

The Risk of Lacking Digital Sovereignty

Thomas Fricke

June 16, 2026
DevOpsCon Berlin

Who am I?

Thomas Fricke

- Kubernetes Cloud Security
 - critical infrastructure
 - architecture
 - examination
- Former life: Statistical Physics
- Disclaimer

Work for the German Administration

- Pro Bono: OpenCode, Consulting IT Planning Counsel
- Payed: OpenDesk, FITKO

Sovereignty

- Ancient Philosophers avoid it
- Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy [Jean Bodin \(c. 1529—1596\)](#)
- Internet Archive: [Hans Kelsen: Das Problem der Souveränität...](#)
- Carl Schmitt: *Sovereign is who decides on the state of exception*
Warning: he justified the nazi race laws (Nürnberger Gesetze)
- Sovereignty means minimal dependencies
 - not at all
 - can be dropped
- poorly defined
- can be attached by everyone

Digital Sovereignty

- inherits
 - poor definition
 - openness
- sovereignty washing AWS/Google/Microsoft/SAP... clouds
- effectively dependency management
- supply chain
 - hardware
 - code
 - ...
- resilience
 - choices
 - ideas
 - governance
- minimizing dependency risks

Examples of Risk Management

- Personal
- Family
- NGO
- Nonprofit
- Company
- Government



- In the CISO office of a big company
 - A friend of mine,
 - did a risk analysis about Digital Sovereignty and the dependency to a cloud provider.
 - wrote an email to the CISO with this analysis
- Answer: *You should never have send me this mail*
- because it auto archive all mails

Recommendation



- severance one year's salary
- check your employment legal protection
- could be two year's salary

Former member of the German parliament



- topics Digital Sovereignty in Germany
- involved in the budget for OpenDesk, Zendis, OpenCode.de and other digital sovereignty projects
- to the family: unfriend me on social media
- fears to be targeted by the US government

Conference in June



Source: **Airbus Combat Cloud**

- developer and service contractor for Aero Space
- **actually Defense**
- Iranian Background
- Wife Palestinian
 - lost many members of her family
 - Gaza
 - South Lebanon
- corporate demo
 - Heron drones
 - showed the Gaza marina
 - was destroyed in their video

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Nicolas Guillou, French ICC judge sanctioned by the US: 'You are effectively blacklisted by much of the world's banking system'

Six judges and three prosecutors at the International Criminal Court have been sanctioned by the Trump administration. In an interview with *Le Monde*, Guillou discusses the impact of these measures on his work and daily life.

Interview by Stéphanie Maupas (The Hague (Netherlands) correspondent)
Published on November 19, 2025, at 8:00 pm (Paris), updated on January 13, 2026, at 2:39 pm
4 min read - [Lire en français](#)

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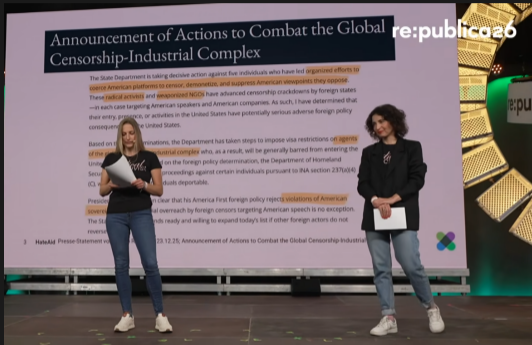
Thomas Fricke

Microsoft to ICC

Leave our Infrastructure within 7 Days

The Risk of Lacking Digital Sovereignty

Hateaid and Former EU Commissioner



Josephine Ballon und Anna-Lena von Hodenberg



Former EU tech regulator Thierry Breton

Dutch Government

- NL Times:
Microsoft accused of leaking Dutch civil servants' names to U.S. government
- Vrij Nederland:
Microsoft deelde namen van Nederlandse ambtenaren met Amerikaanse overheid



Anthropic

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Anthropic Halts Access to Top AI Models After U.S. Ban on Foreign Use

All Fable 5 and Mythos 5 users lose access after Trump administration declares the models security risks

By [Amrith Ramkumar](#) and [Robert McMillan](#)
Updated June 13, 2026 12:34 am ET



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Amazon CEO's Talks With U.S. Officials Triggered Crackdown on Anthropic Models

Information shared with Trump administration sparked move to halt foreign access to company's powerful AI tools

By [Amrith Ramkumar](#) and [Robert McMillan](#)
Updated June 13, 2026 7:46 pm ET

Anthropic Halts Access to Top AI Models After U.S. Ban on Foreign Use
Amazon CEO's Talks With U.S. Officials Triggered Crackdown on Anthropic Models

