. Especially, when the driver cannot see how the path looks like behind the next curve. To achieve maximum speed, one would look for a highway and also have alternative routes in mind, for instance in case of a traffic jam. On the other hand, slower but more secure communication paths might be more advantageous when transferring sensitive information.

When running a company network, you have to find the most fitting combination of all components. Each application has its special requirements concerning the internet. To ensure that you can use your company network as much, and as safe as possible, one should not rely on only one single provider, but wisely choose a good combination, construct backups and manage SLAs accordingly.

Key points on the management side are policies, security concepts and control mechanisms which address each layer of the IT structure. Reconfiguring large networks from time to time will not only improve security and speed, but may also save costs on the long run.

After the inspiring talk, we discussed various aspects of corporate culture in German and Japanese companies and their influence on IT systems. Everyone agreed that there is a huge potential in German/Japanese collaboration projects and it was proposed to go more into detail at the next DJW IT working group meeting, which will take place in Munich.