

GDPR: The countdown has begun

Less than a year to go to prepare for the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The internet has made it possible to send data to the four corners of the planet. But while the ability to transfer personal information around the world has opened the door to global business opportunity, it has also left it firmly ajar to security breaches.

NEW REGULATION – WHAT'S NEW?

The European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), due to come into effect in 2018, will shine a spotlight on how companies operating in the Continent protect their customers' data from falling into the wrong hands.

The GDPR marks a sea of change in the way data collection and use is regulated. It moves away from the relatively laissez-faire and out-dated EU Data Protection Directive to one of the most draconian laws in the world.

The final version of the GDPR was agreed in December 2015 after four years of political consultation and lobbying and is expected to be approved by the EU parliament imminently.

Under EU data protection law, companies cannot transfer EU citizen's personal data to countries outside the 28 nation bloc deemed to have insufficient privacy safeguards, of which the US is one.

Under new rules, all organisations conducting business in the EU must demonstrate that adequate measures have been put in place to comply with GDPR and evidence how they collect and use personal information.

The days of simply paying lip service to data privacy obligations have gone. In this new regulatory landscape, businesses will need to genuinely adopt governance and accountability standards.

Data security is no longer simply a compliance department issue; the new Regulation will demand evidence that organisations are actually being led by Data Protection Officers that focus on the security of personal data in all aspects of business, as well as asking the right questions at the right time before things become a problem.

GDPR will require organisations to map and classify all their personal data, perform risk assessments, design privacy protections into all new business operations, and practices, employ dedicated protection officers, monitor and audit compliance and document everything they do with data and everything they do to achieve legal compliance.

This new law will also require firms to reconsider how they engage with people, including their contracting and permission processes and how they give clear and full information on what is happening to personal data.

DATA MANAGEMENT

The Directive states that organisations must have appropriate security in place to prevent personal data being accidentally or deliberately compromised. Data management software, such as DataStoreDSX seamlessly captures all corporate information, irrespective of format or source, and archives it in a single, secure repository. Information is retained and deleted in accordance with legal and regulatory guidelines, enhancing Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity. Instant access and retrieval capabilities improve customer service and save valuable man-hours.

POLICY MANAGEMENT

Effective GDPR policies and procedures are a prerequisite to protecting businesses and educating staff; however, if they are not communicated effectively, they are worthless.

A robust policy management system, such as PolicyHub, could be used to assist your organisation with this fast approaching regulation. PolicyHub is a built for purpose, multi-lingual Policy Management solution that ensures the right Policies & Procedures get to the right people; that they become accountable by signing up to them and the entire process is recorded, providing a clear trail for regulatory and audit purposes.



TOP 10 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GDPR

1. The GDPR will become applicable across the EU on 25 May 2018
2. It will introduce new obligations on organisations
3. Online identifiers and biometric and generic information are now designated as "sensitive personal data"
4. The standard for genuine consent will get higher
5. Organisations will need to give more information about the processing to individuals
6. There is a new right to erasure and a right to be forgotten
7. The GDPR introduces a new concept of privacy by design and privacy by default
8. It will be mandatory to report security breaches to the Information Commissioner's Office within 72 hours.
9. Organisations will need to conduct Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) prior to any data processing which could be considered as high risk
10. Organisations will be required to demonstrate that they are compliant with the GDPR, through their internal policies, processes and training

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