



# The VAULT

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# Wibu-Systems' IT SECURITY Club – Where *INNOVATION* *meets* community

By Oliver Winzenried, Wibu-Systems AG

□ Ever since it was first imagined as one of Europe's original model cities and the ideal of a visionary community come to life in bricks and mortar, Karlsruhe has been a hotbed of progress and innovation in the heart of Europe. Today's Karlsruhe is home to more than 4,000 IT enterprises, making the city one of the world's leaders in terms of IT competence per square kilometer.

Located in the Rhine valley, Europe's first super-highway for commerce and ideas, the city and the many leading centers of industry nearby, host countless businesses that are being transformed by, or are themselves powering, the digital revolution. Economic success in every sector of industry now depends on their ability to put new digital capabilities, from artificial intelligence to the connected infrastructures of Industry 4.0, to commercial use – safely and securely. IT security has become paramount, and Karlsruhe is again at the forefront of the field.

With the multitude and variety of threats in the digital world, unity in diversity is the key: Different resources, competences, and capabilities need to converge to fight a threat whose nature and origin seems to change by the hour. The House of IT Security is designed to provide that unity, by bundling the many IT security skills and resources from the region in one physical space under one physical roof: From start-up incubators to deep-rooted businesses and research institutes.

As the House of IT Security brings together the rich experience and proven competencies of the established specialists and original pioneers of the industry with the innovative spark and energy of young startups, all key players in IT security research (including the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology KIT, the Karlsruhe IT Security Initiative KA-IT-SI, and the Research Center for Information Security FZI) and business expect the House of IT Security to excel at its mission:



- To combine academic excellence with enterprising minds to boost IT security research and practice.
- To act as an amplifier for the agility and energy of growing start-ups.
- To attract international companies pursuing IT security projects and academic and commercial partnerships to Karlsruhe.
- To generate new jobs and revenue in the region.
- To become a physical beacon of IT security.

Almost 5,500 square meters of the House of IT Security are earmarked for young businesses, providing an affordable home for IT security startups setting up shop in Karlsruhe or coming from specialized local incubators like the Cyberforum or StartUpSecure of the Competence Center for Applied Security Technology (KASTEL) at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology. With ready access to the office space they need to grow and a

network of commercial and academic champions right on their doorstep, they can concentrate on their core mission: Finding new solutions to the challenges of tomorrow and turning their ideas into profitable businesses.

In its concept and its physical architecture, the House of IT Security is designed for cross-fertilization. It provides ample space to meet and share, with laboratory and training facilities and co-working spaces that will host regular cooperation ventures and project activities, and with short-term leases available to give enterprises from other fields a proverbial foot in the door in the unique IT security ecosystem of Karlsruhe.

The House of IT Security also plays host to the IT Security Club, a club that is more than a co-working space. Described as a 'unique experiment in community building', it is a space dedicated to one of the most pressing issues of our time – IT security – designed



to spark creativity with its exceptional blend of institutional and commercial tenants and an agile group of IT security professionals in the Club.

The members of the IT Security Club enjoy access to like-minded professionals, top-class facilities, and an environment built to inspire commercial ambition and professional comradeship, with a range of membership packages and options for short or long-term participation in the creative atmosphere of the House of IT Security.

“The IT Security Club offers the perfect working opportunities for collaboration and confidential work in a building with excellent infrastructure and sustainable and sophisticated building technology”, says Natalie Wieland, one of the two IT Security Club Managing Directors.

The IT Security Club was designed to wow both its members and their guests: The entire site is equipped with top class infrastructure and facilities, including modern building

automation services and a decidedly eco-friendly architecture. This includes the indispensable IT infrastructure for successful work, like redundant fiber-optic connections, modern workstations, or specialized IT security labs, as well as the amenities that make working and staying at the IT Security Club a thoroughly enjoyable experience, including a well-stocked kitchen and bar facilities, smartly appointed work and community spaces, and attractive areas for meetings and representative work.

But please don't imagine that the IT Security Club is just a working space hub. “The IT Security Club is not your standard co-working space,” says Elke Winzenried, IT Security Club Managing Director. “It is unique in that it is focused on IT security innovations in conjunction with innovation managers and project support who help the members do joint research projects with public funding”. This fact alone should demonstrate how seriously Wibu-Systems is taking the idea of an IT Security Club.



In IT security, privacy and confidentiality are paramount, and the facilities are designed with care to reflect this commitment: Secure access controls and a careful layout of the premises with flexible private-public spaces and clever partitioning mean that members of the IT Security Club are safe in the knowledge that what they want to keep confidential will stay confidential, without hindering the spirit of community and free and easy communication with their peers.

With a world-leading IT security, protection, and licensing specialist next door and high-profile institutions, entrepreneurs, and researchers among the long-term tenants, the IT Security Club promises to be a hothouse for talent and ideas.

Joining the IT Security Club opens up a world of opportunity for aspiring entrepreneurs, innovative researchers, and all actors with a real stake in making the digital world secure. To give life to a dynamic and diverse community, the IT Security Club offers a comprehensive range of membership options, with monthly and yearly membership fees to match any budget.

To discover which of the many membership packages match your needs and for a private and confidential offer, please contact The IT Security Club via email at [itsc@itsec.house](mailto:itsc@itsec.house). ☒



Use the QR code to watch a video on the IT Security Club

# What matters most about your secure license container?

- The durability of your own hardware unit?
- The ease of a software activation?
- The freedom of cloud access anytime, anywhere?

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