

An Introduction to Data Classification

Finding the Important Stuff

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- Introduction
- Why classify data?
- Common Compliance Regulations
- How does it work?
- What next?

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Data classification is the process of sorting and categorizing data into various types, forms or any other distinct class. Data classification enables the separation and classification of data according to data set requirements for various business or personal objectives. It is mainly a data management process. - Techopedia



What does that mean?





Common Terms

- Classification
- Sensitive Data
- PII
- Compliance
- Governance





Classification: The process of separating data





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Sensitive Data: Information protected against unwarranted exposure

Examples:

- Credit Cards
- Medical Records
- Home Phone Numbers
- Email Addresses
- Minister Memos
- Project Status Updates





PII: Personally Identifiable Information

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Notes

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Surname on Record		Other Names in Full		
Address				
City	Province		Country	Postal Code
Do you want the above address	updated to our database? 🔲 Yes	No No		
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Compliance:

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We could talk about this one all day...

But basically: Making sure the right people are following the right procedures, especially in protecting data



Governance:

Establishment of policies to achieve proper compliance



Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada Son Excellence la très honorable Julie Payette gouverneure générale et commandante en chef du Canada

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Governance is also...

... the piece that nobody wants to look at until something goes wrong, and then it's scrutinized within an inch of its life.

So you need to make sure it's tight in the good times to protect you in the bad.





There are lots of files out there





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Only some of them matter



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But they aren't always easy to find





From the time information is created until it is destroyed, it should be labeled with a classification designation to ensure it is protected, stored and managed appropriately." **Brian Evans, Tom Walsh Consulting**



Common Regulations that require Data Classification



Compliance Regulations: PIPEDA

Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA)

Sets the ground rules for how privatesector organizations collect, use, and disclose personal information in the course of for-profit, commercial activities across Canada.

It also applies to the personal information of employees of federallyregulated businesses such as banks, airlines, telecommunications companies





Compliance Regulations: The Privacy Act

Relates to a person's right to access and correct personal information that the Government of Canada holds about them.

Also applies to the Government's collection, use and disclosure of personal information





Compliance Regulations: The Federal Banking Act

Regulates the use and disclosure of personal financial information by federally regulated financial institutions.





Compliance Retulations: PCI DSS



The Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (**PCI DSS**) is an information security standard for organizations that handle credit cards.





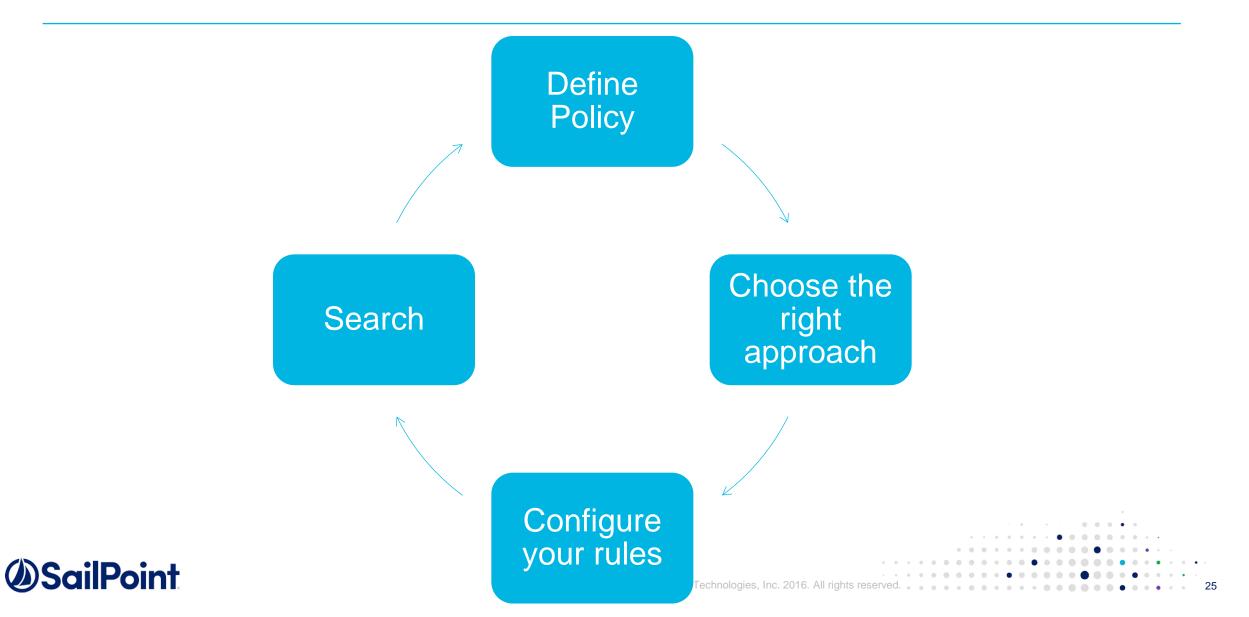
Compliance Regulations: GDPR

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is a legal framework that sets guidelines for the collection and processing of personal information of individuals within the European Union (EU).



