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# Monitoring GDPR Compliance with Splunk

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# Introductions



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# EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

## Introduction

# The Big Picture

In the digital economy, business leaders face increasing scrutiny by the public and regulators about their organization's ability to strategically handle & safeguard data from misuse

## Regulators are raising the bar

- ❑ US Federal Communications Commission (FCC): user consent / permission for broadband data sharing
- ❑ GDPR & California Consumer Privacy: individual data rights
- ❑ State of Missouri: anti-trust investigation on an internet search platform

## Customers are expecting more

- ❑ Harvard Business Review (HBR): monetary value of data trust & transparency
- ❑ Data privacy vs. losing income – which do Americans prefer?
- ❑ Company offers free credit monitoring after major breach

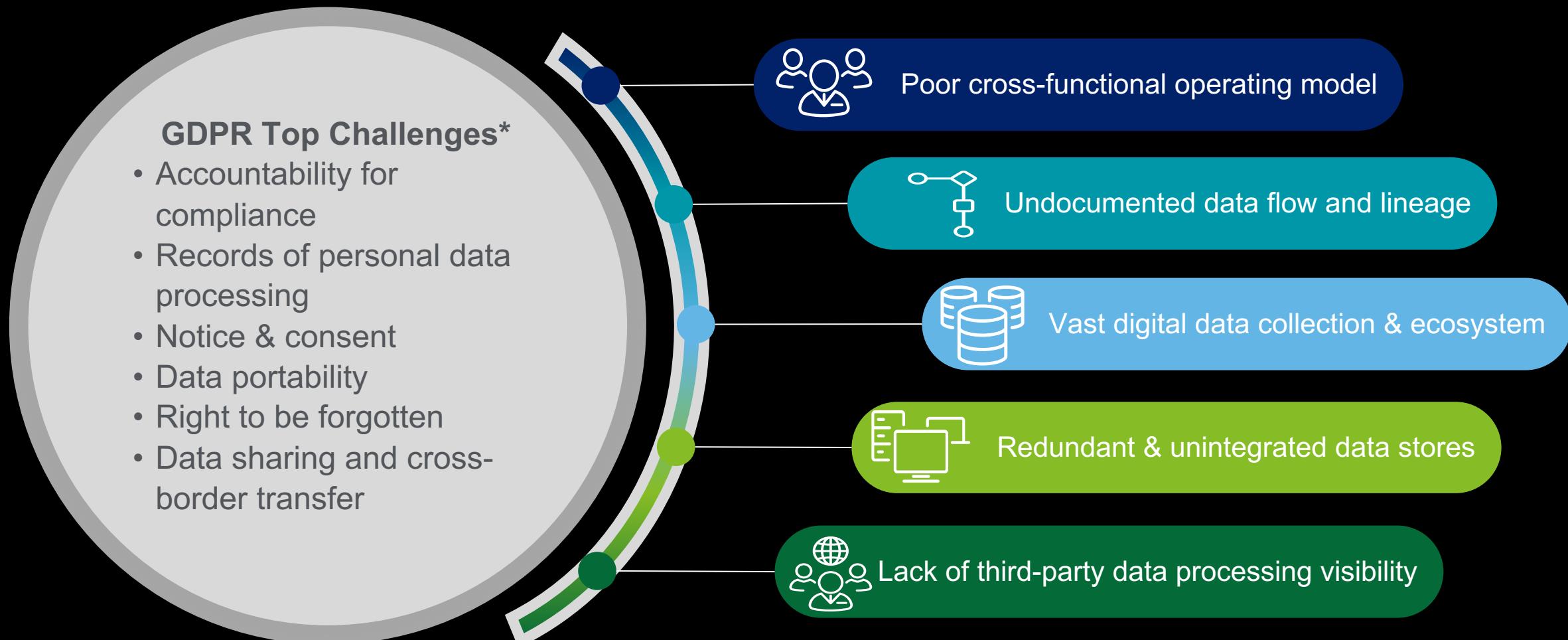
## Businesses treats data as strategic

- ❑ Tech companies: ramping up suspicious accounts monitoring & removal
- ❑ Social media: improving robust privacy settings
- ❑ Three-quarters of data on marketing databases are useless post-GDPR

