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Information security, cybersecurity and privacy protection — Application of ISO 31000:2018 for organizational privacy risk management

Sécurité de l'information, cybersécurité et protection de la vie privée — Application de l'ISO 31000:2018 au management des risques organisationnels liés à la vie privée

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Foreword

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The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives or www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs).

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This document was prepared by Joint Technical Committee JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 27, *Information security, cybersecurity and privacy protection*.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user’s national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html and www.iec.ch/national-committees.

Introduction

There is a growing interest in and need to address the differences between information security risk management and privacy risk management for organizations processing personally identifiable information (PII). Information security risk management and related risk assessments have traditionally focused on risk to an organization, often using the widely accepted formula of risk = impact x likelihood. Organizations can use various methods to assess and rank impacts and likelihood, and then determine a value (qualitative or quantitative) for organizational risk that can be used to prioritize risk mitigation.

Conversely, privacy assessments have primarily been focused on impacts on individuals, such as those identified through a privacy impact assessment. Although privacy assessments may prioritize the impacts on an individual's privacy, it is nonetheless necessary to consider how such privacy impacts on an individual can contribute to overall organizational risk. Doing so can help organizations build trust, implement technical and organisational measures, improve communication and support compliance with legal obligations, while avoiding negative impacts to reputation, bottom lines, and future prospects for growth. Privacy events may have consequences for the organization, even in the absence of adverse impacts on PII principals.

This document offers a framework for assessing organizational privacy risk, with consideration of the privacy impact on individuals as a component of overall organizational risk. It extends the guidelines of ISO 31000:2018 to include specific considerations for organizational privacy risk and supports the requirement for risk management as required by privacy information management systems (such as ISO/IEC 27701).

This document is intended to be used in connection with ISO 31000:2018. Whenever this document extends the guidance given in ISO 31000:2018, an appropriate reference to the clauses of ISO 31000:2018 is made followed by privacy-specific guidance. The clause structure of ISO 31000:2018 is mirrored in this document and amended by sub-clauses if needed.

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1 Scope

This document provides guidelines for organizational privacy risk management, extended from ISO 31000:2018.

This document provides guidance to organizations for integrating risks related to the processing of personally identifiable information (PII) as part of an organizational privacy risk management programme. It distinguishes between the impact that processing PII can have on an individual with consequences for organizations (e.g. reputational damage). It also provides guidance for incorporating the following into the overall organizational risk assessment:

— organizational consequences of adverse privacy impacts on individuals; and

— organizational consequences of privacy events that damage the organization (e.g. by harming its reputation) without causing any adverse privacy impacts to individuals.

This document assists in the implementation of a risk-based privacy program which can be integrated in the overall risk management of the organization.

This document is applicable to all types and sizes of organizations processing PII or developing products and services that can be used to process PII, including public and private companies, government entities, and non-profit organizations.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 31000:2018, *Risk management — Guidelines*

ISO/IEC 29100, *Information technology — Security techniques — Privacy framework*

ISO/IEC 27000, *Information technology — Security techniques — Information security management systems — Overview and vocabulary*