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Privacy Considerations Throughout the Data Life Cycle

James J. Pomykalski
pomykalski@susqu.edu
Sigmund Weis School of Business
Susquehanna University
Selinsgrove, PA 17870, USA

Abstract

Due to recent technological advances in the Internet-of-Things (IoT) and data analytics algorithms, the issues of data privacy are again at the forefront of many enterprise strategies. Data privacy has been seen, throughout the years as a legal, public policy and, most recently, a risk management issue. In this paper, we begin the discussion of data privacy at the operational level by addressing operational initiatives and activities to be implemented. More specifically, these initiatives and activities are discussed across a data life cycle model. The focus of this paper is to examine the characteristics of each data life cycle stage and propose a series of organizational data management processes to address data privacy.

Keywords: Privacy, Strategy, Data Management, Risk Management, Organizational Processes, Consumer Data

1. INTRODUCTION

Despite the long history on the discussion of the issue of the "right to privacy", the privacy issue still remains largely ill defined. Nissenbaum (2009) discusses privacy through the lens of contextual integrity because of the changing nature and culturally varying use of the term (Nissenbaum, 2009). Brandeis and Warren (1890) offered the most succinct argument for the right to privacy in 1890 when, against a growing backdrop of technological advances, they argued that privacy is simply "the right to be left alone".

In today's business environment privacy, specifically data privacy is an important issue for many consumers and enterprises. Some commentators have suggested that enterprises should "abandon privacy as an organizational framework" (Bamberger & Mulligan, 2015, p. 22); largely due the issue of contextual integrity (Nissenbaum, 2009). However, many enterprises are addressing privacy through the development of a data strategy, which is becoming a necessary part of an overall enterprise strategy. "Data was

once critical to only a few back-office processes, such as payroll and accounting. Today it is central to any business, and the importance of managing it strategically is only growing." (DalleMule & Davenport, 2017, p. 121).

A data strategy "helps by ensuring that data is managed and used like an asset. It provides a common set of goals and objectives across projects to ensure data is used both effectively and efficiently" (SAS, Inc., 2018, p. 4). Specifically, DalleMule and Davenport's (2017) data strategy framework includes both a data offense and data defense component.

"Data defense and offense are differentiated by distinct business objectives and the activities designed to address them" (DalleMule & Davenport, 2017, p. 114). The data offense component deals with the use of data for increasing profitability, revenue, and customer satisfaction, while the data defense approach focuses on minimizing downside risk for the enterprise. Data defense includes activities that ensure compliance with regulations and the

integrity of the data; including privacy (DalleMule & Davenport, 2017); the focus of this paper.

However, in order to execute an effective data strategy an enterprise must understand the path data takes within the enterprise. Chisholm (2015) has proposed a seven-stage data life cycle (DLC). The DLC attempts to characterize the activities performed on data as it helps to inform the business processes within an enterprise. This paper examines the activities that take place in each of the phases of the DLC and proposes measures and activities necessary for an enterprise to manage data privacy effectively.

Before proceeding further, it is important to discuss the use of terms data and information. The author acknowledges that data and information have distinct meanings, namely that information is data placed in context. However, in this paper, especially in reference to the work of other scholars, the words data and information are used interchangeably. In addition, at some point during the data life cycle data does become information therefore the privacy of the data as well as the privacy of derived information are essentially synonymous. Future work is already underway to examine the contextual nature of data privacy.

This paper serves as an initial examination of the of the characteristics of each phase of the Chisholm DLC model and proposes a series of organizational data management processes, using known practices as well as existing regulations, to address the privacy of data within an enterprise.

This paper begins by briefly reviewing the literature around data privacy in terms of public policy, legal, and risk management frameworks. In section three, the Chisholm model (Chisholm, 2015) is described in more detail. In sections four through nine, privacy concerns/issues across each of the seven stages of the DLC are discussed in more detail. Section 10 briefly addresses future work in this area, while the final section presents a summary and some conclusions from this work.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

In the early 1970s, the privacy literature concentrated on privacy as a public policy issue; that citizens had the right to privacy. Regan has stated that privacy should be framed as "a common value, a public value, and a collective value" (Regan, 1995, p. 241). She further argued that society is better when privacy is considered.

Nissenbaum (2009) argues that privacy is a social good. She states that the use of analytics can breach the privacy of individuals and others, such as in the 23andMe (Belluz, 2014) or the Target case (Duhigg, 2012). The 23andMe case involves the matching of genetic testing material by police to privately developed DNA databases. The Target case related the use of data to identify pregnant customers. Target used this information to send coupons to these customers; one customer was a 17-year-old girl whose father was not aware of her pregnancy. Both of these cases serve as examples when examining the individual stages of the Chisholm model.