*See a list of references in Appendix*

# Most Common GDPR Challenges & Data Management

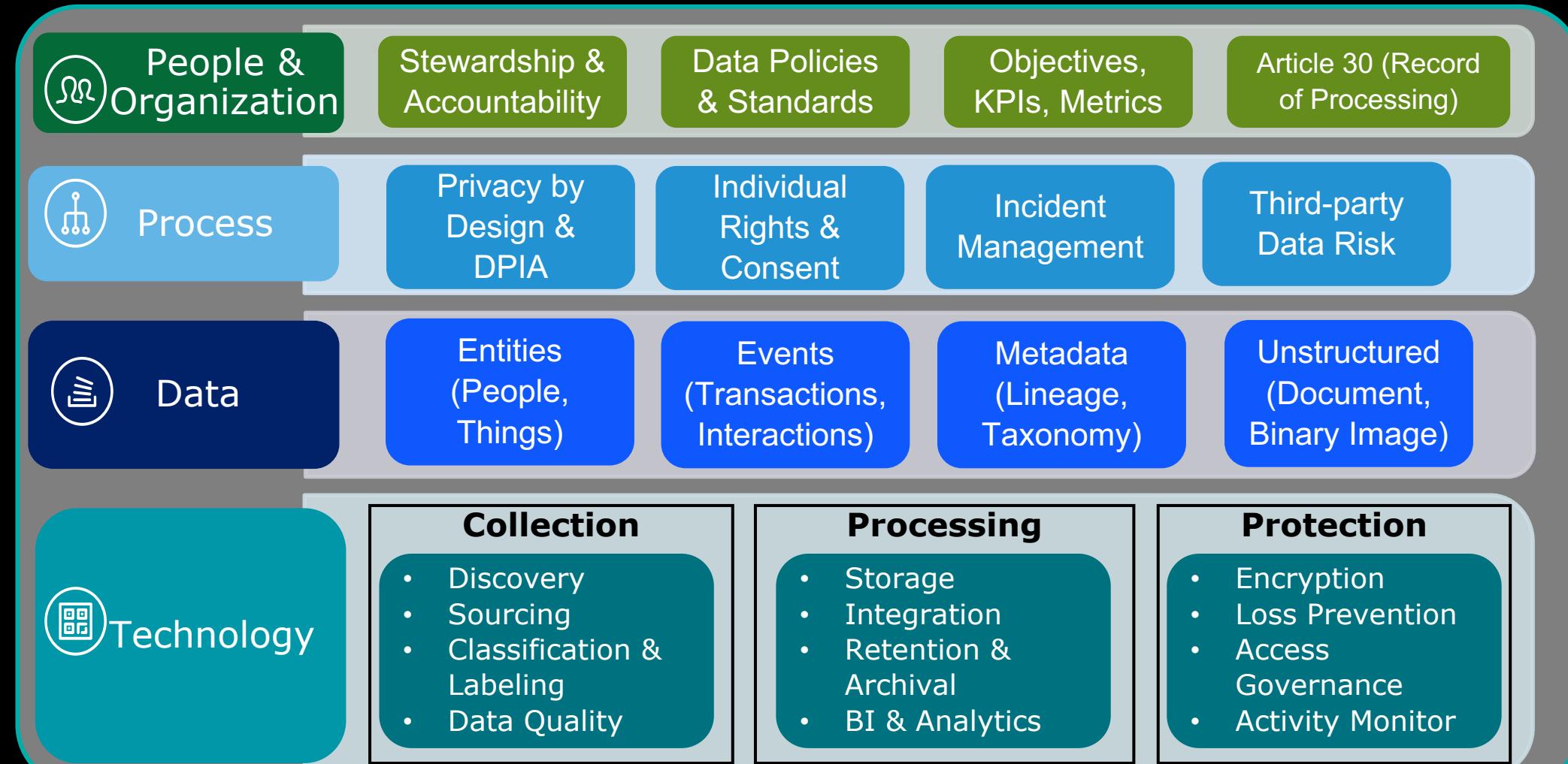
Strategic management and governance of data assets across the enterprise becomes competitive advantage to tackle the root causes of the top challenges presented by GDPR and other privacy and data protection rules.



\* Based on IAPP Annual Privacy Governance Report and the Deloitte General Data Protection Regulation Benchmarking Survey

# Holistic Approach to Address and Comply GDPR

A holistic approach involves cross-functional operating model and capabilities across business analytics, information security, and data management to effectively and efficiently meet GDPR requirements.



