

Yes, I support digitalcourage!

First name: _____

Street / Post box: _____

Postal Code: _____

E-Mail: _____

Surname: _____

City: _____

Country: _____

☐ Yes, I want to become a sustaining member of Digitalcourage. The monthly contribution is € 10.

☐ Yes, I want to receive information from Digitalcourage.

☐ Yes, I want to donate

☐ English only

€ 30

€ 10

€ 120

€ _____ (your own amount)

quarterly

monthly

yearly

one-time

IBAN: _____

Bank: _____

Place, Date: _____

Signature: _____

By signing this mandate form, you authorise Digitalcourage to send instructions to your bank to debit your account and your bank to debit your account in accordance with the instructions from Digitalcourage. If your account balance is insufficient, the bank will not be obliged to debit the account. You can cancel this authorisation at any time. Partial debits will not be made. Your data with be electronically processed, but not shared with anyone else.

Donate for a world worth living in the digital age

Give your voice to Digitalcourage through a donation! We encourage people to take technology, politics and democracy into their own hands in a critical, active and confident way, and to become aware of their own responsibility.

Digitalcourage is an independent organisation and receives no government money. Our funds come from private donations, membership contributions and from our online shop. All income is directly used for Digitalcourage's non-profit work.

With a sustaining membership or donation you are not only supporting us financially. You are also giving us a clear mandate for our work.

Digitalcourage is accredited as a non-profit organisation. Your donations and membership contributions are tax-deductible. If we know your address, you will receive a donation receipt at the start of the following year.

Donations:

IBAN: DE69 3702 0500 5459 5459 20
BIC: BFS WDE 33XXX
Sozialbank

Online donations:

digitalcourage.de/spende (page in German)

You can find information on our finances in our transparency report (German):

digitalcourage.de/transparenzbericht

We are members of:



Thanks to:



Why should I care?

You are affected, more than you might think. Every day you leave traces – when you make a phone call, send an email, surf the Internet, through video surveillance, when shopping with your credit card or loyalty card. Your smartphone ‘snitches’ on your every move. Your friends post images of you on Facebook without asking your consent.



You may believe you have all the quills you need – but that won't protect you from a car tyre. (Photo: Panthermedia)

These traces are collected and evaluated by specialised companies in ever more systematic ways. Connecting these data gives rise to detailed profiles with very specific information. Companies increasingly use this give you a personal “score” to decide whether you will get a credit or a job offer, a seat on a flight, or how long you will be kept on hold on a service telephone line. It all depends on what algorithms calculate from your data. And you can't even respond to this prejudice or put it right, because the whole process is hidden from you.

It is normally not known who gets access to this information – even though these mountains of data reveal so much about you and can be used for monetary gain or political purposes. Those who know a lot about us can predict and direct our behaviour. If someone can control what information we get to see, they can influence our world view.

That's why the issue is about so much more than a few unwanted messages in our mailbox. It is about equal opportunities, fairness, freedom of choice, human dignity, about not being manipulated. It is about the freedom to develop one's own personality and thus about living together in a democratic society.

Digitalcourage works. Work with us!

- ▶ Speak out on data protection and fundamental rights.
- ▶ Learn about digital self-defence.
- ▶ Subscribe to our newsletter. Distribute information material.
- ▶ Organise information stalls and interventions where you live.
- ▶ Meet local politicians, your representatives in parliaments.
- ▶ Volunteer in one of our working groups.
- ▶ Support our work with a donation.
- ▶ Give us your voice: become a sustaining member.

digitalcourage.de/was-tun (page in German)



We get involved with charming and effective action.

(Photo: photocube · Verena Hornung)

“The more people with civil and moral courage a country has, the fewer heroes it will need in the future.”

Franca Magnani, Italian journalist

Digitalcourage e.V.

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Donations:

IBAN: DE69 3702 0500 5459 5459 20 · Sozialbank
or online at: digitalcourage.de/spende

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Digitalcourage e.V.

Introducing Ourselves

Committed to basic rights, privacy and a life worth living in the digital age



We love people. And technology.

