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The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force in the European Union on May 25, 2018. It's been a year now, and a lot has changed around data protection legislation across the European Economic Area (EEA). GDPR became an opportunity for several companies to establish best practices in cybersecurity, and it also paved way for California Consumer Privacy Act that is touted to be the GDPR for the United States of America. The U.S. is one of several nations in the world to join the bandwagon of data protection. In other words, the juggernaut has rolled. In our Cover Story, we bust several myths around GDPR that still persist while also exploring newer realities. In our Buzz section, we explore several neglected data security best practices including classification of data based on its sensitivity, password management for admins, reviewing data available to everyone, among several others.

We have Ben Aung, Global Chief Information Security Officer of Sage, Under the Spotlight as he talks about how GDPR affected businesses, and discusses the gray areas in GDPR that companies are still struggling to understand. In our Insight section, we shed light on methods to protect yourself before a merger or an acquisition by detailing several cybersecurity assessment steps your organization can follow.

Tell us what you think of this issue. If you have any suggestions, comments, or queries, please reach us at editorial@cisomag.com.

#### Jay Bavisi Editor-in-Chief

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Download our Cloud Security Toolkit to help you evaluate potential cloud vendors.



http://bit.ly/2ivU4l9

Get insight into how other companies are approaching cloud opportunities, and instill confidence across your organization today.

# From the CISO Perspective to Cloud Security Assessments

Learn How to Make the Leap With Confidence

**The secret is out:** Enterprises large and small have moved to the cloud, and more are making the move daily. Whether you're an early adopter or you've been battling that persistent strain of nephophobia going around, it's important to thoroughly understand and evaluate potential cloud vendors, instilling confidence for your organization and your customers.





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# Neglected Data Security Best Practices



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Ilia Sotnikov, Vice President, **Product Management, Netwrix** 

## BUZZ

nsuring data security becomes harder every day. Firstly, sensitive data is often spread across on-premises and cloud-based storage locations, which makes it more difficult to maintain security controls. Secondly, the volume of data, including sensitive information, continues to grow, which means that more data requires protection. Finally, cyber criminals get more innovative all the time. As a result, securing data in compliance with increasingly complex regulations is a challenge.

The 2018 Netwrix IT Risks Report explores how organizations are working to ensure compliance and beat cyber threats. Unfortunately, the results indicate that organizations aren't doing enough to defeat the bad guys. Here are the 10 most neglected security best practices:

#### 1. Classify data based on its sensitivity

Security experts recommend that organizations classify data at least twice a year, so they can reset access rights and ensure that only the right people have access to data.

Reality check: 64% of organizations admit that they classify data based on its level of sensitivity just once per year or even less frequently.

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**Pro tip:** Many organizations rely on users to classify data, which rarely works well. Look for data discovery and classification products that automate the classification process.

#### 2. Update data access rights

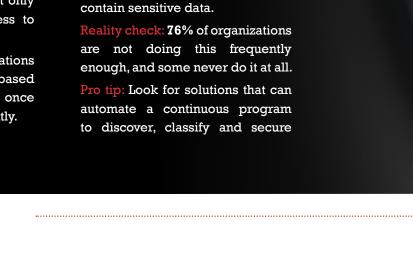
To prevent unauthorized access to data, security experts recommend strictly enforcing the leastprivilege principle, as well as reviewing access rights every six months and after important events like an employee termination.

Reality check: 51% of organizations do not update data access rights even once a year.

**Pro tip:** Look for governance solutions that can assess and control access rights, both as part of an ongoing process as well as ad hoc. Also look for reporting and alerting tools that can ensure it's all being done correctly and securely.

# 3. Review data available to everyone

To reduce risk to sensitive data, security experts say that at least every three months, organizations should check that folders and shares available to everyone don't contain sensitive data.







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content regardless of where it resides, so you can reduce your attack surface.

#### 4. Get rid of stale data

When you no longer need data for daily operations, it should be archived or deleted. To mitigate security risks, experts recommend doing this every 90 days.

Reality check: Only 18% of organizations delete unnecessary data once a quarter, meaning that 82% of organizations are needlessly increasing their threat exposure.

**Pro** tip: Deploy an automated solution that can find stale data and collaborate with the data owners to determine which data can be archived or permanently deleted.

# 5. Conduct asset inventory regularly

Security experts encourage you to identify all your assets (e.g. databases, software and computer equipment) and determine who is responsible for them at least once a quarter.

Realitycheck:Just29%oforganizationssticktotherecommended schedule.

Pro tip: Choose an asset tracking solution that streamlines data collection and analysis to locate every asset within your company. Make sure it is easy to use and fits your needs.

# 6. Update and patch software promptly

Installing security updates to your software in a timely manner enables you to mitigate vulnerabilities. The recommended frequency depends on patch and system importance and other factors; it varies from weekly for critical security patches to quarterly for less urgent patches, such as maintenance patches.

Reality check: 33% of organizations do not update their software even once in 90 days.

**Pro tip:** Establish a dedicated testing environment or at least a segment for patch testing to avoid incompatibility or performance issues.

# 7. Perform vulnerability assessments

Regular vulnerability assessments help you locate security gaps and reduce your exposure to attacks. Security experts recommend running these assessments at least once a month.

**Reality check: 82%** of organizations do this only twice a year or don't do it at all.

**Pro tip:** Find products that can continuously evaluate threats to your data and make sure you know which threat actors do most harm to your business. Even better, find tools that provide alerts to reduce the number of false alarms.





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#### 8. Create and maintain an incident response plan

These are serveral parts to a realized security sequence plan Dealt a plan, get 2 appressed, requirely train employees, and do test runs. Reality due h EPs of organizations added to halling to essentite all these stages.

Pro to Combust sambon tests to see how adhing and require specia must to security flowate and analisate how your plan is working in mail life.

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30. Update user passwords While the goal of thread actions is to get administrative conductings. the gateway to that information

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# **FOR COMPLETE ISSUE**

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BUZZ

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following from security best practices can help you asduce your stuck soften and minimize the risk of security and compliance areas. Represently implementing security basics such as finding. classifying and securing your data a case of a permitting students from stealing your assailtion data and robbing your company's responsations.

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