# GDPR Monitoring Areas & Sample Use Cases

# Monitoring Areas



# Information Governance

- Metadata Management
  - Data Flow & Lineage
  - Data Handling & Retention



# Data Security & Protection

- Data Access Controls (DAC)
  - Data Activity Monitoring (DAM)
  - Data Loss Prevention (DLP)
  - Data Remediation



# Individual Privacy Rights

- Consent Record
  - Data Subject Rights

## Sample Use Cases —

# Database Change Management

## Data In-Transit Monitoring

# Stale Data Disposal

## Exfiltration & Breach Detection

## Suspicious Behavior Analysis

# Asset & Vulnerability Management

## Consent Revocation Monitoring

## Data Erasure Assurance

# Use Cases

## Case Studies



# 1. Database Change Management

- ▶ Leverage metadata catalog or data governance tool

- Effective to document data flows / maps for GDPR Article 30\*
  - Enable discovery, monitoring, and enforcement of standards and policy



- #### ► Database platforms: track creation and modification of dataset schemas and tables

- Monitor Database Definition Language (DDL) and application programming interface (API) services schema modifications
  - Correlate approved datasets in metadata catalog with database logs



# Data Sources

- *Database audit trail logs (DDL)*
  - *Reference metadata & lineage*



## Search Correlation Logic

- **Normalize Database Audit logs (DDL)**
  - **Search for DDL actions**
  - **Correlate approved data lineage with actions**



## Risk Addressed

- ***Ensure data discoverability & adherence to policies***
  - ***Detect unauthorized activity of sensitive Personal Information (PI)***
  - ***Validate data erasure and disposal***

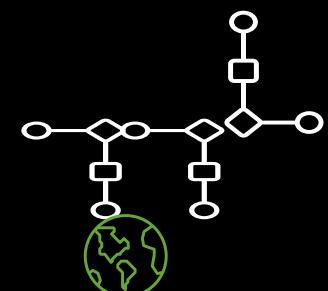
\*As part of GDPR Record of Processing Activities

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## 2. Data In-Transit Monitoring

- ▶ **Metadata catalogs can document data lineage and flow across the enterprise**
    - Identify sensitive data flow in source-to-target map / lineage
  - ▶ **Monitor data flow and processing lineage to detect exposure of sensitive data**
    - Network DLP can stop / send alert for sensitive information exfiltration
    - Track APIs and services account creation
    - Identify authorized actions, accessible IP address and ports



# Data Sources

- *Data lineage and flow from metadata catalog*
  - *DLP events*
  - *Middleware / API service accounts, user privilege details*

# Search Correlation Logic

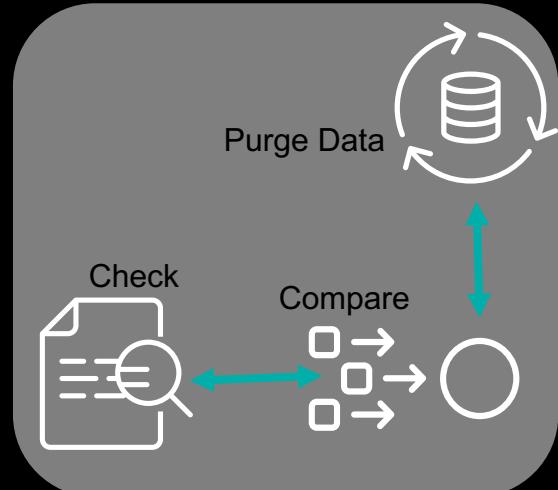
- Normalize sensitive data
  - Define in-transit or source-to-target maps
  - Correlate authorized data lineage & data flow indicators

# Risk Addressed

- *Detect unauthorized or unprotected data transfer / exfiltration*
  - *Monitor data aggregation and transformation logic*

# 3. Stale Data Disposal

- ▶ **Prevent uncontrolled growth, reduce risk of leakage with retention policy**
    - Classify data in terms of subject, categories, origin, and processing purpose
  - ▶ **Monitor unpurged / stale data in databases, file shares, and directories**
    - Utilize database record or table level metadata
    - Data Access Governance (DAG) tools for file and folder level activity metadata





