

THE GDPR DEADLINE IS ALMOST HERE HOW READY ARE YOU?

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Introduction

Thank you for taking part in IDC's GDPR readiness assessment survey. This study enables you to quickly assess your organisation's readiness, based on IDC's in-depth understanding of the GDPR requirement and the roadmap to compliance. Although the requirements of GDPR are many and various, there are some primary indicators that reveal the state of readiness in organizations, and it is these indicators that we use to determine readiness. This report provides you with essential guidance in the development of your security strategy, and includes recommendations on how to progress your organisation toward a compliant and sustainable position in preparation for May 2018.

What GDPR means for your organisation

The EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is now in force with a transition period until 25th May 2018. IDC research shows that many organisations still appear to have little or no understanding of the regulation, its scope, timeline or impact, despite the risk of huge penalties of up to 4% of global turnover, as well as potential lawsuits, suspension of personal data processing and damage to reputation. Others are more advanced, but are struggling to prioritise activities until May 2018, and to understand how to operationalise compliance after the deadline.

GDPR compliance is required by any organization – regardless of their location – that processes the personal data of "data subjects" (the natural person to which the data relates) in the EU. Processing of personal data refers to what can be done with data i.e. data activities such as: requesting, collecting, storing, searching, forwarding, deleting etc. The definition of processing is very broad: it is best to think of any action that 'touches' personal data as being in scope. GDPR also mandates the consideration of personal data at the time of the inception of a business process or product design, under the requirement for Data Protection by Design and by Default. This embeds data protection in the heart of an organization's innovation process.

GDPR therefore changes the way in which organisation's do business. In many respects that is the point of GDPR. Arguably, GDPR – in principle – is little different from existing legislation. But the consequences of getting data protection wrong increase substantially, where sanctions are designed to be "dissuasive". That is, GDPR wants organisations to take data protection more seriously than they do at present.

Taking stock of where you are in your compliance programme is apt: at worst it confirms that you are on track with your planned compliance activities. But it may also act as a reality check, both against your aspiration and against your peers. Use this assessment tool while you still have time: the clock is ticking and the requirements are wide reaching. Good luck.