

The COVID-19 pandemic has sparked conversations as much as controversies around safety measures, the vaccination and events in general in 2021, while the demoscene is seeking to continue its tradition of conducting their art and competition festivals, known as demoparties.

Echtzeit - Digitale Kultur conducted a survey amongst demosceners in August/September of 2021, at the time when vaccinations are available to almost anyone in Europe, the main place of activity for the demoscene, while the delta-variant of the virus as well as current vaccination rates continue to be a concern for the coming months or years.

Objective: provide organizers with source data for their own decision-making, COVID concepts and economic considerations. Organizers may use and reference this document at their own discretion.

### **TL;DR**

- 13% do not believe this is the right time to organize demoparties again
- 94% of responders are vaccinated (with at least 1 shot at time of response)
- 64% would prefer the COVID-certificate for admission, plus masks and rapid self-tests. 26% wish for vaxx-only admission
- A considerable number prefers the infodesk over an app to handle contact data

### **Disclaimer**

This readout is in no way meant as a challenge to any local regulation, a guideline or quality judgement of different protective measures, and is only a snapshot of a part of the demoscene's current "community opinion".

This opinion is of course subject to change depending on the overall development of the situation, as well as incidents arising at demoparties, so a re-survey after a few months is advised.

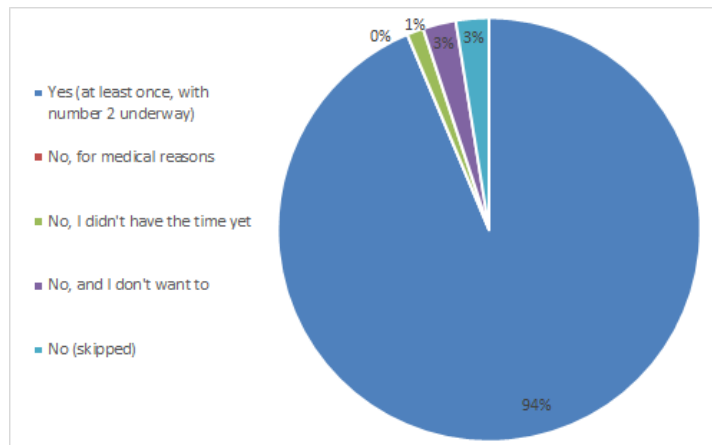
In the end, the organizing entities must assess the risk, current situation and measures in place by their local government in their own conscience and economic consideration.

### **General Confidence in holding a Demoparty (multi-day event indoors)**

12.66% of respondents do not yet believe that by February, the time to run regular demoparties has come.

This leaves 87.34% of surveyed demosceners not expressively opposed to attending demoparties again in the foreseeable future.

## Vaccination rate amongst surveyed Demosceners



The vaccination rate amongst respondents is very high compared to the population average. This may be explained by a high share of MINT-educated demosceners, weighing scientific consensus higher than philosophical or sociocultural/economical scepticism.

If all non-replies are automatically counted as “No”, a vaccination rate of 93.7% can be concluded.

*Considerations: A more conservative expectation may be applied on actual vaccination rates, assuming less socially-involved people (see “Limitations”) also show lower vaccination rates in the general population. However, with the active demoscene having a rather homogenic sociocultural and demographic population, notable variations are not to be expected.*

## Safety Measures and Combination of such

Question: “What safety measures should be in place for you to feel comfortable enough to come? (Multiple Answers/Combo as your personal minimum requirement)”. Most replies held a combination of several measures.

Visitor Protective Measure		Event Protective Measure		
Description	Count	Rapid Self-Test	Masks, Social Distancing	PCR-Pool Tests
<b>COVID Certificate (Vaccinated, Tested, Cured)</b>	50	19	17	2
<b>Vaccinated Only</b>	20	4	6	3
<b>As Little As Possible/None</b>	8	2	2	2
<b>General Measure Acceptance</b>		25	25	7

The visualisation shows the most selected minimum-required (dark blue) to least selected minimum-required (light blue) measures in combination. The results have been split into

visitor-centric measures (vaccination status, COVID certificate, "As little as possible" with no other measure selected) and event-provided protective measures.

Social Distancing / Masks and Rapid Self-Tests have an equally high demand trend across all three visitor-centric measure-tiers.

The PCR-Pool tests are the least selected option, which explains itself by their long lead time (the results will only be available 1 day later and anonymous. In case of a positive test, the associated scener may have already been able to spread the virus.)

In any case, organisers should clarify the question as part of their concept: What happens if visitors test positive during the event? Do visitors receive quarantine arrangement support? Does the event need to be called-off?

