COMPANY policy template instructions

This COMPANY policy template represents a complete, compliance-ready policy with placeholders for company specific text. Each policy section represents a policy-specific topic that you should consider and/or modify to match your company’s practices.

For each policy section

* Consider if this section and its corresponding risks apply to you. If it does not, remove it and/or replace it with your organization’s corresponding practices.
* Replace any highlighted text in angled brackets < > with your own language
* Rewrite the policy language such that it reflects the practices of your organization

Policy completion checklist

1. Use Find to make sure that all text in angled brackets is replaced
2. Proofread your policy for spelling and grammar mistakes
3. Confirm that the policy’s content reflects your organizations practices
4. Add any company-specific letterhead, branding, and formatting
5. Remove this instructions page
6. Export this document as PDF — File > Save As > Change “File Format” to PDF
7. Upload the PDF to COMPANY at https://app.COMPANY.com/policies

More questions?

A good rule-of-thumb is to keep your language at a high enough level such that it stays representative for at least a year. If you have more questions about how to use this template, please reach out to support@COMPANY.com or your auditor for additional guidance.

Information Security Policy

Policy Owner: <Policy owner>

Effective Date: <Effective date>

# Overview

This Information Security Policy is intended to protect <Company Name>’s employees, partners and the company from illegal or damaging actions by individuals, either knowingly or unknowingly.

Internet/Intranet/Extranet-related systems, including but not limited to computer equipment, software, operating systems, storage media, network accounts providing electronic mail, web browsing, and file transfers, are the property of <Company Name>. These systems are to be used for business purposes in serving the interests of the company, and of our clients and customers in the course of normal operations.

Effective security is a team effort involving the participation and support of every <Company Name> employee or contractor who deals with information and/or information systems. It is the responsibility of every team member to read and understand this policy, and to conduct their activities accordingly.

# Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to communicate our information security policies and outline the acceptable use and protection of <Company Name>’s information and assets. These rules are in place to protect customers, employees, and <Company Name>. Inappropriate use exposes <Company Name> to risks including virus attacks, compromise of network systems and services, financial and reputational risk, and legal and compliance issues.

The <Company Name> “Information Security Policy” is comprised of this policy and all <Company Name> policies referenced and/or linked within this document.

# Scope

This policy applies to the use of information, electronic and computing devices, and network resources to conduct <Company Name> business or interact with internal networks and business systems, whether owned or leased by <Company Name>, the employee, or a third party. All employees, contractors, consultants, temporary, and other workers at <Company Name> and its subsidiaries are responsible for exercising good judgment regarding appropriate use of information, electronic devices, and network resources in accordance with <Company Name> policies and standards, and local laws and regulations.

This policy applies to employees, contractors, consultants, temporaries, and other workers at <Company Name>, including all personnel affiliated with third parties. This policy applies to all <Company Name>-controlled company and customer data as well as all equipment, systems, networks and software owned or leased by <Company Name>.

# Security Incident Reporting

All users are required to report known or suspected security events or incidents, including policy violations and observed security weaknesses. Incidents shall be reported immediately or as soon as possible by <how to and where to send incident reports, e.g., sending an email to: help@<Company Domain>.com>.

In your <incident report communication method, e.g., email> please describe the incident or observation along with any relevant details.

# Whistleblower Anonymous Fraud Reporting

Our Whistleblower Policy is intended to encourage and enable employees and others to raise serious concerns internally so that we can address and correct inappropriate conduct and actions. It is the responsibility of all employees to report concerns about violations of our code of ethics or suspected violations of law or regulations that govern our operations.

It is contrary to our values for anyone to retaliate against any employee or who in good faith reports an ethics violation, or a suspected violation of law, such as a complaint of discrimination, or suspected fraud, or suspected violation of any regulation. An employee who retaliates against someone who has reported a violation in good faith is subject to discipline up to and including termination of employment.

Anonymous reports may be submitted via <anonymous report mechanism (e.g. whistleblower service>.

# Mobile Device Policy

All end-user devices (e.g., mobile phones, tablets, laptops, desktops) must comply with this policy. Employees must use extreme caution when opening email attachments received from unknown senders, which may contain malware.

System level and user level passwords must comply with the Access Control Policy. Providing access to another individual, either deliberately or through failure to secure a device is prohibited.

