

What is a Privacy Impact Assessment?

As stakeholder expectations increase and legislation becomes increasingly complex, the privacy of personal information poses unique challenges. Data privacy is a *risk model*, where the rights and freedoms of data subjects are the silver lining. To determine whether a measure has an acceptable level of risk, what matters is determination of the impacts of a threat on the data subjects, and the likelihood that such threat will occur.



Therefore, businesses need to develop and implement security and risk concepts that are tailored to specific industries, data processing activities, business operatives and resources – whether financial, human or technical. A Privacy Impact Assessment helps organizations meet their privacy requirements by applying an interdisciplinary approach with expertise from the following resources:

- ✔ **Cybersecurity expertise**, to identify your security controls and evaluate whether they are efficient, mature and sufficient given the risks.
- ✔ **Legal expertise**, to evaluate whether information is considered personal information, and the legal framework to apply for processing, and ultimately, to judge whether the risk level of your processing is acceptable, reasonable or adequate given the impacts of data subjects. This evaluation is a balancing of legal interests, and lawyers are best qualified to ultimately assess whether the risk level corresponds to the legal bracket of compliance.
- ✔ **Compliance and risk analysis expertise**, to analyze your risk appetite and determine which gaps are the most significant to you – whether operational, legal, reputational or financial. Once risks have been identified, and remediation measures suggested, compliance and risk experts can suggest the most effective strategy to conduct remediation effectively given your financial, human and technical resources.

Benefits

At Hitachi Systems Security, we have all these areas of expertise under one roof. Our legal, compliance, and cybersecurity experts work hand in hand to deliver a thorough Privacy Impact Assessment that are actionable, understandable and measured against all standards.

- ✔ **Guide government institutions to identify privacy impacts and solutions to help implement security controls to the greatest extent possible for compliance with applicable privacy legislation**
- ✔ **Provide cohesiveness across stakeholder groups and awareness to potential impacts and remediation opportunities and requirements**
- ✔ **Provide earliest notification to make cost-effective adjustments while in the development process**
- ✔ **Examine arrangements with service providers and highlight deficiencies and remediation opportunities**
- ✔ **Provide assurances when personal information will be part of a new process being introduced that it will be appropriately protected**

Methodology

Hitachi Systems Security has developed the Privacy Impact Assessment practice to help organizations evaluate their privacy obligations with one comprehensive assessment approach. Each Privacy Impact Assessment follows a clearly-defined methodological approach (see *Figure 1*).

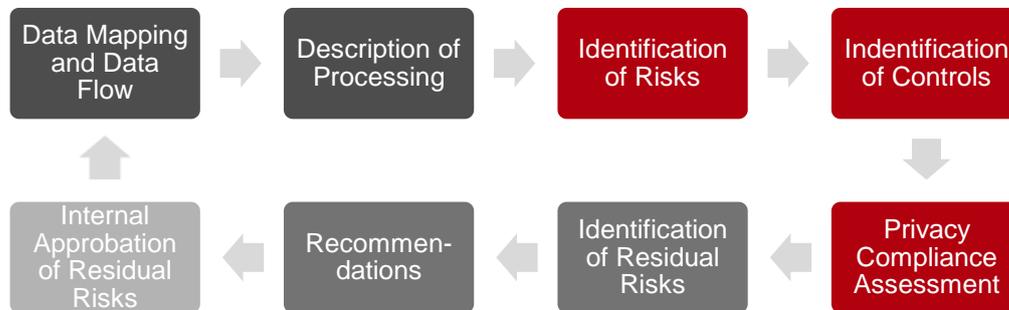


Figure 1: Privacy Impact Assessment Methodology

In addition, Hitachi Systems Security can work with any selected model or legislation as a baseline, including PIPEDA, GDPR and provincial/ state law. We understand that each business is unique and are flexible enough to provide our customers with a customized approach where we can add industry best practices that meet the requirements of the project.

Deliverables

Unless otherwise customized by the customer, a standard Privacy Impact Assessment has two deliverables:

✓ Privacy Impact Assessment Report (PDF Document)

The Privacy Impact Assessment Report is a comprehensive report outlining the specific privacy obligations and risks to your organization. It includes detailed information about the project scope, methodology, legislative background and risk profile, as well as a thorough privacy management evaluation of the applicable governance structure, general obligations, legal structure, exercise of data subject rights, privacy principles and a security risk analysis.

✓ Risk Assessment (Excel Spreadsheet)

The objective of the risk assessment is to identify your organization's overall level of compliance with the applicable privacy legislations, calculate your privacy maturity posture against your target maturity posture and provide indication of your overall risk levels. We identify a set of security controls that will help your organization meet your privacy obligations all while considering your specific business context, risk exposure and maturity level.

Once the Privacy Impact Assessment is performed, we recommend regular updates to ensure that they remain current and that new risks to privacy are addressed.

RECOGNIZED AS KEY INNOVATOR IN DATA PRIVACY



Our unique approach to helping organizations achieve GDPR compliance was recognized by the research institution MarketsandMarkets, featuring Hitachi Systems Security as major player and key innovator in the data privacy field in the 2018 study "[GDPR Services Market by Solution, Service, Organization Size, and Region – Global Forecast to 2023](#)".