

DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY

5 practical insights

How companies and public institutions can secure their ability to act in the digital realm.

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WHY DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY MATTERS NOW

Switzerland is at a turning point. In a world of rising geopolitical tensions, cyber risks, and technological rivalry, digital autonomy increasingly determines competitiveness and stability. Those who no longer fully control their data, systems, and platforms gradually lose room to maneuver – economically and socially.

Digital sovereignty is therefore not an abstract vision or a trend but a strategic necessity. It describes the ability to act autonomously, securely, and resiliently in a

connected world – technologically, organizationally, and legally.

Sovereignty builds trust, fosters innovation, and secures competitiveness for both organizations and public administrations. But it does not arise from isolation; it comes from intentional design. Partnership, transparency, and competence are the building blocks. Let's shape the future together.

**We look forward
to engaging with you!**

Matthew Turnbull, Head of Advisory of adesso Schweiz AG

WHAT DOES DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY MEAN?

Digital sovereignty is often reduced to whether data is stored in Switzerland or in Europe. That is too narrow. Digital sovereignty means retaining control over data, systems, and processes – without isolating yourself. It is about entering into dependencies deliberately while safeguarding strategic freedom of action.

In other words, it is about balancing independence and competitiveness:

- > How much control do we want, and are we able to assume ourselves?
- > Where does partnership with global providers make sense?
- > How can legal, technical, and economic aspects be reconciled?

adesso supports companies and public institutions in addressing these questions – with experience in strategy, technology, and implementation.

FIVE PRACTICE-BASED CONSIDERATIONS

1. Sovereignty requires capabilities – not just technologies

Technology is our core business, but when it comes to digital sovereignty, it is only half the equation. Only those who see what lies behind it, recognize interrelationships, and ask critical questions, can make sovereign decisions.

This means:

- > Building a shared understanding of sovereignty and digital technology across executives, managers, and employees.
- > Developing in house expertise to steer external services.
- > Strengthening a culture that sees change as an opportunity.

adesso supports organizations with workshops, coaching, and co creation approaches to build know how and ownership.

2. Trust is built through transparency

Sovereignty is founded on trust. Opaque systems or non-transparent data flows jeopardize that trust – internally and with customers. Transparency is increasingly becoming a competitive advantage, while loss of trust due to data integrity breaches or AI errors is an ever greater risk.

Whether through protected data centers, explainable algorithms, or open source components – those who make visible how technology works and how compliance requirements are met create credibility and security.

adesso helps companies intelligently connect data protection, traceability, and user centricity.

3. Interoperability over isolated solutions

Sovereignty does not come from isolation, but from peer to peer collaboration. Switzerland needs digital ecosystems that enable cooperation rather than hinder it.

Open interfaces and common standards are the key: they ensure components can be swapped and prevent vendor lock in.

There are already several projects in Switzerland that offer sovereign, protected cloud services from Swiss data centers. Internationally, Switzerland is synonymous with confidentiality. Digitally sovereign services from Switzerland therefore present an opportunity for both Swiss and international companies.

adesso actively helps shape such ecosystems and ensures that solutions are not only secure but also future proof.

4. Sovereignty is a journey, not a fixed state

Digital sovereignty is not a checklist. Technologies, threats, and frameworks change constantly – and so do the requirements for control, trust, and adaptability.

Sovereignty must therefore be continuously developed. Maturity models, regular risk analyses, compliance reporting, and forward looking IT and AI governance help measure progress and steer it purposefully.

adesso sees itself as a partner at eye level – providing long term support with a focus on sustainable impact instead of short term projects.

5. From cloud consumption to cloud design

Many organizations are deeply integrated into cloud ecosystems – mostly of American or Asian origin. The benefits are undisputed: scalability, innovation, speed. But those who only consume become dependent.

A deliberate cloud strategy is needed for digital sovereignty, especially for business critical applications. Sovereign cloud concepts combine flexibility with control: multi cloud approaches, open standards, clear data sovereignty.

adesso provides vendor independent consulting and technology expertise – from sovereign cloud architectures to data protection, compliance, and innovation capacity.

CONCLUSION: THE MOMENT IS NOW

Digital sovereignty is not a luxury; it is a matter of survival – for companies, public administrations, and entire economies.

It determines competitiveness, trust, and freedom of action in an increasingly connected world. Now is the time to act.

adesso accompanies this journey – with the right strategy, the right technology, and hands on implementation experience. Together, we will help make Switzerland future ready.

The digital world is no substitute
for human interaction.
We look forward to speaking with you.



Matthew Turnbull
Head of Advisory of adesso Schweiz AG