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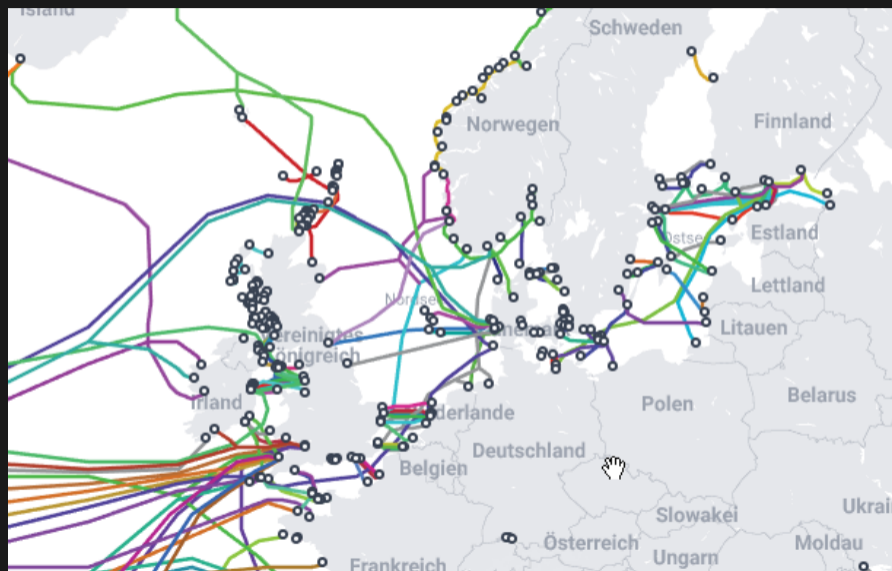
Let's Encrypt

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- You are not a person or entity that is: (a) located in, organized under the laws of, or ordinarily resident in any country or territory that is the target of comprehensive U.S. sanctions; (b) a prohibited or restricted party under U.S. or other applicable sanctions and export control laws and regulations; or (c) owned or controlled by or acting on behalf of anyone described in (a) or (b). You agree to use Let's Encrypt Certificates and any services provided by or on behalf of ISRG in compliance with applicable U.S. export control and sanctions laws and regulations.

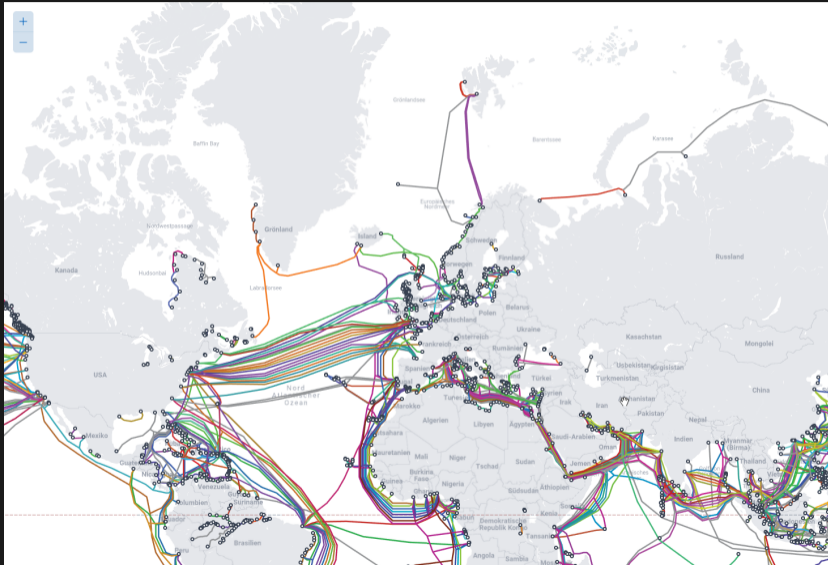
Greenland



Cable



More Cable



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The Risk of Lacking Digital Sovereignty

Risk analysis: Is a war about Greenland possible?

Risk Management Template

Risk assessment matrix

		Low	Moderate	High	Extreme	Extreme
Likelihood	Certain	Low	Moderate	High	Extreme	Extreme
	Likely	Low	Moderate	High	High	Extreme
	Possible	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High	High
	Unlikely	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
	Rare	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
		Insignificant	Minor	Significant	Major	Catastrophic
		Significance				

Fast Path to War

- Invasion in Greenland
 - End of NATO
 - Baltic Sea
 - Russia
 - Baltic States
 - War
 - China
 - Taiwan
 - WW III
- concrete threat
- immediate action required

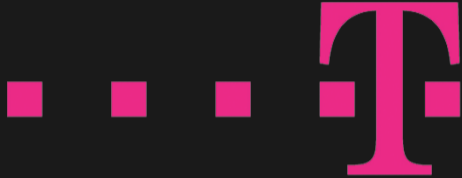


the only chance to win is not to play

Which actions are useful?

