



Gaia-X Trust Framework: Your Pathway to Trusted Digital Ecosystems

Gaia-X European Association for Data and Cloud

29 May 2024

Contents

Elevate Your Digital Trust with Gaia-X

Why is there a need for the Gaia-X Trust Framework?

Core Elements of the Gaia-X Trust Framework

Benefits of the Gaia-X Trust Framework

Conclusion

Elevate Your Digital Trust with Gaia-X

In today's interconnected world, trust is the essence of any major discussion surrounding technological innovation. The Gaia-X Trust Framework offers a unique solution, enabling secure, transparent, and compliant digital ecosystems that align with European values. This leaflet provides an overview of how the Gaia-X Trust Framework can transform your business operations and build trust across legal jurisdictions and industries.

Why is there a need for the Gaia-X Trust Framework?

Empowers Informed Decisions: Gaia-X equips users with the tools to make well-informed decisions regardless of their operational domain or jurisdiction. By integrating state-of-the-art policies, rules, and specifications, Gaia-X sets a new standard for digital trust.

Offers Adaptability Across Sectors: Designed to accommodate the unique needs of various regions and industries, the Gaia-X Trust Framework is versatile. Whether you're in finance, healthcare, or ICT, Gaia-X provides a robust foundation for compliance and trust.

Provides Automated Compliance: Move beyond manual compliance checks with Gaia-X's groundwork for automated processes. This innovation ensures that your business stays ahead in regulatory adherence effortlessly.

Core Elements of the Gaia-X Trust Framework

The framework provides ontology and logic rules to describe the assessment of conformity for cloud and data services. This 'lingua franca' then allows to translate the European values of transparency, openness, self-determination, privacy, and interoperability into machine-actionable information.

Trust and Risk Assessment: Trust is the cornerstone of the Gaia-X framework. It defines trust as the favourable response of a decision-making party assessing the risk regarding another party's ability to fulfil a promise. Trust decisions are nuanced and influenced by several factors, and the Gaia-X Framework provides a comprehensive methodology and technical specifications for risk assessment.

Interoperability: Interoperability is another key aspect of the Gaia-X framework, focusing on both organizational and semantic layers (ref. to the EIF). Initially targeting ICT services, the Trust Framework provides generic information models representing the relations and contracting procedures between service producers, providers, licensors and licensees.

Also for data exchanges, specific vocabularies allow to model data transactions, intermediaries or consent and policy management for data processing. These technical protocols and data formats can also be adapted for other use cases, such as the incoming EU Digital Product Passport or industries within the EU market.

Guidelines for Policy-Rules Makers and Users: The Gaia-X Trust Framework offers detailed guidelines for makers of policy-rules for cloud and data services, and its users. Vocabularies and schemata are provided to describe the characteristics of the objects of assessment, and these enable policy reasoning on said features.

Policy-rules makers are thus responsible for defining assessment schemes and criteria that ensure compliance with European values and legislation. Users can apply for assessments and procure services/products based on varying levels of compliance, ranging from basic conformity to advanced levels of cybersecurity and data processing restrictions.

Certification Label: Gaia-X has introduced a clear labelling system to categorise services based on their level of compliance:

- **Gaia-X Standard Compliance:** A universal set of standards designed to apply to all types of providers worldwide.
- **Gaia-X Label Level 1:** Entry-level compliance with standard data protection and security following European laws.
- **Gaia-X Label Level 2:** Higher-level data protection and security standards following European laws and widely based on certifications.
- **Gaia-X Label Level 3:** The highest compliance level for services requiring exceptional data handling, security, and legal control for European providers only.

Trust Indexes: To further enhance the framework's effectiveness and adaptability, Gaia-X introduces additional scoring tools known as Trust Indexes alongside the Gaia-X Labels. These indexes include Veracity (TV), Transparency (TT), Composability (TC), and Semantic-Match (TSM) indexes. Trust Indexes allow for more granular rankings and facilitate comparisons between offerings, promoting interoperability and trust within the Gaia-X ecosystem. Providers can improve their services based on these indexes, ensuring their offerings are competitive and trustworthy.

Benefits of the Gaia-X Trust Framework

Promote Transparency: Gaia-X promotes transparency and openness, allowing users to see exactly how services comply with regulations.

Facilitate Self-Determination: Users can control their data and services, fostering a sense of self-determination and autonomy.

Ensure Privacy: Adhering to strict privacy standards, Gaia-X ensures that user data is handled with the utmost care and security.

Drive Innovation: By providing clear guidelines and a robust framework, Gaia-X encourages innovation within a compliant and trusted environment.

Conclusion

The Gaia-X Trust Framework is a technical construct that enables the process of conformity assessment. By building a knowledge graph of claims (about the objects of assessment); supporting the verification of the integrity of said claims' content; and tracking where claims originated from and the parties issuing them, this framework empowers informed decisions, offers adaptability across sectors, and enables automated compliance.

Join Gaia-X today and be part of the revolution setting the standard for digital trust across Europe and beyond!

For more information, read "[An Introduction to the Gaia-X Trust Framework](#)" by Pierre Gronlier, and [Gaia-X Trust Framework - 22.10 Release](#).



Gaia-X

European Association
for Data and Cloud AISBL

Avenue des Arts 6-9
Bruxelles, Belgium
P.C. 1210
info@gaia-x.eu

