Michael Backes is a full professor at the Computer Science Department of Saarland University and a Max Planck Fellow of the Max Planck Institute for Software Systems. He has the chair for Information Security and Cryptography. He is the Director of the Center for IT-Security, Privacy, and Accountability (CISPA), and a Principal Investigator and Vice-coordinator of the Cluster of Excellence on Multimodal Computing and Interaction (MMCI).

As of November 2015 he is the speaker of the newly established collaborative research center on Methods and Tools for Understanding and Controlling Privacy. Michael Backes is also an entrepreneur: In 2010 he founded the company Backes SRT to further develop results from basic research and transform them into marketable applications. Its products SRT AppGuard and SRT Boxify are very successful.