CO-Kit

True Digital Sovereignty for a resilient Europe, made in Bavaria.

„Cooperation in an increasingly contested world" – this was the guiding motto the World Economic Forum chose for the core theme of „Collaboration" at its January 2026 meeting. Across all media, we read and hear about the dependency of European corporations on American and Asian Big Tech. Geopolitical conflicts dominate the news landscape; digital warfare is no longer science fiction.

Bavaria, Germany, and the EU find themselves in a highly dangerous state of limbo: We've traded privacy, data-ownership, and infrastructure control for convenience. We are entrusting data access and usage infrastructure to closed, non-interoperable systems, thereby relinquishing data ownership, digital sovereignty, and resilience against external dependencies. Our systems are neither resilient nor fail-safe, repeatedly falling victim to sensitive cyberattacks. We are an easy target.

How is meaningful and profitable cooperation supposed to emerge from this status quo—at both the national and European levels?

We are experts in secure digital collaboration and complex distributed processes, and at 1io, we have created a solution for the problems described above.

CO-kit: Sovereignty at its Core.

CO-kit is a Software Development Kit (SDK) for developing collaborative applications of all kinds. Whether it's messengers, office tools like meeting rooms or project management software, digital marketplaces, AI integrations, or high-security communication for the defense sector—the following applies to all CO-kit applications:

- **Local Availability: Operates on end devices;** ensuring no network dependencies and no processing of sensitive data on third-party servers.

- **Decentralized Data Handling:** Eliminates dependency on cloud providers.

- **Platform-Agnostic Stack:** Eliminates operator dependency.

- **Open Interfaces:** Ensures interoperability by default.

- **Cryptographic Data, Identity, and Permission Management:** Guarantees highly secure processes.

- **Content Validation and Logging by Default:** Enables easy (optional) monitoring and auditing.

- Through CO-kit applications, a value-creating, decentralized ecosystem emerges in the long term, featuring applications for all digital aspects of daily life and work. This enables true data sovereignty, eliminates central points of failure, and ensures the system remains functional even in isolated networks.

The development possibilities with CO-kit are virtually limitless. This is clearly demonstrated by comparing the development effort required:

Conventional Application:

1. Selection of Tech Stack (Database, Backend, Cloud, Infrastructure …)
2. Create data model and database
3. Connect data to backend via client / data layer (ORM …)
4. Implementation of Business Logic and Permissions in backend
5. Implementation of APIs (RPC, REST, …)
6. Implementation of synchronizing frontend data model
7. Frontend implementation
8. Backend deployment & infrastructure implementation (Server, Cloud …)

vs.

CO-kit Application:

1. Data modeling in a „CORE" that combines data model, business logic, and permissions
2. Implementation of Frontend and direct data usage

Digital Megatrends and Safeguarding European Interests

As mentioned in the beginning, our digital life is defined by collaboration—or to put it another way: the constant exchange of (highly sensitive) data with others. At the same time, we operate in a market dominated by powerful players whom we cannot trust. Nevertheless, we have made ourselves dependent on them over the years. The approach of „simply rebuilding" tech stacks based on American or Asian models will fail, as it inevitably leads to the same current problems: massive cyberattacks on central targets, outages causing millions in damages, vendor lock-in, and a lack of interoperability.

This is why considering a better digital future leads to only one conclusion: we must first shape it together, second create security through decentralization, and third foster inter-European interoperability through open protocols and interfaces.

With a radically redesigned technological „foundation" like CO-kit, we are not only defending a volatile European infrastructure but also our democracy—because issues like disinformation, political incitement, and cyber-terror can finally be combated realistically with CO-kit applications.

With the right technology, Europe also has the chance to use AI in a way that is enriching rather than data-exploitative. The key to this is complete data sovereignty. With the EU Data Act and the EU AI Act, the legal frameworks have already been established. CO-kit is compliant by default and is not an innovation that has to be legally captured bit by bit after the fact.

An Open Approach for Open Standards

With the rise of AI, data is no longer just stored or processed — it is continuously learned from, replicated, and transformed into intelligence. Whoever controls the data controls the system, and increasingly, the intelligence built on top of it. Yet most digital collaboration and software systems today are built on centralized platforms and cloud infrastructures controlled by a few vendors. Control is replaced by trust — trust in providers, contracts, and promises that users cannot verify. We communicate, work, and build on platforms that define the rules, control the infrastructure, and decide how data is used. In exchange for convenience, users, organizations, and institutions give up direct control — often without transparency, insight, or real alternatives.

Our goal is to enable software systems where sovereignty is based on control and transparency — not on trust alone. Control over data, access, and usage is structurally anchored with those who depend on the system. Ownership is enforced by design. Behavior is inspectable. Decisions are verifiable. Systems remain functional, scalable, and AI-ready without requiring users, organizations, or institutions to surrender control to platforms, clouds, or vendors.

- **Sovereignty requires transparency:** No single vendor should control or obscure the foundations of digital systems that others depend on. CO-kit is designed as an open foundation that can be inspected, audited, extended, and adapted.

- **Open source is a prerequisite for verifiable control:** Users and organizations must be able to understand how systems work, how data is handled, and how decisions are made.

- **Control requires freedom of movement:** Tools built on CO-kit are designed to interoperate across providers and organizational boundaries. Interoperability is built into the foundation, not added as an afterthought.

Sovereignty and Resilience Begin with Trust

At 1io Brandguardian GmbH, we have been developing market-leading applications for digital collaboration for over 27 years. As a "Hidden Champion" from the Allgäu region, we know what it means to drive innovation in Bavaria while many others migrate to the "Valleys" of the world. The European ideal and its values have driven us for years. Our core product, "one2edit," is now a mission-critical software component for customers such as Microsoft, Siemens, RedBull, McDonald's, and many others.

We have been researching and developing CO-kit for approximately five years. Our project is already being funded by the European Union and has been audited by the German Aerospace Center (DLR).

Together.

The CO-kit ecosystem becomes more resilient and better with every additional application and user. Therefore, adoption and broad acceptance of the technology are the keys to success. This requires political support and visionary decisions.

As a Bavarian innovation, CO-kit can make a decisive contribution to European digital sovereignty—we must seize this opportunity now. Every Euro invested and every political initiative in this area is an investment in the future viability of our country and our continent.