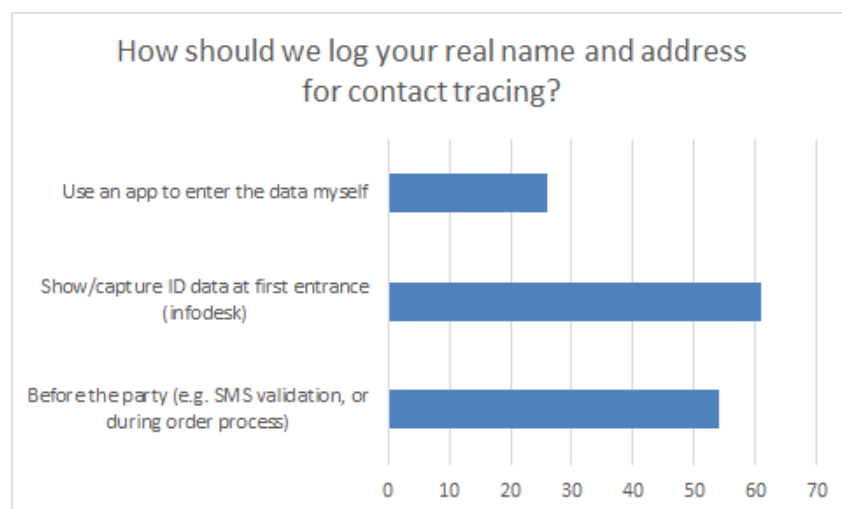
*Considerations for future surveys: Split question by "Visitor Protective Measure (Single-Select)" and "Event Protective Measure (Multi-Select)" to draw a clearer line for minimum requirements. Many respondents selected both "Vaccinated Only" and "COVID Certificate", which can either be understood as willingness to compromise, or as the requirement to use the COVID certificate as formal validation measure.*

*However, for the purpose of this readout a clear distinction in Event Protective measures according to the bottom-line Visitor Protective Measure can be drawn, as the standalone selection "COVID Certificate" was far more prevalent than "Vaccinated only".*

### Data Collection for Contact Tracing Purpose and Vaccination Verification

While **87.18% of surveyed demosceners are willing to share their vaccination certificates**, a bit over 10% do not feel comfortable with it (+2% unwilling to share any certificate, as they do not agree with vaccination mandates).

*Considerations: This will no longer be required, as the COVID-certificate (non-"light") indicates the reason for certification in case of a vaccinated-only mandate.*



The second collection point shows that a majority of demosceners trust the infodesk (the visitor service of a demoparty) more than apps to handle their personal data. It should

however be considered that not all demosceners feel comfortable sharing their real name and information in association with an ID for a multitude of reasons (traditional use of “handles” to ensure anonymity in the culture, ID name/gender no longer applicable, etc.)

*Considerations: Copying passports or ID's is not allowed in several European countries.*

*It will be on organizers to ensure compliantly capturing all data required by health authorities, while not creating bottlenecks during visitor admission.*

## **Personal statements - Call for Inclusion and a “New Normal”**

A lot of the surveyed demosceners left personal messages of their situation, thoughts and feelings. To ensure anonymity, they will not be directly quoted.

Opposition or concerns to visit demoparties aren't predominantly caused by fear. Some have shared their personal reasons why they cannot imagine themselves visiting a demoparty in the near future.

- Close contact to people that cannot be vaccinated (e.g. chronically ill, children)
- Potential quarantine requirements (upon return by local government demand, in case of an incident at the party place, care work for elderly relatives, ...)
- Concerns around safety in public transport
- Airport bottlenecks in security and border control
- Long distance to partyplace(s) for non-European sceners

Streaming solutions and services have become a gateway to continue the scene's work for the past two years, may be seen as an opportunity to ensure inclusion of people that cannot or do not wish to go to demoparties at this point, as well as generating more outreach to potential new demosceners.

*Considerations: Although not asked directly, a lot of respondents commend the work of organizers over the past two years, establishing streaming offers and online parties. This raises potential for further surveys or conversations on streaming content for longterm formats.*

---

## **Survey Background and Basic Information**

Echtzeit - Digitale Kultur held a survey via SurveyMonkey from August 18th, 2021 to September 13th, 2021. The survey was shared via the following platforms:

- Demoscene Discord Server
- Pouet's Oneliner-section
- Twitter & Facebook (Demoscene Group, MountainBytes and Echtzeit Pages)
- Newsletters (Demonights/Buenzli, MountainBytes)

79 people have provided their answer, IP addresses remained untracked to ensure privacy, names or e-mail addresses have not been requested.

## **Limitations**

The survey will have been most likely taken by demosceners regularly visiting the aforementioned forums. It must therefore be concluded that primarily middle-European demosceners with a high engagement rate outside of demoparties have taken the survey.

Additionally the newsletter subscribers to Echtzeit and MountainBytes (Switzerland) imply that a high proportion of Swiss demosceners have partaken in the survey. The fairly liberal COVID response by the Swiss government and population can be a deciding factor in the outcome of the data.

## **Contact**

In case you are interested to model your own survey, have questions, suggestions or wish for further analysis of the raw data (please note that the raw data will not be shared to protect respondents anonymity), please contact:

[info@mountainbytes.ch](mailto:info@mountainbytes.ch)