All end-user, personal (BYOD) or company owned devices used to access <Company Name> information systems (i.e. email) must adhere to the following rules and requirements:

* Devices must be locked with a password (or equivalent control such as biometric) protected screensaver or screen lock after <screensaver lock requirement, e.g., 5 minutes of non-use>
* Devices must be locked whenever left unattended
* Users must report any suspected misuse or theft of a mobile device immediately to <role/team responsible for receiving mobile device theft reports, e.g., <Company Name>’s IT Department>
* Confidential information must not be stored on mobile devices or USB drives (this does not apply to business contact information, e.g., names, phone numbers, and email addresses)
* Any mobile device used to access company resources (such as file shares and email) must not be shared with any other person
* Upon termination users agree to return all company owned devices and delete all company information and accounts from any personal devices

# Clear Screen Clear Desk Policy

Users shall not leave confidential materials unsecured on their desk or workspace, and will ensure that screens are locked when not in use.

# Remote Working and Access Policy

Remote working refers to any situation where organizational personnel operate from locations outside the office. This includes teleworking, telecommuting, flexible workplace, virtual work environments, and remote maintenance. Laptops and other computer resources that are used to access the <Company Name> network must conform to the security requirements outlined in <Company Name>’s Information Security Policies and adhere to the following standards:

* [Optional] Company rules shall be followed while working remote including clear desk protocols, printing, disposal of assets, and information security event reporting to prevent mishandling or accidental exposure of sensitive information.
* To ensure mobile devices do not connect a compromised device to the company network, Antivirus policies require the use and enforcement of client-side antivirus software
* Antivirus software must be configured to detect and prevent or quarantine malicious software, perform periodic system scans, and have automatic updates enabled
* [Optional] Mandate the use of VPN when transmitting confidential information over public Wi-Fi to prevent potential eavesdropping or man-in-the-middle attacks.
* When working from a home network, ensure that the default wifi settings are changed, such as name, password and admin access
* [Optional - Delete if not relevant to your team] For system administrator, it is advised to set up a work specific network with strong WPA3 encryption or at least WPA2 with Robust password, together with, if supported, setting up a dedicated VLAN. Additionally, WPS (Wi-Fi Protected Setup) and UPnP (Universal Plug and Play) should be disabled if not specifically required.
* Users must not connect to any outside network without a secure, up-to-date software firewall configured on the mobile computer
* Users are prohibited from changing or disabling any organizational security controls such as personal firewalls, antivirus software on systems used to access <Company Name> resources
* Use of remote access software and/or services (e.g., VPN client) is allowable as long as it is provided by the company and configured for multifactor authentication (MFA)
* Unauthorized remote access technologies may not be used or installed on any <Company Name> system
* Users shall use a VPN when transmitting confidential information on public Wi-Fi
* If you access from a public computer (e.g., from a business center, hotel, etc.), log out of the session and don’t save anything. Don’t check “remember me”, collect all printed materials and do not download files to a non-<Company Name> controlled system

# Acceptable Use Policy

<Company Name> proprietary and customer information stored on electronic and computing devices, whether owned or leased by <Company Name>, the employee or a third party, remains the sole property of <Company Name> for the purposes of this policy. Employees and contractors must ensure through legal or technical means that proprietary information is protected in accordance with the Data Management Policy. The use of <company file sharing system, e.g., Google Drive> for business file storage is required for users of laptops or company issued devices. Storing important documents on the file share is how you “backup” your laptop.

You have a responsibility to promptly report the theft, loss, or unauthorized disclosure of <Company Name> proprietary information or equipment. You may access, use or share <Company Name> proprietary information only to the extent it is authorized and necessary to fulfill your assigned job duties. Employees are responsible for exercising good judgment regarding the reasonableness of personal use of company-provided devices.

For security and network maintenance purposes, authorized individuals within <Company Name> may monitor equipment, systems and network traffic at any time.

<Company Name> reserves the right to audit networks and systems on a periodic basis to ensure compliance with this policy.

## Unacceptable Use

The following activities are, in general, prohibited. Employees may be exempted from these restrictions during the course of their legitimate job responsibilities with properly documented Management approval. Under no circumstances is an employee of <Company Name> authorized to engage in any activity that is illegal under local, state, federal or international law while utilizing <Company Name>-owned resources or while representing <Company Name> in any capacity. The list below is not exhaustive, but attempts to provide a framework for activities which fall into the category of unacceptable use.