## Data Sources

- *Defined data classification, processing purposes, and retention requirements*
- *Database audit trail of record level metadata*
- *DAG log of file / folder level metadata*

- **Defined data classification, processing purposes, and retention requirements**
  - **Database audit trail of record level metadata**
  - **DAG log of file / folder level metadata**



## Search Correlation Logic

- *Compare file / folder metadata with retention requirements and flag stale data sources*
- *Review last update time vs. retention period and determine purging*

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  - *Review last update time vs. retention period and determine purging*



## Risk Addressed

- *Identification of orphaned data*
- *Timely purging and destruction of stale data*
- *Reduce cost of storage and risk of data leakage*

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  - *Timely purging and destruction of stale data*
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# 4. Data Exfiltration & Breach Detection

- Data leakage & breach detection, prevention, and impact analysis require multi-pronged solution:
  - Network & proxy traffic logs analysis
  - DLP and DAM analysis
  - Encryption\*, rights management, obfuscation, anonymization
  - Metadata catalog and tagging / digital signatures – enhance discoverability
- Correlate logs from multiple solutions in centralized storage & analytics



### Data Sources

- **DLP & DAM alerts**
- **Network traffic & proxy logs**
- **Databases / field encryption settings**

### Search Correlation Logic

- **Normalize DLP and proxy data**
- **Set relevant threshold**
- **Continuously baseline the threshold for “normal” behavior**

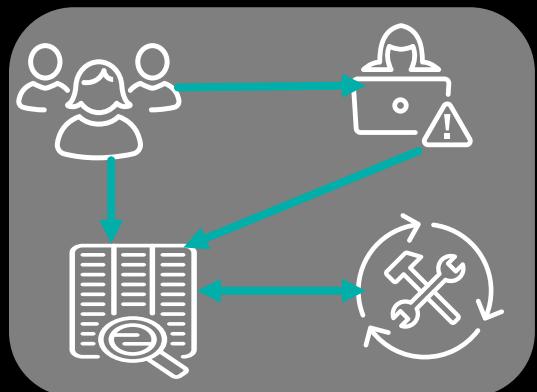
### Risk Addressed

- **Timely detection and prevention of sensitive data leak**
- **Ability to efficiently assess and contain data breach impact**

Note: DLP & DAM must be architected to work with encryption  
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# 5. Suspicious Behavior Analysis

- ▶ Data theft and insider threats require sophistication beyond the baseline access controls
  - ▶ User behavior analysis should be employed to correlate these attributes:
    - Terminated employees or contingent workers access after termination
    - User access to high risk application, data & transactions
    - User security groups, and security zones
    - After hours or out of cycle activities in security zones



# Data Sources

## **Security Groups and geo zones**

- ***Master list of high risk data & transactions***
  - ***Application activity data***
  - ***Current active user and device signature info***

 Search Correlation Logic

- ***Monitor non business hour activities***
  - ***Track IP geo location***
  - ***Correlate user to device signature for anomaly***

## Risk Addressed

- Detect and prevent potential data theft by insider threat*

*Mitigate advanced and persistent threat from social engineers*

# 6. Asset & Vulnerability Management

- ▶ **Outdated patch, misconfiguration, or insecure software code in IT systems and Configuration**
  - Unable to prioritize and apply timely remediation to discovered vulnerabilities
- ▶ **Metadata catalog data should be triangulated with CMDB and network configurations**
  - Improve situational awareness and incident response readiness & enabling strategic prioritization
  - More timely resolution of vulnerabilities
  - Focused areas for Secure-System Development Life Cycle (S-SDLC) and Privacy by Design



 **Data Sources**

*IT Asset from inventory such as CMDB*

- **Sensitive data from data catalog**
- **Vulnerability scan details, dynamic and static analysis**
- **Network configuration**

 **Search Correlation Logic**

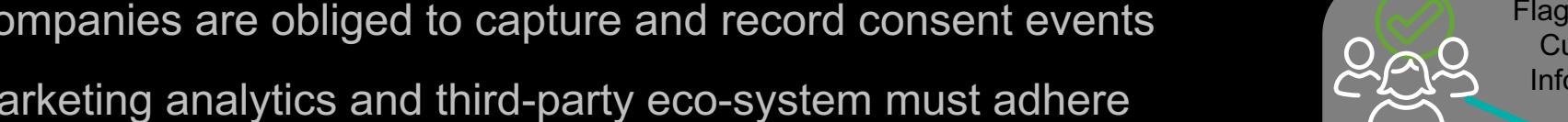
- **Map IT Assets and sensitive data from CMDB and data catalog**
- **Identify clusters of sensitive data repositories in same network zones**
- **Correlate vulnerability scan to identify top Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVE)**