The legal discussion of information privacy predates the work of both Regan (1995) and Nissenbaum (2009). Following on the work of Brandeis and Warren (1890), privacy was defined further by Westin (1967) where he initiated the concept of "informational self-determination" which means that individuals should have the right to determine the extent of the use of their information. While this does not show privacy as a public policy issue, it does assert that individuals should control privacy. This issue of consent, one of the key principles within the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (Information Commissioner's Office (ico.)), is examined later.

The issue of privacy has become more concerning with the acceleration of information technologies (Shaw, 2009; Johnson & Miller, 2009). Shaw (2009) believes that technological advances have made people reconsider the public/private distinction and has led the legal profession to become more concerned as well. Solove (2005) created a taxonomy of activities that invade the privacy of individuals. This taxonomy includes 16 privacy harms ranging from information aggregation, insecurity of information, and disclosure and exposure. Another issue, data capture through means of surveillance, deals with the on-going capture of data on individual; Zuboff (2019) updates and extends the discussion on nature of surveillance activities undertaken with information technology.

The underlying principles of informational self-determination are the foundation of the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) that went into effect in May 2018. One aspect of this regulation focuses on data protection as it relates to ensuring people can trust an organization to use their data fairly and responsibly; this is a practical level of the fundamental right to privacy (Information Commissioner's Office (ico.), n.d.). The GDPR is

built on seven underlying principles of data protection:

1. Lawfulness, fairness and transparency—enterprises have identified an appropriate bases for data collection and processing, the enterprise considers how processing data will impact individuals—which includes the issue of consent—and that enterprises are open and honest informing the public on data usage,
2. Purpose limitation—enterprises have clearly identified and documented the purpose for data collection and processing,
3. Data minimization—enterprises collect only the data they specify; data must have a specified business purpose,
4. Accuracy—enterprises build in checks for data accuracy throughout the life cycle,
5. Storage limitation—enterprises define, maintain and adhere to data collection and retention policies,
6. Integrity and confidentiality—enterprises maintain strict security measures to protect an individual's data, and
7. Accountability—requires enterprises to take responsibility for personal data, in their possession, and demonstrate/document compliance.

These underlying principles are key to the GDPR and the issue of data protection and privacy. Each of these principles have an impact on data across the data life cycle.

Finally, a third area that warrants discussion is the practical operations and policies used by enterprises; namely C-level executives like Chief Privacy Officers (CPO); although a recent report shows that many enterprises do not have a formal CPO and are therefore struggling to deal with data privacy operational policies (Howard, 2020)

Hilliman states, "data governance oversight [especially in terms of privacy and security] should exist in an interdisciplinary and accountable setting" (Hilliman, 2013, p. 136). Bamberger and Mulligan (2015) examine the practical aspects used by, both US and European, CPOs in safeguarding privacy. These CPOs view their role as strategic; CPOs spend time attempting to integrate "privacy concerns throughout decision making about firms goals, products, and services ensuring a voice on privacy matters is heard at the [executive] table" (Bamberger & Mulligan, 2015, p. 78). Another vital part of the job of a CPO is to interpret and understand the external environment in which their enterprise operates. CPOs spend time

interacting and building relationships with privacy regulators, including the governmental and NGO privacy groups.

"To the extent privacy governance requires the dynamic, 'learning' approach that many [CPOs] described, privacy is increasingly framed as a part of the evolving practice of risk management" (Bamberger & Mulligan, 2015, p. 81). In this way, privacy governance is about creating governance structures for operational managers, then the role of the privacy team is to monitor and audit decision-making activities. As one CPO said it, "my team is not responsible for compliance, they're responsible for enabling the compliance of the business" (Bamberger & Mulligan, 2015, p. 84).

3. CHISHOLM DATA LIFE CYCLE MODEL

A data life cycle model fits well into this strategic view of privacy. The data life cycle does not necessarily define all the specific processes involved in data management, however, it does provide "high-level", i.e., strategic, understanding of the activities within that stage regarding enterprise data.

While the Chisholm (2015) model is not the only data life cycle model available (National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM), nd), the seven stage model best fits this research effort for three primary reasons.

