

Press Release



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TÜV SÜD strengthens digital resilience

March 25, 2026

Software escrow as a key component of business continuity, governance and investment protection

Munich. As business processes become increasingly digitised, reliance on specialised software is growing, as is the risk of disruption to operations caused by a software provider's failure, insolvency or change of strategy. TÜV SÜD's professional software escrow solutions help companies to strengthen their digital resilience, meet regulatory requirements, and safeguard their investments in business-critical software in the long term. The software is deposited in a structured, contractually regulated escrow model with clearly defined release conditions.

Digital resilience as a strategic management task

In industrial value chains, the medical technology sector and the energy sector, software is now an integral part of production, operations and service provision. At the same time, there are often close dependencies on individual manufacturers or proprietary applications. If the supplier fails or further development of the software is no longer available, this can have immediate consequences for business processes, delivery capabilities and security.

Software escrow agreements provide a structured safeguard against this: the source code and relevant documentation are deposited with an independent body, such as TÜV SÜD, and can be released to the licensee under defined conditions. This gives companies additional security for the continued operation and maintenance of business-critical applications. In addition to the source code, the deposit can also include build environments, configuration files, installation routines and technical documentation.

“Digital resilience today also means actively managing dependencies on software suppliers,” says Kristijan Cizmar, Head of the Cyber, Software & New Energy Department at TÜV SÜD. “Professionally structured escrow models help companies maintain business operations even in exceptional situations.”

Growing importance in the regulatory environment

In parallel with increasing digitalisation, regulatory pressure on organisations to systematically manage their IT risks is rising. New and expanded requirements for resilience, reliability, and supply chain control are making structured precautionary measures increasingly relevant in the software sector.

Against this backdrop, software escrow is becoming an important part of a company's overall IT risk management strategy. The deposit of critical software artefacts can help companies address risks in the digital supply chain transparently and strengthen organisational contingency plans. At the same time, the documented deposit creates traceable processes for audit and compliance purposes.

Trust and investment protection in the B2B software business

In addition to operational security, software escrow is playing an increasingly important role in B2B as a confidence-building measure between providers and users of software. In the case of long-term projects, complex integrations, or custom-developed applications in particular, the escrow of software is becoming an ever more standard component of contractual agreements.

For users, this means protection of their investments in business-critical systems. Providers, in turn, can build trust with customers and partners through transparent safeguards and strengthen their competitiveness. “For many companies, software is a central component of their value creation, as its failure can jeopardise business continuity,” says Cizmar. “Independent escrow provides planning security for both parties and supports stable long-term business relationships.”

Independent escrow and structured release processes

As an independent third party, TÜV SÜD handles the structured escrow of software or other documents, as well as the administration and release processes, in accordance with the terms of the escrow agreement previously set out in writing between the depositor, the beneficiary and TÜV SÜD. In addition to secure storage, the service includes the option of technical testing and validation of the deposited software artefacts. These may include completeness checks, integrity checks, virus scans, and functional verifications of the deposited software, for example.

Through a combination of technical expertise, legal and regulatory understanding, and its neutral role as an independent body, TÜV SÜD positions itself as a technical trustee for companies wishing to systematically safeguard their digital dependencies. The structured

management of deposits and clearly defined update processes ensure that deposited software or documents can be traced and used when required.

More information:

- [Software Escrow Services](#)

Note for editorial staff: The press release is available on the Internet at:

tuvsud.com/newsroom.

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