

## DigiTrust – Privacy, Identity and Legitimacy in the Digital Society

**The purpose** of this project is to better understand the importance of trust in a digital society, how issues of privacy and identity are handled, and how legitimacy is reached or breached. This is a multi- and crossdisciplinary research theme centred on the complexities of trust in a digital context that will study privacy, identity and legitimacy in relation to

- 1) Security and privacy awareness in a digital context;
- 2) What knowledge (institutions) are trusted and how is this constructed; and
- 3) Surveillance and data retention as a legal trend.

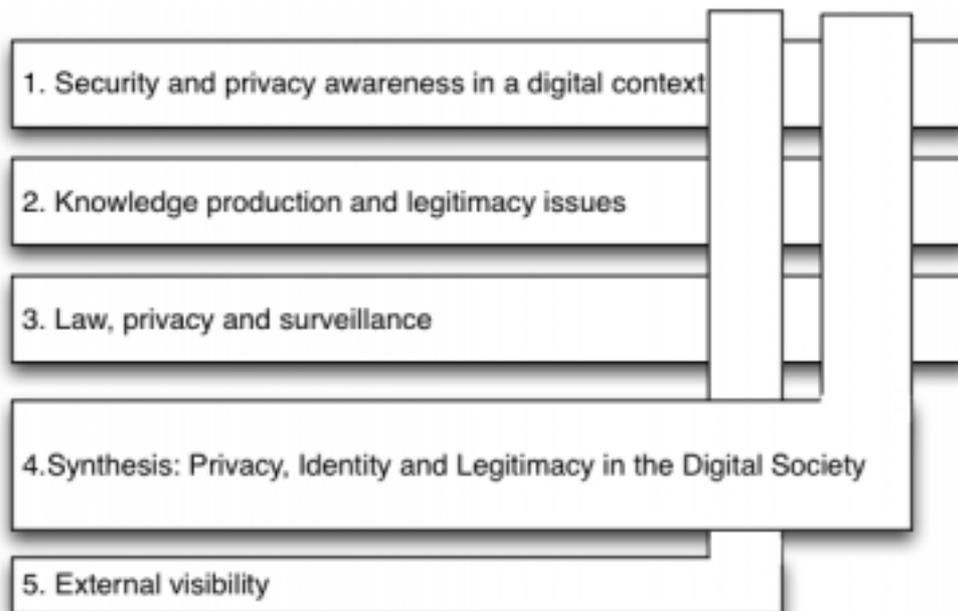
**Project leaders:** Per Runeson and Stefan Larsson

**Time schedule:** September 2013 – May 2014. The results will be published in scientific articles and a concluding report that will be presented at a public symposium in May 2014.

The project includes 10 senior researchers from 5 faculties at Lund University

**Background:** The project is a continuation and specification of the Advanced Study Group on the Digital Society, held by Per Runeson and Stefan Larsson during 2012 and early 2013. Through the seminar work in that study group with 18 senior researchers from 6 faculties, we have realised the importance of focusing the role that *trust* has in a digital and increasingly interconnected world. For example, we have seen it in how the individual and the society trust or distrust the telecom infrastructure, software-depending products and services, cyber security, law and legal enforcement as well as knowledge production overall.

In the DigiTrust project we structure the theme around three main empirical studies, and two joint activities, as depicted in Figure 1.



The data in the project will in general be coming from a combination of

- 1) a literature study that will deal with all three areas of focus above
- 2) a questionnaire that in general seeks to answer questions of security and privacy awareness, but

also parts of the second focus area, and 3) a legal survey of the field that generally answers the questions of the third focus area. The outcomes from the three empirical studies will be synthesized into a comprehensive perspective on *trust* in the digital society. This perspective will be used to form recommendations and strategies in several fields, such as:

- the engineering for the design of digital systems
- the innovation field for business innovations in the digital society
- the legislation field, i.e. to legislate a changing society, and to balance legitimacy
- the general public for their actions in the digital society.