First, the Chisholm model has generic applicability and specifically addresses the issue of data governance; the other DLC models address the needs of handling library and/or (National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM), nd) research data. Data governance consists of the development of "a system of decision rights and accountabilities for information-related processes" (Thomas, 2014, p. 3).

Second, the Chisholm model has clearly described the separation of the stages and the associated activities. The model phases depict "logical dependencies and not actual data flows" (Chisholm, 2015, "Critique"); data are harder to capture and are informed by enterprise business processes.

Finally, the model phases focus on specific data governance activities that are unique to each phase; these are shown in Figure 1 below.

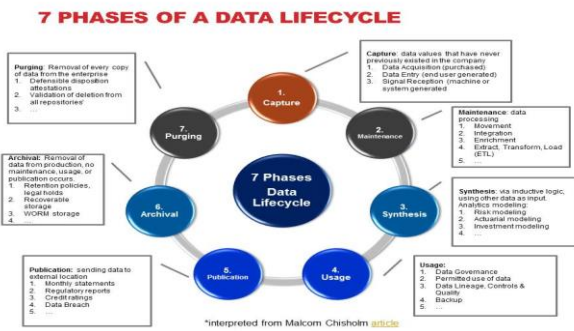


Figure 1: Data Governance in the Data Life Cycle

The focus and the importance, for its applicability, of the Chisholm model is to ensure sound data governance principles in every stage of the DLC (Chisholm, 2015, "Critique"). In the following sections, each phase of the Chisholm model—Figure 1—is introduced and the specific privacy concerns/issues in terms of data governance are addressed.

4. CAPTURE

The first stage, capture, deals with the initial, and original, entry of the data into the enterprise. Chisholm specifically mentions three primary means for data capture: data acquisition, data entry, and signal acquisition. Data acquisition and signal acquisition involve the capture/acquisition of data by an enterprise from outside of the firewalls (Chisholm, 2015), data entry is data generated internally.

In this phase, the enterprise has made a conscious effort to incorporate "captured" data into their infrastructure; the data fits their business needs. The first three GDPR principles—lawfulness, fairness, and transparency; purpose limitation; and data minimization—are most applicable in this phase. The enterprise decides to collect specific data items based on identified appropriate bases for data collection; by identifying and documenting the purpose for the data collection and usage. These criteria can be clearly shown in the documentation of data requirements and business need. In addition, adherence to privacy standards, set by management, can only be achieved through the establishment of clear priorities and formal policies. These policies should proactively define and align the rules for data collection, provide on-going services to data stakeholders, and react to and resolve issues arising from non-compliance (Thomas, 2014). In addition, in terms of transparency of the data capture, enterprises should develop "guidelines that align the interests of companies and their customers, and ensure

that both parties benefit from personal data collection" (Morey, Forbath, & Schoop, 2015, p. 100). A survey of 900 individuals—from five different countries—showed that consumers are largely unaware of the type of data that is captured routinely by firms (Morey, Forbath, & Schoop, 2015).

Privacy concerns, due to increased data capture, through surveillance activities, have escalated especially since the late 1980s. In fact, in 1986 only about one percent of all data was digitized. However by 2013 nearly 98% of all data was in digital form (Zuboff, 2019); this increased the opportunity for many enterprises to collect data first and then postulate a purpose second. In her recent book, Zuboff (2019) suggests that this intensive digitization, along with increased use of information technologies, more powerful than those suggested by Shaw (2009), have led to an increase in "surveillance capitalism". Surveillance capitalism is "not technology; it is logic that imbues technology and commands it into action. Surveillance capitalism is a market form that is unimaginable outside the digital milieu" (Zuboff, 2019, p. 15).

5. MAINTENANCE & SYNTHESIS

The next two phases maintenance and synthesis, deal with preparing the data for further analysis. The maintenance phase involves the storage, "integration, cleansing, enrichment, changed data capture, as well as the familiar extract-transform-load processes" (Chisholm, 2015, "Data Maintenance"). New data values are derived in this stage by using deductive logic. While in the synthesis phase, new data values are created by using, not deductive logic but inductive logic which requires the use of expert judgment, experience, and/or intuition as part of the logic. (Chisholm, 2015). The privacy issues and concerns of both of these phases are similar so the discussion covers both of these stages simultaneously.

In these stages, captured data is combined with existing enterprise data. The primary privacy concern at this stage is that of data anonymization or data pseudonymization. A lengthy discussion of the primary difference between an anonymization process and a pseudonymization, the activities in each process, and the risks—to security—associated with each process appears in a document published by the Information Commissioner's Office (Information Commissioner's Office (ico.), 2012). The document provides guidance to enterprises that need to anonymize data, it also helps identify

issues to consider ensuring effective anonymization of personal data, and describes the legal tests required in the GDPR.