1. Violations of the rights of any person or company protected by copyright, trade secret, patent, or other intellectual property, or similar laws or regulations, including, but not limited to, the installation or distribution of "pirated" or other software products that are not appropriately licensed for use by <Company Name>
2. Unauthorized copying of copyrighted material including, but not limited to, digitization and distribution of photographs from magazines, books, or other copyrighted sources, copyrighted music, and the installation of any copyrighted software for which <Company Name> or the end user does not have an active license
3. Accessing data, a server, or an account for any purpose other than conducting <Company Name> business, even if you have authorized access, is prohibited
4. Exporting software, technical information, encryption software, or technology, in violation of international or regional export control laws, is illegal. The appropriate management shall be consulted prior to export of any material that is in question
5. Introduction of malicious programs into the network or systems (e.g., viruses, worms, Trojan horses, email bombs, etc.)
6. Revealing your account password to others or allowing use of your account by others. This includes family and other household members when work is being done at home
7. Using a <Company Name> computing asset to actively engage in procuring or transmitting material that is in violation of sexual harassment or hostile workplace laws
8. Making fraudulent offers of products, items, or services originating from any <Company Name> account
9. Making statements about warranty, expressly or implied, unless it is a part of normal job duties
10. Effecting security breaches or disruptions of network communication. Security breaches include, but are not limited to, accessing data of which the employee is not an intended recipient, or logging into a server or account that the employee is not expressly authorized to access, unless these duties are within the scope of regular duties. For purposes of this section, "disruption" includes, but is not limited to, network sniffing, pinged floods, packet spoofing, denial of service, and forged routing information for malicious purposes
11. Port scanning or security scanning is expressly prohibited unless prior notification to the <Company Name> engineering team is made
12. Executing any form of network monitoring which will intercept data not intended for the employee's host, unless this activity is a part of the employee's normal job/duty
13. Circumventing user authentication or security of any host, network, or account
14. Introducing honeypots, honeynets, or similar technology on the <Company Name> network.
15. Interfering with or denying service to any user other than the employee's host (for example, denial of service attack)
16. Using any program/script/command, or sending messages of any kind, with the intent to interfere with, or disable, a user's session, via any means
17. Providing information about, or lists of: <Company Name> employees, contractors, partners, or customers to parties outside <Company Name> without authorization

## Email and Communication Activities

When using company resources to access and use the Internet, users must realize they represent the company and act accordingly.

The following activities are strictly prohibited, with no exceptions:

1. Sending unsolicited email messages, including the sending of "junk mail", or other advertising material to individuals who did not specifically request such material (email spam)
2. Any form of harassment via email, telephone, or texting, whether through language, frequency, or size of messages
3. Unauthorized use, or forging, of email header information
4. Solicitation of email for any other email address, other than that of the poster's account, with the intent to harass or to collect replies
5. Creating or forwarding "chain letters", "Ponzi", or other "pyramid" schemes of any type
6. Use of unsolicited email originating from within <Company Name> networks or other service providers on behalf of, or to advertise, any service hosted by <Company Name> or connected via <Company Name>’s network

Additional Policies and Procedures Incorporated by Reference

Personnel are responsible for reading and complying with all policies relevant to their roles and responsibilities.

| **Role** | **Purpose** |
| --- | --- |
| Access Control Policy | To limit access to information and information processing systems, networks, and facilities to authorized parties in accordance with business objectives. |
| Asset Management Policy | To identify organizational assets and define appropriate protection responsibilities. |
| Business Continuity & Disaster Recovery Plan | To prepare <Company Name> in the event of extended service outages caused by factors beyond our control (e.g., natural disasters, man-made events), and to restore services to the widest extent possible in a minimum time frame. |
| Cryptography Policy | To ensure proper and effective use of cryptography to protect the confidentiality, authenticity and/or integrity of information. |
| Data Management Policy | To ensure that information is classified and protected in accordance with its importance to the organization. |
| Human Resources Policy | To ensure that employees and contractors meet security requirements, understand their responsibilities, and are suitable for their roles. |
| Incident Response Plan | Policy and procedures for suspected or confirmed information security incidents. |
| Operations Security Policy | To ensure the correct and secure operation of information processing systems and facilities. |
| Physical Security Policy | To prevent unauthorized physical access or damage to the organization’s information and information processing facilities. |
| Risk Management Policy | To define the process for assessing and managing <Company Name>’s information security risks in order to achieve the company’s business and information security objectives. |
| Secure Development Policy | To ensure that information security is designed and implemented within the development lifecycle for applications and information systems. |
| Third-Party Management Policy | To ensure protection of the organization's data and assets that are shared with, accessible to, or managed by suppliers, including external parties or third-party organizations such as service providers, vendors, and customers, and to maintain an agreed level of information security and service delivery in line with supplier agreements. |

# Policy Compliance

<Company Name> will measure and verify compliance to this policy through various methods, including but not limited to ongoing monitoring, and both internal and external audits.

# Exceptions

Requests for an exception to this policy must be submitted to the <approver of exceptions to this policy, e.g., IT Manager> for approval.

# Violations & Enforcement

Any known violations of this policy should be reported to the <person who should receive reports of violations of this policy, e.g., IT Manager>. Violations of this policy can result in immediate withdrawal or suspension of system and network privileges and/or disciplinary action in accordance with company procedures up to and including termination of employment.

| **Version** | **Date** | **Description** | **Author** | **Approved by** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| <1.0> | <29-Apr-2020> | <First Version> | <OWNER> | <APPROVER> |
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