 **Risk Addressed**

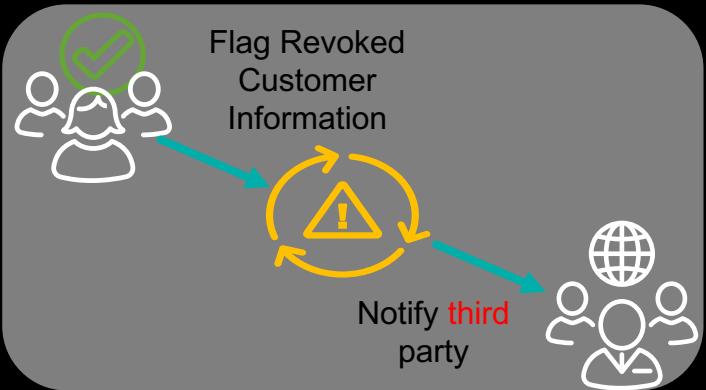
*Proactively address strategic vulnerabilities*

- **Reduce risk of sensitive breach from systems and network zones**
- **Improve situational awareness and IR readiness**

## 7. Consent Revocation Monitor

- ▶ **Individual customer may revoke consent for their data to be used for secondary purposes**
    - Companies are obliged to capture and record consent events
    - Marketing analytics and third-party eco-system must adhere
  - ▶ **Splunk can be used to check for compliance by**
    - Alerting marketing application owners & third parties data processors
    - Flag when customer data are still processed / sent to marketing & third party

The diagram illustrates a process flow. On the left, there is a grey rounded rectangle containing three stylized human figures. A green circle with a white checkmark is positioned above the top figure. A blue arrow points from this icon to a yellow circular warning sign on the right, which features a black triangle with an exclamation mark. Below the warning sign, the text "Notify third party" is written in blue. The entire diagram is set against a dark background.





## Data Sources

- *Customer consent record and privacy preference repository*
- *Application logs from marketing and third-party systems*

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  - *Application logs from marketing and third-party systems*



## Search Correlation Logic

- Maintain a customer “black list”**
- Monitor application and database traffic data against the black list**
- Send alert to marketing and third party**

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## Search Correlation Logic

**Maintain a customer “black list”**

  - **Monitor application and database traffic data against the black list**
  - **Send alert to marketing and third party**



## Risk Addressed

***Provide adherence to customer consent and individual rights***

- ***Customer confidence and trust in data handling process***

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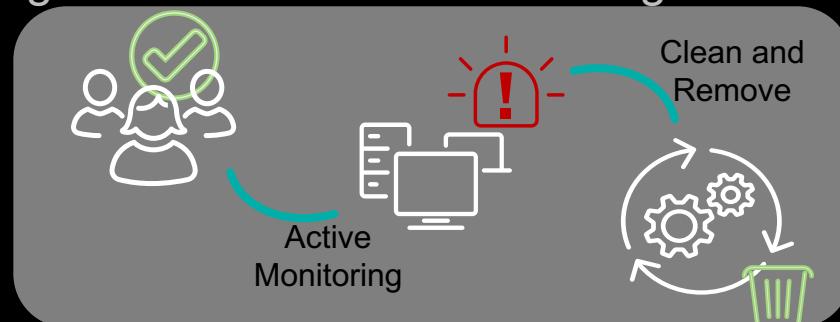
## Risk Addressed

***Provide adherence to customer consent and individual rights***

  - Customer confidence and trust in data handling process***

# 8. Data Erasure Verification

- ▶ **Right to be Forgotten = Fulfill a customer's request to erase their data within 30 days**
    - Good practice: Use single source of truth such as customer Master Data Management (MDM)
    - Run a script or a query to verify erasure and send a success / failure event to Splunk
    - Correlate erasure status against the customer MDM to gain further confirmation



## Data Sources

- *Erasure success / failure event from customer applications*
  - *Master record status from Customer MDM*