How Data Classification Works

Data Classification Steps



Defining Policy

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Defining Policy

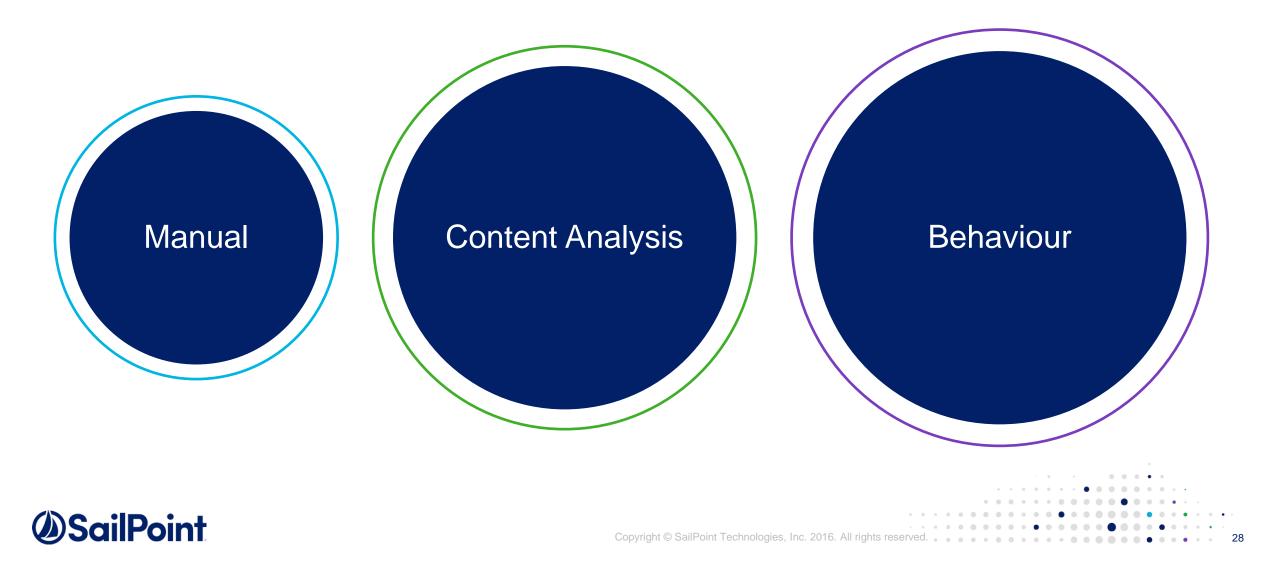
Enumerate the types of data that matter to your business

- Compliance Data
- Project Proposals
- Employee Reviews
- CAD Drawings

You don't have to know it all to start!



Decide on your approach



1. Manual

- This is the "do it yourself" option.
- Get the users to classify their own files
- Checks the checkbox for classification policies
- Relies on your knowledge of your data and the rules

4111 1111 1111 1111

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4111 1111 1111 YES!

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4111 1111 1111 YES!

4111-1111-1111-1111



4111 1111 1111YES!4111-1111-1111YES!



- 4111 1111 1111 YES!
- 4111-1111-1111 YES!
- 4111.1111.1111.1111





4111 1111 1111 YES!
4111-1111-1111 YES!
4111.1111.1111.1111 YES!





- 4111 1111 1111 1111YES!4111-1111-1111-1111YES!4111.1111.1111.1111YES!
- 41111111111111111

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Is it or Isn't it?

4111 1111 1111 YES!
4111-1111-1111 YES!
4111.1111.1111.1111 YES!
4111111111111111 YES!



Is it or Isn't it?

- 4111 1111 1111 1111
- 4111-1111-1111-1111
- 4111.1111.1111.1111
- 4111111111111111
- 4111 1111 1111 1112

YES! YES! YES! MAYBE?



Is it or Isn't it?

4111 1111 1111 1111YES!4111-1111-1111-1111YES!4111.1111.1111.1111YES!411111111111111MAYBE?4111 1111 1111 1112NO!

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2. Automated Content Analysis

- Software-driven search for specific content or file attribute
- Relies on rules that look for
 - 1. Keywords
 - 2. Patterns
 - 3. Regular Expressions
 - 4. File Name, Size, Extension
- Relies on regular review and rule refinement

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3. Behaviour

- Search for sensitive content based on who is accessing it:
 - I. If more than 75% of users are members of the Finance department, classify the file as a finance file
 - II. If more than 90% of users are members of the AD group HR, classify the file as an HR file
- Relies on identity information and activity data



Define Rules



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Define Rules

- Be specific (we don't want a lot of rework from false positives!)
- Combine terms together
- Use automatic validation (Luhn, Area Codes, Expert Knowledge) where you can
- Refine, Refine, Refine
- This is kind of like the "search" part of "search and replace"
 Find the word "he", change it to "she"

Simple – but be careful that you don't change "the" to "tshe"

Search!



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Image: http://www.iconarchive.com/show/I-likebuttons-3a-icons-by-mazenI77/Perspective-Button-Search-icon.html



Comprehensive Identity Governance

Protect access to all applications and data - on-premises and in the cloud

- ✓ Access Request
- Access Certification
- Provisioning Workflow
- Access Policies
- User Risk-based Modeling
- Password Management
- Data Classification
- Activity Monitoring
- Permission Analysis



- Greater visibility into access risks
- Centralize all access to applications and data
- Reduced complexity by providing a consistent set of controls

One Identity, all data

Complete Security Visibility

For each identity, get complete coverage of their structured and unstructured data access

Accounts with access to sensitive data are tagged with a red-letter "S"

