

Dr. Jörn Erbguth

joern@erbguth.ch

+41 787256027

Chemin du Champ d'Anier 15

1209 Geneva, Switzerland

<https://erbguth.net>

Profile

With a dual background in law and computer science, Jörn Erbguth bridges the gap between technology and law. After working as a CTO, he wrote a PhD thesis on a framework for long-term revocable credentials using blockchain and complying with data protection regulations. Jörn has co-organized sustainable innovation cycles for Geneva Macro Labs. He is co-founder of the association entscheidsuche.ch - a platform that makes more than 600,000 Swiss court cases available to the public. He is part of the senate of the academic blockchain [bloxberg](https://bloxberg.org). Jörn is a member of the programme committee of EuroDIG, a European conference on Internet Governance. He is president of Geneva Macro Labs and board member of entscheidsuche.ch and EDV-Gerichtstag in Germany. He participates in standards organizations, regularly publishes in academic and other journals and lectures at Swiss universities and the Richter Akademie in Germany. Jörn wants to help shape a future digital society that is based on human rights and sustainability.

Experience

8/2016	–		Consultant on Blockchain, AI and Data Protection
6/2025	–		President of Geneva Macro Labs, before 2025: Head of Technology Insights
10/2010	–	7/2016	CTO, Swisslex AG, Geneva, Switzerland Since 2011, member of the management board Responsibilities: Managing software development and hosting Key achievements: Migration to a new platform, cross-lingual search
1/2006	–	9/2010	Head of ICT department, juris GmbH, Saarbrücken, Germany (Software development and ICT services, 40 staff) Responsibilities: Managing software development and hosting for legal databases, managing ICT environment for 200 employees Key achievements: Introduced framework to easily deploy customized web-based legal databases
6/2002	–	12/2005	Head of software development, juris GmbH, Saarbrücken, Germany (25 employees) Responsibilities: Managing software development of legal databases Key achievements: Migrated old host-based platform to a modern Linux cluster-based system
6/2000	–	5/2002	Product manager, Gauss-Interprise AG, Hamburg, Germany (now part of OpenText AG) Responsibilities: Product management of content management system Key achievements: Coordinated product marketing with subsidiary in the US
3/1995	–	5/2000	Software developer, juris GmbH, Saarbrücken, Germany Responsibilities: Development of software for legal databases Key achievements: Developed user-friendly web interface for a host-based database

Certificates

2017	Certified in data protection for being a Data Protection Officer (GDPR, udis)
2015	Certified Professional Scrum Product Owner

Languages

German	native
English	fluent
French	excellent

Education

2016 - 2022	Ph.D. , University of Geneva, Switzerland
1990 - 1994	Diploma in Computer Science , 1.4 Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg and Universität Passau, Germany
1986 - 1992	First State Examination in Law / Diploma in Law , 5.62 Universität Passau and Universität Regensburg, Germany
1988 - 1989	Participation in LL.M. program at Tulane University, New Orleans, with a DAAD Scholarship (All exams passed but no degree awarded due to special status as exchange student)

Other activities

2022 -	Member of the Senate of the Scientific Blockchain Alliance , formerly Bloxberg Association
2020 - 2025	Member of the Programme Committee for EuroDig / subject matter expert for Human Rights and Privacy
2020 - 2023	ITU Study Group 16 Question 22
2018 - 2019	Member of DIN SPEC 4997 Privacy by Blockchain Design
2018 - 2019	Member of the ITU Focus Group on Application of Distributed Ledger Technology
2017 -	Member of the board of entscheidsuche.ch , Berne, Switzerland
2014 -	Member of the board of EDV-Gerichtstag , Saarbrücken, Germany

Publications and Presentations (a selection)