The data creation accomplished in these phases is the result of efforts to classify vast amounts of data into homogenous clusters or data discovery through insight creation techniques such as data mining; much of this latter work occurs in the synthesis phase. The establishment and adherence to enterprise and external policies regarding the integrity and confidentiality of this data are of vital importance. There is a higher risk that these new data elements, containing personally identifiable data on specific individuals or groups, increase the need to understand the issues of data anonymization. In addition, the establishment of individual accountability to compliance with the policies needs clear documentation and enforcement throughout the enterprise.

This stage utilizes the enterprise's experience in performing integration, cleansing and enrichment of data through past efforts in creating a data warehouse. Data governance efforts that focus on data privacy, as well as data security are critical at this stage. The data governance efforts may be limited to only certain data—i.e., master data—and responsible data governance personnel will be accountable for:

- access management and security requirements,
- alignment of frameworks and data governance initiatives,
- risk assessment and development of risk management plans,
- Enforcement of regulatory, contractual, architectural compliance requirements,
- identification of stakeholders, establishment of decision rights, and clarification of accountabilities (Thomas, 2014).

Another issue that requires attention in this stage is the development of the use of systems that automate data integration. Recent research has led to the development of machine learning/data mining systems that build in privacy preservation. Clifton et al. (2004) call for the need for further research, development, and use of privacy preserving systems especially in data integration and sharing efforts.

There are two recent examples of data synthesis efforts that draw concern. The first example involves the use of facial recognition software in US airports for the boarding process (Funk, 2019). As passengers board their facial image is

compared to images in a database of photos taken from visas, passports, and related immigration applications. While many believe that this increases security, many privacy concerns exist with facial recognition software systems. First, these systems do have a 99 percent accuracy rating for identifying white men, while the error rate for females and people with darker skin tones is as high as 35 percent (Funk, 2019). In this case, females and minorities have an increased likelihood of being targeted for additional screening measures. The second concern raised with the use of facial recognition is the use of the database. Funk (2019) states "Americans should be concerned about whether images of their faces collected by this program will be used by companies and shared across different government agencies. Other data collected for immigration purposes—like social media details—can be [shared](#) with federal, state, and local agencies. If one government agency has a database with facial scans, it would be simple to share the data with others" (Funk, 2019, Para 10). In this case, it is not the data that is misused but the technology utilizing the data that could result in privacy violations (Funk, 2019).

In the second, more widely publicized case, an open source DNA database was used by police in California to track down the Golden State Killer (Molteni, 2018). The case involves questions of privacy because of the frequent use of genetic testing through firms like 23andMe and Ancestry. In this case, the police matched the killer's genetic profile, obtained through old crime scene samples, to samples in the open source DNA database. Once a pool of individuals was obtained they used other clues—familiar connections, sex, age, place of residence—to rule out suspects. Eventually their search found a single suspect, which was confirmed through matching his DNA to the crime scene samples (Molteni, 2018). While some people may be comfortable with this police tactic, others, especially privacy experts, are concerned.

6. USAGE

The usage stage of the DLC is described as "the application of data as information to tasks that the enterprise needs to run and manage itself" (Chisholm, 2015, "Data Usage").

Chisholm (2015) goes on to point out that with any data there may be additional permissions that are needed through the data governance structure. Specifically, Chisholm (2015) refers to legal or regulatory restrictions imposed by outside agencies that restrict the use of the data

to certain business processes; as consent issues were addressed in an earlier stage.

The other issue left to consider at this stage is the use of privacy-preserving data models, namely machine learning/data mining, which will further protect the privacy of individuals in this stage. The current state of these privacy-preserving systems is outlined in a recent post by engineers at Dropout Labs (Mancuso, DeCoste, & Uhma, 2018).

In this report, the engineers discuss the impact of machine learning systems on privacy and the ongoing research and development in privacy-preserving systems. The authors view the development of these systems, especially open source systems, as positive and encourage enterprises to examine and utilize these systems.

7. PUBLICATION

Chisholm (2015) describes the data publication stage as the point in time where data is sent to a location outside of the enterprise. Data publication is the stage that represents the point in time where data is beyond recall or correction. This stage also covers the breach of data from internal systems.