We enjoy technology. We want to understand, follow and shape technology. But technology is not an end in itself. Its adoption and use must be in line with our goals and values.

Our work has a cultural and artistic background. Our founding members Rena Tangens and padeluun have been involved in network-building since the 1980s. They realised that art can create an atmosphere that induces people to actively engage in shaping their environment.

“Above the tenacity of its members, Digitalcourage exhibits foresight that will prove to play a key role in global freedom and human rights issues both today and in the future.”

Selmin Çalışkan, amnesty international

We monitor the consequences of technological developments and intervene where core values of freedom or democracy are challenged. In this spirit we promote a stronger sense of responsibility for the community – and also in the digital domain. We create awareness and get involved in political processes. Civil courage thus turns into ► Digitalcourage.

In 2008, we were awarded the Theodor Heuss medal, which honours civil initiative and the courage to stand up for one's convictions, and in 2014, the liberal daily newspaper taz gave us the Panther award for “Heroes of Everyday Life”. In 2015, Rena Tangens, one of the founding members of Digitalcourage, was honoured with the German award for consumer protection.

(Photo: Fabian Kurz, CC BY-SA)



What we do:

- practical support in political networking
- interventions and campaigns
- participation in congresses and party conventions
- newsletters, blogs, public relations
- education
- advocacy
- legal action in the public interest

Our methods and approaches are manifold and creative. Digitalcourage is a registered non-profit association financed by membership contributions and private donations. Much of our work is done by volunteers across Germany.

We believe that political activism can be fun and rewarding, which is why our interventions tend to be playful despite the gravity of our concerns.

digitalcourage.de/was-wir-tun



“Otto”, our data kraken (German wording for data leech) at the “Freedom not Fear” demonstration in 2009.

(Photo: Matthias Hornung, CC BY 3.0)

We get involved in political debates and discussions. Digitalcourage speakers are heard as expert witnesses by governments, federations, companies, the media and the EU commission.

Our core topics:

- EU legislation on data protection
- RFID spy chips
- Google, Facebook & Co. – impact assessment of private data collection
- data retention
- governmental surveillance and intelligence agencies
- e-health and the electronic health card
- trade agreements such as TTIP, CETA and TiSA
- (net) feminism



We organise the annual BigBrotherAwards ceremony in Bielefeld, Germany.

(Photo: Matthias Hornung, CC BY 3.0)

Big Brother Awards

Surveillance of staff by Lidl, the threats of RFID in supermarkets, “smart metering”, likening Facebook to a gated community, critique of “the cloud”, or our demand that Google must be broken up – public recognition of these issues grew out of the German Big Brother Awards. Each year since 2000, we present these “Academy Awards for Surveillance” (to quote Le Monde) to companies, administrations and politicians who disregard data protection and fundamental rights.

bigbrotherawards.de

Digital Self-Defence

Many people feel disgusted if their home is burgled. And rightly so. But an intrusion into our privacy and our most intimate thoughts will not be felt immediately, and many people are not very conscious of this threat so far. And then there is the feeling of helplessness in the face of the complexity and apparent inevitability of digital surveillance. We cannot allow this to lead to resignation. That is why we collect and publish lots of helpful advice on how to use computers and smartphones, as a contribution to your self-empowerment and digital sovereignty.

digitalcourage.de/selbstverteidigung



“Your clothes send signals” – street performance in front of a Gerry Weber shop

(Photo: Martin Brockhoff, CC BY 3.0)

An example for successful campaigning ...

RFID (“radio-frequency identification”) uses tiny, flat silicon chips with a unique ID that can be read out wirelessly. If such a chip is, say, sewed into your jacket, then using this ID you can be identified easily.

During a street performance in 2013, we showed baffled customers of Gerry Weber that we could read out items in their shopping bags using an RFID reader. They did not like it.

We proved that resistance to surveillance can succeed back in 2004 when we forced retail giant Metro to withdraw Payback loyalty cards bugged with RFID chips.



Joint action „A bed for Snowden“ in 2015 (Photo: FMartin Brockhoff, CC BY 3.0)