- Leave the hyperscalers ASAP
- Build your own infra
- Buy European

Buy European? Seriously?



- wants to create a US holding
 - T-Mobile USA
 - US based
- Telecom Megamerger ...
Transatlantic M&A Spree
- Yahoo: T-Mobile ending DEI programs ... US FCC approval...



- 31% business in the US
- BWI is concerned, if this a German company any more
- Marketscreener
- Business and Human Rights Center:
... cancels gender diversity target
in response to Trump policy

Gartner Who We Serve Our Solutions Conferences Webinars AI New To Role

Newsroom Topics Media Contacts Media Resources Insights Archive

Newsroom / Information Technology / Press Release

Gartner Survey Reveals Geopolitics Will Drive 61% of CIOs and IT Leaders in Western Europe to Increase Reliance on Local Cloud Providers

BARCELONA, Spain, November 12, 2025

By 2030, More Than 75% of All Enterprises Outside of the U.S. Will Have a Digital Sovereignty Strategy

Sixty-one percent of Western European CIOs and IT leaders said geopolitical factors will increase their reliance on local or regional **cloud** providers, according to a survey from Gartner, Inc., a business and technology insights company.

The survey was conducted online from May through July 2025 among 241 CIOs and IT leaders in Western Europe to determine their **cloud-related technology purchases and adoption**.

Amid ongoing geopolitical tensions, organizations in Western Europe are increasingly worried about their digital sovereignty – having their data, operations, and technology hosted by foreign cloud providers and

- Forrester:
Digital Sovereignty: Why Tech Execs Must Act Now
- Gartner Survey Reveals Geopolitics Will Drive 61% of CIOs and IT Leaders in Western Europe to Increase Reliance on Local Cloud Providers
- Heise:
Gartner: Sovereign cloud only possible in USA and China

Build Federated Infrastructure

- co-operative better than corporate
- local is better than US or China
- global would be best
- exit strategy
- build competences and governance
- FOSS (Free and Open Source Software)
- capability to steer projects
- non US alternatives to
 - DNS
 - Let's Encrypt (ACME RFC 8555)

Digital Independence Enterprise Edition

- Cloud
 - Kubernetes
 - Proxmox
 - OpenStack, Sovereign Cloud Stack
- Fedivers
 - Mastodon
 - Peer Tube
 - Bizzfeed instead LostIn
 - ...

Most Popular Services to Replace



MS Teams
61 alternatives



G Workspace
60 alternatives



Datadog
58 alternatives



MS Azure
45 alternatives



G Analytics
42 alternatives

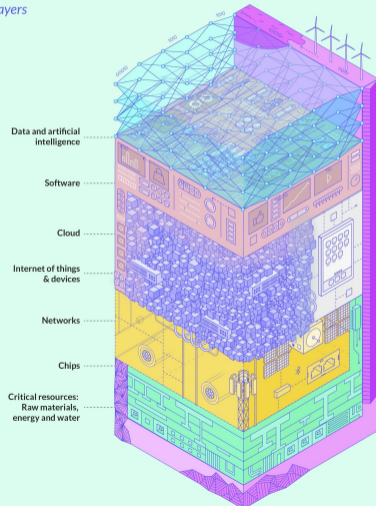


Slack
40 alternatives

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The current digital stack

The layers



The Risk of Lacking Digital Sovereignty

No One Is Safe Until Everybody Is Safe

- First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out, Because I was not a Socialist.
- Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out, Because I was not a Trade Unionist.
- Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out, Because I was not a Jew.
- Then they came for me, and there was no one left to speak for me.

— Martin Niemöller

They already threaten or came for

- immigrants
- trans people
- disabled people
- people of color
- women in the military
- supporters of Palestine
- ICC
- Hateaid
- EU commissioner
- members of the Dutch government

Digital Independence Day EE (Enterprise and Gov Edition)

- tremendous effort
- absolutely necessary
- hits coming closer
- personally pissed
- support



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Question? Remarks?

Some Answers

Slides: <https://thomasfricke.de/devopscon2026.pdf>



Mail: devopscon2026@thomasfricke.de

Mastodon: [@thomasfricke@23.social](https://mastodon.social/@thomasfricke)

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