

Data Inventory Validation

WHAT IS A DATA INVENTORY?

A core requirement of the GDPR is that companies document their processing. Documentation can take a variety of forms. Some companies create data inventories. Others data maps, or data registers. No matter the name, each is an internal record of the types of information collected, the legal basis for processing, who the information relates to, the countries that the information is transferred to, and the third parties that access it.



WHAT ARE ORGANIZATIONS WORRIED ABOUT?

Organizations rushed to put inventories into place before the GDPR went live on May 25, 2018. In that rush, many did not appreciate the legal risks that data inventories can create. Indeed for many organizations the inventory they created may be the core document that leads to liability under the GDPR. The reason is simple. The GDPR requires that a company make their inventory available to European regulators whenever they request. Many organizations don't realize that their inventory has demonstrates – on its face – that the organization is out of compliance with the GDPR. For example, it might refer to legal authority for certain types of processing that are not permitted under the GDPR, or cite as the basis for processing documents that don't exist (but must exist under the GDPR).

WHAT DO WE DO?

We look at a data inventory like a regulator looks at a data inventory – with an eye toward spotting inconsistencies, errors, and facial violations of the law.

WHY BCLP?

We are internationally recognized as one of the top resources on GDPR, and have been sought out by dozens of companies to advise and consult on how to create data inventories efficiently, effectively, and accurately. Companies across the globe have retained us to review inventories that were created internally, by outside consultants, or by other law firms to flush out the red flags that would catch a regulator's eye. In short, we are the standard for how to practically and efficiently validate that compliance documents do not cause their own risk.

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