CV PROF. DR. DR. H. C. MICHAEL BACKES
(long version)

Professor Michael Backes is the founding director of the CISPA Helmholtz Center for Information Security. Michael Backes was born in Lebach (Saarland) in 1978. After completing his community service, he studied Computer Science and Mathematics at Saarland University. He obtained his Diploma in Computer Science in 2001 after five semesters only; his Diploma in Mathematics and his PhD in Computer Science followed one year later in 2002. Subsequently, Michael Backes became a researcher at IBM Research in Zurich. In 2005, at the age of 26, he was appointed as the Professor for Information Security and Cryptography at Saarland University; at the time as Germany's youngest professor appointed for life. He was a Max Planck Fellow from 2007 to 2017 and the founding director of the national Competence Center CISPA (founded in 2011), as well as the founding director of the CISPA Helmholtz Center for Information Security. Since 2016, he has been the speaker of the Collaborative Research Center (SFB) "Methods and Tools for Understanding and Controlling Privacy", and the director of the CISPA-Stanford Center for Cybersecurity Research. Over the last years, Mr. Backes has significantly shaped the scientific field of Cybersecurity – on a national as well as an international level – and is internationally perceived as a role model for German Cybersecurity research. His research findings are documented in over 250 peer-reviewed publications in prestigious international journals and conference proceedings. His articles have repeatedly earned him renowned scientific awards, in particular the ERC Synergy Grant, the EU's most distinguished research award. Further awards include the ERC Starting Grant, the Microsoft Privacy Enhancing Technology Award, the Max Planck Fellowship, the IBM Faculty Award, and the CNIL-INRIA Privacy Award as well as the IBM Outstanding Achievement Award. His research findings have been transferred into innovative applications, which have received honors beyond the scientific community. In particular, in 2009, Mr. Backes was Germany's first researcher to receive the MIT TR35 Award: the best 35 researchers worldwide below the age of 35, across all disciplines, whose "accomplishments are poised to have a dramatic impact on the world as we know it". He is the youngest member to date in acatech, is regularly listed in numerous rankings as one of Germany's most influential IT personalities (Computerwoche, Capital, etc.) and was distinguished by former Federal Minister Johanna Wanka as one of Germany's digital heads. In 2018, Mr. Backes received the honorary doctorate by the Université de Lorraine and was named IEEE Fellow in recognition for his contribution to Computer Security and Privacy.