Neue Juristische Wochenschrift (NJW) BC4EU	<i>Risikobasierter Personenbezug?</i> <i>Status Report on the implications for Blockchain and Privacy</i>	NJW-Mantel, 5.2.2026 Studie für BC4EU, 12/2025
Neue Juristische Wochenschrift (NJW) Die Mediation	<i>Kommt Bewegung in die DS-GVO?</i> <i>Blockchain-basierte Arbitration</i>	NJW-Mantel, 25.3.2025 Die Mediation, Q II/2024, S. 76–78
EuroDig Zeitschrift für vergleichende Rechtswissenschaft Wiley (Book)	<i>A Decade of Digital Human Rights Evolution</i> <i>Kryptowerte und der Datenschutz</i>	EuroDig ZVglRWiss 2023, 338
UN today	<i>Blockchains: Empowering Technologies and Industrial Applications</i> <i>How quantum computing will impact UN organizations</i> <i>Erbguth/Schörling/Kovac/Pavuna</i>	Chapter on Blockchain Standards, 09/2023 UNtoday #830 June 2023, 34
Neue Juristische Wochenschrift (NJW)	<i>Bonitätsscores, DSGVO und KI</i> <i>Erbguth/Wenning</i>	NJW 15/2023
Neue Juristische Wochenschrift (NJW)	<i>Regulierung einer Risikotechnologie</i>	NJW 46/2022
Editorial Zeitschrift für Datenschutz (ZD)	<i>“Fruit of the poisonous tree”-Doktrin im Datenschutz?</i> <i>Erbguth/Stepanova</i>	ZD 2022, 249
Gruppe. Interaktion. Organisation, Zeitschrift für Angewandte Organisationspsychologie (GIO)	<i>Co-creating innovation for sustainability</i> <i>Erbguth/Schörling/Birt/Bongers/Sulzberger/Morin</i>	doi.org/10.1007/s11612- 022-00619-8
Université de Genève INATBA / CLI	<i>A Framework for Long-Term Revocable Credentials</i> <i>Blockchain for Climate Action and the Governance Challenge, A Joint Report from CLI and INATBA</i>	Dissertation, 2022 5/2021
Token World Conference	<i>What does the MICA regulation offer in terms of privacy?</i>	online 4/2021, publication end of 2021
Distributed Ledger Meetups, ITU Geneva Trade Week, WTO	<i>DLT standardization: ITU-T standards and the way forward</i> <i>How can Blockchain help alleviate the impact of COVID-19 on supply chains?</i>	online, 12/2020 online, 9/2020
WSIS-Forum, ITU	<i>The use of Decentralized Identities (DIDs) in development projects</i>	online, 8/2020
ReMeP	<i>Tools for Contract Negotiations</i>	online, 6/2020
EDV-Gerichtstag	<i>Virtuelle Verhandlungen vor Gericht</i>	online, 6/2020
Bloxberg Summit	<i>GDPR-compliant Verification of Academic Titles using Blockchain</i>	online, 6/2020
Legal Revolutionary (LR)	<i>Datengewerkschaften - Eine Lösung für das Einwilligungsdilemma?</i>	LR 2020, 145-155
ITU Regional Cybersecurity Forum for Europe and CIS	<i>A high-level discussion on hot issues in Cybersecurity in relation to emerging technologies including blockchain, AI and IoT</i>	Sofia, 2/2020
SAC Conference, Brno, Czech Republic	<i>Self-Sovereign Identity on Public Blockchains and the GDPR</i>	Online, 4/2020
World Economic Forum	<i>Valuing natural capital to combat climate change</i>	Davos, 1/2020
Geneva Blockchain Congress	<i>E-Identity and E-Voting</i>	Geneva, 1/2020
Chaos Computer Club Conference 36C3	<i>Datengewerkschaften im Kampf gegen Facebook, Google & Co.</i>	Leipzig, 12/2019
Datenrecht in der Digitalisierung (Book)	<i>Bitcoin/E-Geld/Virtuelle Währungen</i>	ESV, 12/2019
UN Internet Governance Forum	<i>How can DLT foster the SDGs?</i>	Berlin, 11/2019
Conference on Blockchain & GDPR	<i>Conference Organizer</i>	Berlin, 11/2019
Convergence	<i>Legally, technically or both? How to address the conflict between blockchain technology and the GDPR.</i>	Malaga, 11/2019
Blockchain Forum 2019	<i>Panel on International Perspectives for Blockchain Regulation</i>	Lisbon, 11/2019
ICDPPC	<i>The Blockchain Solution: Data Sharing for a Better Protection</i>	Tirana, 11/2019
Zeitschrift für IT-Recht und Recht der Digitalisierung (MMR)	<i>Wann sind kryptografische Hashwerte von personenbezogenen Daten selbst wieder personenbezogene Daten?</i>	MMR 2019, 654
EDPL 3/2019 p. 427 (Journal)	<i>Five Ways to GDPR-Compliant Use of Blockchains</i>	10/2019
Informatik 2019 (Conference proceedings)	<i>Smart Contracts und die DSGVO</i>	Kassel, 9/2019
Blockchain 4 Impact	<i>Co-Organizer, Panelist and Co-Author</i>	UN, Geneva, 9/2019
OECD Global Blockchain Policy Forum	<i>Panel on Decentralized Identity and Privacy</i>	Paris, 9/2019
IT-Rechtsberater (ITRB)	<i>Einsatz maschinellen Lernens in der Justiz: Ethische und technische Aspekte</i>	ITRB 2019, 160
DuD 2019 - Datenschutz und Datensicherheit	<i>Die DSGVO als Showstopper der Blockchain-Technologie?</i>	Berlin, 6/2019
WSIS 2019	<i>Blockchain & GDPR</i>	Geneva, 4/2019
Landtag Dresden	<i>Sachverständigenvortrag zum Gesetz zur Neuordnung der Informationssicherheit im Freistaat Sachsen</i>	Dresden, 4/2019
Neue Juristische Wochenschrift (NJW)	<i>Trifft die DS-GVO die Falschen?</i>	NJW 3/2019
ICSESS (Conference proceedings)	<i>Towards Governance and Dispute Resolution for DLT and Smart Contracts</i>	Beijing, 11/2018
Blockchain and Bitcoin Conference	<i>Blockchain & GDPR</i>	Geneva, 10/2018
Universität Neuchâtel	<i>Smart contract et blockchain</i>	Neuchâtel, 9/2018
Swiss Legal Tech Conference	<i>GDPR-compliant use of Blockchains</i>	Zurich, 9/2018
Universität Freiburg i.Br.	<i>Echte Transparenz bei Smart Contracts</i>	Freiburg i.Br., 7/2018
EU Blockchain Observatory	<i>Panel on GDPR and Blockchain</i>	Brussels, 6/2018
Deutsche Richterzeitung (DRiZ)	<i>Juristische Entscheidungen nach maschinelltem Bauchgefühl</i>	DRiZ 2018, 130