



# Preparing for the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)



**CARETOWER**  
I.T. Security Specialists

# PROTECTING YOUR CONFIDENTIAL DATA

As every aspect of our lives becomes more digitally enabled, the opportunity for personal and confidential information to end up in the wrong hands has increased exponentially. Today, individuals, business and government store all kinds of customer data, payment information, personal files and intellectual property on their IT systems. This information can be hard to replace and have severe consequences if it falls into the wrong hands. If your company suffers a fire or flood it can cause major inconvenience and put you out of business for a few days. If you suffer a major data breach however, your business may never recover.

## PREPARING FOR THE EUROPEAN GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR)

The European General Data Protection Regulation is the biggest change to data protection legislation since the 1998 Data Protection Act.

It will have a fundamental effect on the way that organisations collect, store and process personal information of EU citizens, and it becomes law in the UK from May 2018. All public bodies as well as many private sector businesses who process larger amounts of personal data (or specific types of personal information such as criminal convictions) will have to appoint a Data Protection Officer to oversee data processing operations and monitor compliance with the GDPR.

## THE SCALE OF THE PROBLEM

The 2016 Verizon Data Breach Report comprised 64,000 reported incidents across all industries. The industry sectors reporting the highest levels of breaches were government, financial, information and entertainment. Financial gain was the primary motive with espionage in a distant second place. Breaches are often led by a Phishing attack with subsequent malware infections downloaded when the victim clicks on the link to a malicious web site. The attack and data exfiltration takes minutes or days. Unfortunately, detection and remediation can take weeks or months. All too frequently the breach is only discovered by law enforcement agencies who trace back attempted fraud to a common source.

## IT'S ALL ABOUT RISK

The starting point for any data protection programme is to define a strategy and perform a risk assessment. This will identify what information is being held on your system, the risks that relate to your organisation, and the impact of potential data loss through data theft, a malware infection or a system failure, as well human error. Once you have identified the risks that are relevant to your organisation, you can develop a strategy to address them taking into account the impact of any particular breach and your organisation's risk appetite.

## WHAT ARE YOUR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE GDPR?

The full text of the General Data Protection Regulations is unsurprisingly very detailed, and we would strongly recommend that you take legal advice on how its implications will affect your organisation. The ICO has however issued guidance on the steps that organisations should be taking now to prepare themselves for the GDPR.

# PREPARING FOR THE GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR) STEPS TO TAKE NOW





# WHAT IS RIGHT FOR YOUR ORGANISATION?

Implementing the right processes and controls that will enable you to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the GDPR will be a journey that starts with you getting to understand how information is created, stored and shared as part of your day-to-day business process. Depending on the state of maturity of security within your organisation you may need consultancy and workshops to help you to map out your business processes. Alternatively, you may have

already identified the types of controls that you need and simply need the right technology to provide you with the visibility and control over data access on your network and the ability to monitor compliance. In every case we will endeavour to understand the implications for your business and recommend the consultancy / technology products and services that provide the best fit.

## WHY CARETOWER?

As an independent IT security specialist, with over 17 years' experience, we provide comprehensive solutions to individual problems, thus allowing our recommendations to be unbiased. Over the years, we have quickly established many long standing relationships with all of our vendors, achieving the highest status within these organisations based on the level of expertise within our internal sales, support and professional services teams.

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