

MARTIN SCHALLBRUCH

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Senior Researcher Cyber Innovation and Cyber Regulation
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At a glance

Martin Schallbruch is a long-term strategist of digitalization and cybersecurity. He has broad experience in the social, economic, and political implications of this process and even with the rules governing our digital society. He is an expert in organizing cooperation between government, industry, NGOs, and researchers in the management of digitization and cybersecurity.

His research focuses on issues of cyber policies, cybersecurity and regulation in cyberspace. He advocates a strategy of digital sovereignty, strengthening and extending the ability of individuals, businesses, and governments to act in cyberspace without unwanted dependencies. He advises companies and government organizations on cyber security and digital strategy issues.

As a longtime Director General for Information Technology, Digital Society and Cyber Security in the German Federal Ministry of the Interior, Martin Schallbruch has largely designed the Digital Agenda of the federal government. He developed and implemented several government programs and legislative proposals on the digitization. For more than 10 years, almost every IT or digitization project of the Federal Government was led or advised by him.

One of his main areas of expertise lies in cybersecurity. For many years he was responsible for the cybersecurity policy of Germany. In his team the National Plan for Information Infrastructure Protection (2005), the National Cyber Security Strategy (2011) and the IT Security Act (2015) were developed and implemented. For more than 12 years Schallbruch oversaw the Federal Office for Information Security (BSI) and was a member of the National Crisis Staff at the Federal Ministry of the Interior in charge of IT and cybersecurity. He represented Germany in European and international efforts to strengthen cybersecurity, e.g. the adoption of the European directive on network and information security (NIS directive).

Even before his time in the federal government, Martin Schallbruch worked at the nexus of information technology and law. His studies focused on information law and public sector ICT at the department of Computer Science and Society at the TU Berlin (Prof. Dr. Bernd Lutterbeck). As a scientist, he worked on issues of data protection, legal informatics and internet law at the Institute of Public Law at the Humboldt University of Berlin (Prof. Dr. Bernhard Schlink).

Martin Schallbruch is a lecturer of IT security law at Karlsruhe Institute for Technology (KIT). As a member of the commission "Niedersachsen 2030" he advises the Minister President on digitalization and mobility. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of Fraunhofer Institute for Secure Information Technology (SIT), a member of the Advisory Board of Deutsche Cybersicherheits-Organisation (DCSO), a member of the German Society for Law and Computer Science (DGRI), the Society for Computer Science (GI) and the CIO association VOICE.

In 2018 and 2020 Martin Schallbruch was the co-chair of the German Federal Government commission "Wettbewerbsrecht 4.0", advising government in the development of European antitrust law with a regard to digital platforms, digital ecosystems and data. For the academic year 2018/2019 he was a visiting fellow for cybersecurity at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University.

Schallbruch is the author of the books "Schwacher Staat im Netz" and "Cybersecurity in Germany" (both Springer) and editor of the recently published "Handbuch IT-Sicherheitsrecht". He has published over 60 articles on questions of legal and administrative computer science, IT security, and public ICT. In the 18 years of his work for the government he gave over 200 speeches, lectures, and interviews on issues of ICT, digitization, and cybersecurity. He is publishing in major newspapers such as Handelsblatt and FAZ on cyber and digitalization issues.

Curriculum Vitae

Since October 2020

Director, Digital Society Institute, ESMT Berlin

September 2018 – Dezember 2019

Co-Chair of German federal government commission “Wettbewerbsrecht 4.0”

September 2018 – August 2019

Visiting Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University

May 2016 – September 2020

Senior Researcher Cyber Innovation and Cyber Regulation, Deputy Director, Digital Society Institute, European School of Management and Technology

June 2014 - February 2016

Director General for Information Technology, Digital Society and Cyber Security at the German Federal Ministry of the Interior

Since 2011

Lecturer for IT Security Law, Karlsruhe Institute for Technology

January 2002 - May 2014

Chief Information Officer at the Federal Ministry of the Interior,
since January 2008, Deputy Commissioner of the Federal Government for Information Technology,
since March 2009 with the rank of a “Director General”

October 1998 - December 2001

Head of the office of State Secretary Brigitte Zypries, Federal Ministry of the Interior

September 1994 – August 1998

Member of the Board of Directors of the Institute of ICT Law at the Humboldt University of Berlin

September 1992 - August 1998

Researcher at the Institute of Public Law at the Humboldt University of Berlin, at the same time director of an
University IT Service Centre

October 1985 - August 1992

Studied computer science, law and social sciences at the Technical University Berlin and the Free University of Berlin;
Diploma in Computer Science