Data publication is often the first time that consumers may react to lack of transparency in data capture, synthesis, and usage of their personal data. For example, Duhigg (2012) examines Target's use of personal data to identify pregnant customers, in particular a minor female. Target issued a public apology and quietly withdrew the program.

Data breaches are a form of data publication that cause enterprises major issues. Data breaches are often when consumers find, after it has been compromised, that an enterprise maintained their personal data. Data breaches carry both legal and public relations implications, which cost enterprises in terms of not only dollars but also reputation, brand, consumer trust and, potentially, future sales (Bowers, 2011). Data breaches may also have implications more directly on consumers in the form of identity theft possibilities.

8. ARCHIVAL

Data archival is "the copying of data to an environment where it is stored in case it is needed again in an active production environment, and the removal of this data from all active production environments" (Chisholm, 2015, "Data Archival"). A data archive is a place to store data

once its useful life has been exhausted. The data remains as part of the data infrastructure and can be restored if necessary, however, no further maintenance, usage or publication occurs.

While many of the same concerns about security and data anonymization/pseudonymization exist at this stage to those discussed in the maintenance and synthesis stages, one of the specific issues questions facing enterprises with data archival is the development of a data retention policy. The GDPR address the issue of data retention through the storage limitation principle, which states that for personal data enterprises should (1) not keep the data longer than needed, (2) be able to justify the length of retention for the data, (3) have a policy setting group set compliance standards that are well documented (Information Commissioner's Office (ico.), 2012).

9. PURGING

The final stage of the data life cycle is the purging of all instances of the data item from the enterprise and its systems (Chisholm, 2015). Data deletion is difficult for enterprises but, for much of the data in current systems, "the costs of keeping data are higher than you think, and the benefits are lower...there is a chance it will be harmful—like being lost in a breach or subpoenaed in a lawsuit" (Branscombe, 2019, Para 6). Branscombe (2019) goes to state that about a third of data, stored in current data centers, is likely redundant, obsolete or trivial and since it holds no business value; it should be purged.

Purging data can be cost-effective as well as risk reducing. Additional costs may be incurred due to additional anonymization/ pseudonymization processes. In addition, the risk of having the data lost and de-identified often outweigh the loss of this data. In fact, Joshua de Larios-Heiman, chair of the California Lawyers Association Internet & Privacy Law Committee, warns that enterprises should think of this data as uranium rather than oil; as assets that could become toxic (Branscombe, 2019).

10. FUTURE WORK

As discussed in the introduction, the question of the transition of data to information is important in terms of privacy. The application of the enterprise's specific purpose, knowledge, and activities imposed on data can lead to different privacy concerns. The investigation of how these situations can be modeled will be the subject of future research.

This work has two additional natural extensions. First, the focus of future work can shift from looking at data governance activities that help ensure privacy to those that help ensure data quality. Data quality is still a part of the data defense strategy (DalleMule & Davenport, 2017) and is a natural extension of this work on data privacy. Data quality has been cited, as one of the key issues that enterprises face, especially with the use of analytics, in ensuring that the data that is being used is of the highest quality; as defined by the end users (Kwon, Lee, & Shin, B, 2014; Hazen, Boone, Ezell, & Jones-Farmer, 2014). Understanding how users view data quality in each of the different phases of the life cycle is important in understanding how data quality improvement is accomplished.

Second, further delineation of the data governance activities described in each of the seven phases of the DLC needs to be undertaken. This would include the use of current practices found within existing enterprises in managing privacy throughout the DLC. Subsequent work can focus on specific key phases in the DLC individually.

11. SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS

This paper addressed an initial set of data governance activities and initiatives that need to be addressed within each stage of the data life cycle. While this is not the first work to begin to address these data governance activities, it is the first look at data governance with respect to privacy across particular stages of a data life cycle.

This work illustrates the number of issues and concerns that must be addressed when it comes to data privacy. While, in the US the legal oversight concerning data privacy is scattered because individual state laws are enforced. For example, California will have a new law in effect, the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA) (Californians for Consumer Privacy, n.d.), in January of 2020 to address data privacy.

However, the recent enactment of the European Union's (EU) General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) has come a long way in forcing US enterprises to address privacy more rigorously due to the fact that any enterprise doing business within the EU must adhere to these new standards.

The problem is that while some enterprises are dealing with data privacy as a risk management issue (Bamberger & Mulligan, 2015) there seems

to be little progress being made on privacy as a public policy issue.

Overall, this paper focused on the examination of the characteristics of each data life cycle stage and the unique activities that need to be addressed in each stage with regard to data privacy.

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