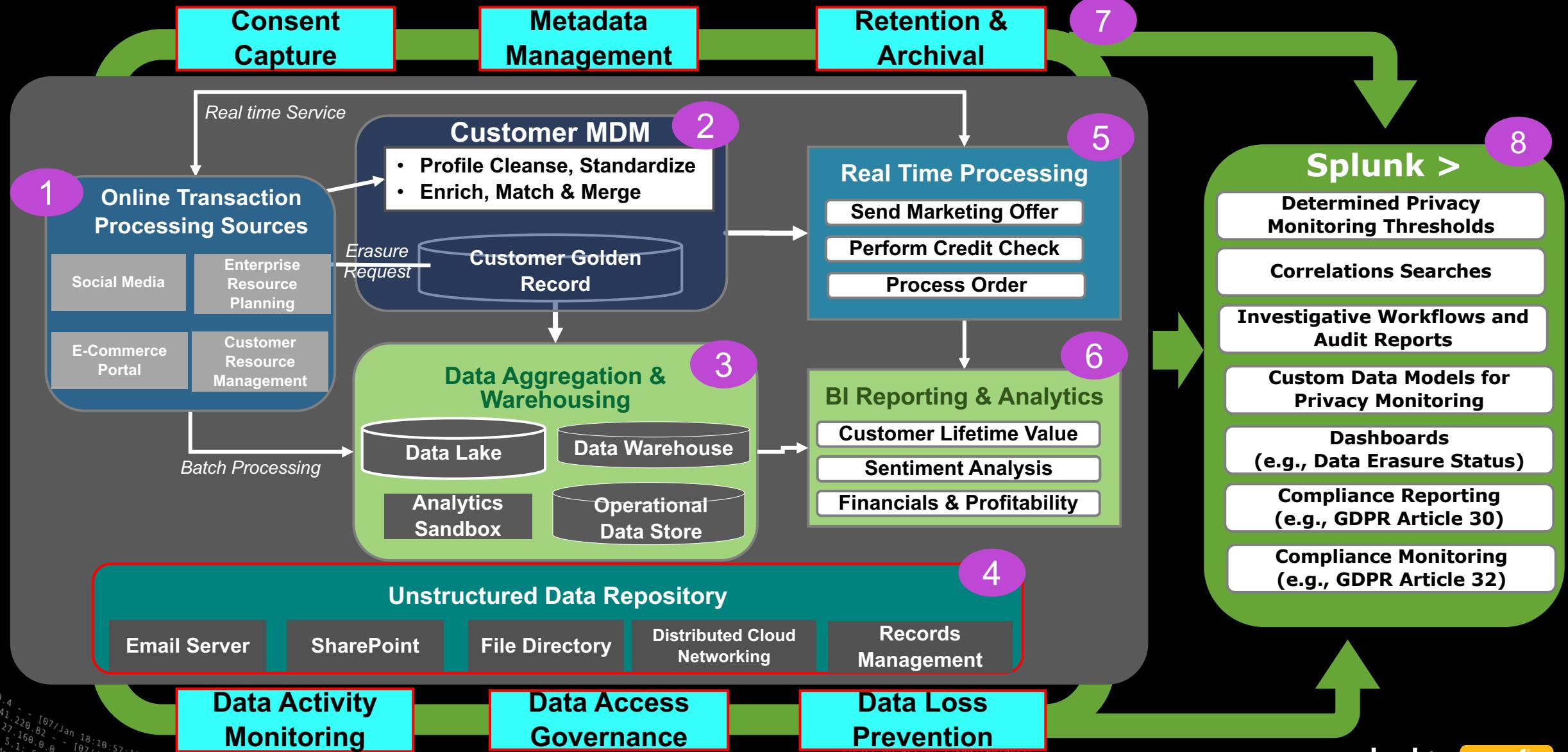
# Search Correlation Logic

- Aggregate erasure event logs across multiple applications
  - Upon successful completion across all source systems, alert final status to Customer MDM

# Risk Addressed

- *Provide adherence to customer consent and individual rights*
  - *Customer satisfaction and trust in data handling process*

# Privacy & Data Protection Architecture - Illustrative



# Appendix

This section contains links to useful information

# List of References

1. <https://inform.tmforum.org/data-analytics-and-ai/2016/10/monetizing-data-us-regulators-agree-new-data-privacy-rules/>
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