

Data sovereignty challenges and strategies

Previously, you learned that data sovereignty means that data stored in a physical location has to follow the regulations of that specific location. As a security professional, you need to know the regulations for the location of your data. In this reading, you'll learn more about data sovereignty and explore how it works with data management. Please note, the following reading should not be considered legal advice.

Data sovereignty

Data sovereignty helps protect data within the jurisdiction of a specific country. For example, imagine you take a trip to another country. The country you live in has its own data laws, but so does the country you're traveling to. When you visit another country, you need to follow their laws, even if they're different from your own country's laws.

Data localization

Data localization is the requirement that all data generated within a country's borders remain within those borders. It helps organizations keep their data secure. For example, financial and healthcare institutions usually have to follow stricter regulations about the storage location of their data. These regulations are in place to keep highly sensitive information, like banking or medical information, under control of the applicable legislative or regulatory governance body. Data localization helps ensure data complies with these legal obligations outlined by regulation authorities.

Risk is inherent when implementing so many ranging data laws. An example of a data sovereignty risk is data that's subject to multiple governments' regulations. Cloud computing presents this risk, since so many applications and internet-hosted software are globally available. To mitigate this type of risk, organizations should first decide the locations where their data will reside, and research the local regulations of each possible location. The applicable regulatory requirements will determine the data's residency. After thorough research, organizations need to ensure their data, services, and resources follow regulations.

Challenges with data sovereignty

There are over 100 different countries and regions with their own data sovereignty laws. Because of this, data sovereignty sometimes presents challenges. Some of these challenges include:

- Changing laws: Laws change all the time, so organizations need to keep up with these changes.

- Business growth: While growth is a positive change for most organizations, international growth means they need to learn new sovereignty laws as they expand.
- Managing data across country borders: Data sovereignty laws can make it difficult to move data across borders. This can be a problem for businesses that need to share data with employees, customers, or partners in other countries.
- Complying with different regulations: Businesses that operate in multiple countries need to comply with the data sovereignty laws of each country. This can be complex and expensive.

Tips to meet data sovereignty

Here are some tips you can use to help you meet data sovereignty:

- Perform or invest in data audits. These audits should be comprehensive and done with attention to regulations, as well as other aspects of security.
- Implement protection policies for robust data.
- Stay informed about data protection laws and regulation changes.

Pro tip: It's important to be in constant communication with your cloud provider, and work with them to ensure all the data you're storing with them is compliant. Most likely, they'll have solutions you can use to help keep your data safe and compliant.

Regulations may be specific to different regions, so something you do in one region may conflict with rules in another region. That's why it's vital to know the regulations for each of the regions you use for your data.

Data sovereignty and emerging technology

As new technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) develop, they'll likely cause changes in data sovereignty regulations throughout different regions. And as AI develops, countries will develop their own regulations dealing with AI. To keep up with the data sovereignty of emerging technology like AI, make sure you thoroughly research regulations as they develop.

Key takeaways

Many countries have their own data sovereignty regulations. So, make sure you thoroughly research and know these regulations for each country or region you store data in, or do business with. There are challenges that come with data sovereignty, like changing data sovereignty laws. So, staying informed about data sovereignty regulation changes will help you meet these data sovereignty challenges.