STOP MICROSOFT DEPENDENCY

To the Rector of the Università della Svizzera italiana

We come forward with the following proposal to stop the dependency of Università della Svizzera italiana of the "big-tech" companies (Microsoft in particular). We are uncomfortable with the fact that every email we send and receive using our USI accounts can be read, filtered, and modified by Microsoft. Have you noticed that when you send a link using your USI account, this link is changed? In fact, a *new* link is created and sent. The latter takes you to a Microsoft server which could be able to:
- get your unique username that links to your identiy,
- get date and time when you click the link.
It is advisable to keep university email in a new university infrastructure managed by USI itself or a company that USI controls.

Another example of a software creating a dependency is *office365*, which uploads documents on the Microsoft cloud. In this way, Microsoft is able to train an AI model on your private data. How could we verify whether Microsoft is or is not doing that? We cannot verify it, since we lose control of our data at the moment it is copied to someone else's machine.

The same problem in an even more accentuated fashion represents the use of *Teams*. On top of the issues already described, we feed Microsoft with *biological* data here: Our face and its expressions, reactions, emotions, your voice, and body language.

To address these issues, we ask USI to consider keeping our data inside a specific center managed by USI herself. In this case, we get more control and will, in particular, be able to:
- choose our policies (regarding registration, password management),
- manage aliases and different identities,
- personalize anti-spam filtering.

Our request is not exceptional; other universities have already adopted stricter privacy standards than USI, see for instance
- https://www.fau.eu/privacy#contact ,
- https://www.isg.inf.ethz.ch/Main/ServicesVersionControlGitLab .
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