



UPPSALA  
UNIVERSITET

# IT security and sustainability

Iordanis Kavathatzopoulos

Ryoko Asai



# Interdependence of IT security and sustainability

- Not only sustainability but almost everything depends on IT
- Need of protection of systems supporting societal and environmental sustainability
- Internal sustainability of IT systems, IT systems have to be reliable and usable
- Reliable IT needed for finding sustainable solutions
- Future developments and uses of IT affecting environment, society and life



# Different ways

- Classical expectations: answers, ideologies, convictions
- Classical theory, western philosophy: philosophizing - philosophology



# The nature of sustainability

- Value and meaning of sustainability, e.g. in relation to evolution
  - Disagreement between stakeholders
  - General principles, to be formulated
  - Interpretation and application of principles
  - Need to find ways to formulate, apply and revise sustainability policies
- ...no ready answers!



# The nature of security problems

- Important functions, systems and processes have to be protected and made reliable
  - Need to break the security of others, spy on or attack “enemies”
  - Accepting security risks because of cooperation, usability or cultural needs
  - Contradictory solutions, i.e. right to information, privacy, reparations, etc.
- ...there are no simple answers!



# Security and values

- Not solely a technical issue
- Definition of what and how is dependent on personal values, cultures and subcultures
- Risks are also dependent on that
- Support of security systems in use: information, education, laws
- Relation to values; security systems affect values



# Sustainability and security

- There are no “perfectly” sustainability or security solutions; conflicting interests; risks and possibilities; compromises
- A dialectic process is necessary in security and sustainability; identification of interests and values; formulation of principles and policies
- Sustainability and secure IT demand continuous adjustment to relevant values



# Sustainability, security, philosophy

- Similar issues in content and in complexity
- Difficult or impossible to find ready answers
- Common methods to do something about
- Same skills, methods and tools
- Methods and tools for sustainability and security, for dialog, cooperation, support, training





UPPSALA  
UNIVERSITET

Thank you!

Questions? Comments?