Not sure what you're signing in a cloud contract? A new tool and a workshop offer guide on service level agreements

Cloud computing has life-giving properties that are helping many new and small businesses build their business mostly or entirely on the cloud. One of the main barriers a lot of small businesses face is getting started. Cloud contracts and related service level agreements are typically hard to understand with their mix of legal jargon and technical terminology.

To change this, cloud security, legal and business experts (http://www.sla-ready.eu/consortium) have come together to ease the assessment of cloud services so small firms can focus on running their business. They've come up with the SLA-Aid (http://sla-aid.sla-ready.eu) to help companies navigate complex contractual terms and cloud SLAs. This new tool reduces the time it takes to pour through different contracts for the same or a similar service.

- It's an online tool to make informed decisions about which cloud service to trust.
- It's tailored to specific business needs with a clear set of guidelines on cloud SLAs.
- You don't need expertise in technical and legal terminology to use the tool.

15 December SLA-Ready Impact Workshop in Brussels (BE)

AGENDA (http://www.sla-ready.eu/events/sla-ready-impact-workshop-brussels) | REGISTER (http://www.sla-ready.eu/sla-ready-impact-workshop-registration-form)

Need practical hands-on help? Join SLA-Ready on 15th December in Brussels. Forget the leap of faith. Our hands-on workshop gives businesses expert advice on what to do and what to expect throughout the entire cloud service lifecycle, whether they are using off-the-shelf services with standard contract terms or have some power to negotiate.

WHY YOU SHOULD PARTICIPATE?

This workshop showcases the impact of the SLA-Ready project on three key stakeholder groups. Join us and find out how you too can benefit from SLA-Ready's outputs:

- Cloud Service Customers from both the private sector and public sector in identifying priorities in cloud SLAs and compare, define and monitor cloud services which meet their requirements.
- Cloud Service Providers who recognise the business value in providing standardised and transparent SLAs to their customers.
- Cloud Service Procurers and policy makers who are able to use SLA-Ready's standardised SLA Common Reference Model elements to tailor their cloud procurement processes, and assess what policy instruments may be beneficial to the European digital society and economy.

Who's behind SLA-Ready?

Trust-IT Services Ltd (UK), Coordinator; Partners: Arthur's Legal (NL), Cloud Security Alliance (CSA) (UK), Technische Universitat Darmstadt (TUDA) (DE).

What is SLA-Ready?

SLA-Ready is a European support project funded under H2020 (January 2015 - December 2016) that focuses on giving businesses a better understanding of cloud Service Level Agreement (SLA) terminology and lifecycle management. SLA-Ready aims to change the state of play by providing a common understanding of SLAs for Cloud services with greater standardisation and transparency.