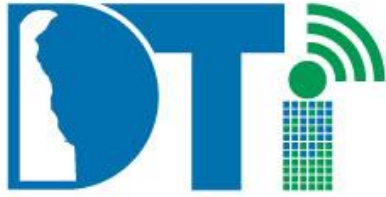


STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION
 801 Silver Lake Blvd.
 Dover, Delaware 19904

Doc Ref Number:	IN-DataClass-001	Revision Number:	3
Document Type:	Enterprise Policy	Page:	1 of 9
Policy Title:	Data Classification Policy		

Synopsis:	The goal of this policy is to enhance the State’s ability to protect data and information through data classification.
Authority:	Title 29 Chapter 90C Delaware Code, §9004C – General Powers, duties and functions of DTI “2) Create, implement and enforce statewide and agency technology solutions, policies, standards and guidelines, including as recommended by the CIO”
Applicability:	This Policy is applicable to all users of the State of Delaware communications and computing resources. DTI is an Executive Branch Agency and has no authority over the customers in Legislative and Judicial Branches, as well as Local Education Agencies, and other Federal and Local Government entities that use these resources. However, all users, including these entities, must agree to abide by all policies, standards promulgated by DTI as a condition of access and continued use of these resources.
Effective:	3/1/2006
Reviewed:	02/26/2024
Approved By:	Chief Information Officer
Sponsor:	Chief Security Officer





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Dover, Delaware 19904

Doc Ref Number:	IN-DataClass-001	Revision Number:	3
Document Type:	Enterprise Policy	Page:	2 of 9
Policy Title:	Data Classification Policy		

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section	Page
I. Policy	2
II. Definitions	6
III. Development and Revision History	7
IV. Approval Signature Block	7
V. Other Documents	8

I. Policy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This policy requires Data Stewards to classify all of the data used by their organization. It describes the roles and responsibilities of a Data Steward, the four types of data classifications and the minimum set of classifications. Generally, it lays the groundwork for the proper classification and handling of data used by the State. Further insight into this policy may be obtained through the organization's IRM (Information Resource Manager) or the DTI CES (Customer Engagement Specialist) assigned to the organization.

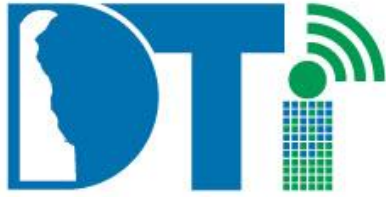
This policy does not limit or redefine FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) laws or regulations. In case of any conflict, the law shall prevail.

PURPOSE

This policy provides instruction for State organizations to better handle, secure, access, and use data. Sound business judgment and practices must be applied, and the State must comply with applicable Federal, State and Local laws and regulations, as well as any agency-specific guidelines then in effect. Examples of such are HIPAA and Gramm-Leach-Bliley (GLB), Federal Information Security Management Act



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Doc Ref Number:	IN-DataClass-001	Revision Number:	3
Document Type:	Enterprise Policy	Page:	3 of 9
Policy Title:	Data Classification Policy		

(FSMA), Privacy Act, PCI DSS, Federal Tax Data Safeguards (IRS Publication 1075), etc.¹ This policy will be reviewed and revised periodically. However, the State is obligated to comply with new laws or regulations coming into effect between revisions.

This policy is expected to be referenced by other State policies and standards that will further define the implications of the data classification. As such, the actual data classification designations will have far-reaching effects on various aspects of Information Technology throughout the State.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has drafted a comprehensive approach to data classification and the risks that are associated with different levels of data classification. Specifically, it addresses the integrity and availability of data as well as confidentiality, which is the focal point of this policy. NIST standards were used in the development of this policy.

DATA CLASSIFICATIONS

The Data Steward is responsible for classifying all data under the organization's control into one of the following classes.

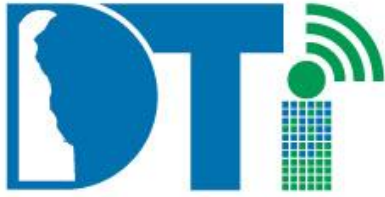
State of Delaware Public – Information available to the general public; eligible for public access.

State of Delaware Confidential – Information covered by one or more laws. The disclosure of this information could endanger citizens, corporations, business partners and others. The types of information might be covered under non-disclosure agreements; or safeguarded by a general reference in law or best practices.

State of Delaware Secret – Information that, if divulged, could compromise or endanger the people, or assets of the State; such as Public Safety

¹ HIPAA is the United States Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, PL 104-191. The Financial Modernization Act of 1999, also known as the "Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act" or GLB Act.





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Doc Ref Number:	IN-DataClass-001	Revision Number: 3
Document Type:	Enterprise Policy	Page: 4 of 9
Policy Title:	Data Classification Policy	

Information. Data that is specifically protected by law (e.g.. HIPAA).

State of Delaware Top Secret – Information that could, if divulged, expose the State’s citizens and assets to great risk.

Generally, any data classification that is higher than public should be considered non-public. The classifications stated herein are to be considered as **minimum classification levels** for the data. The Data Steward may not specify a lower classification.

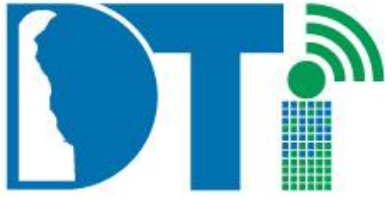
These classifications are in line with the Federal Government data classifications. The exception is that the Federal Government has no consistent designation for Public data. In some cases, the term Unclassified is used to denote non-Confidential, non-Secret and non-Top Secret data. For clarity, the State of Delaware chose to use the term State of Delaware Public data rather than non-Confidential, non-Secret and non-Top Secret data. One core value that distinguishes a classification from another is the Risk of Harm. What is the risk that harm can result from the inappropriate disclosure or use of this information?

Minimum Classifications

The following data elements are examples of data that must be classified no lower than as shown regardless of the context in which they are represented.

Data Element	Classification
Social Security Number	State of Delaware Confidential
Employee ID	State of Delaware Confidential
Bank Account Number	State of Delaware Confidential
Credit Card Number	State of Delaware Confidential
Mother’s Name	State of Delaware Confidential





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Doc Ref Number:	IN-DataClass-001	Revision Number:	3
Document Type:	Enterprise Policy	Page:	5 of 9
Policy Title:	Data Classification Policy		

Father's Name	State of Delaware Confidential
Place of Birth	State of Delaware Confidential

The statewide policies and standards pertaining to data protection can be found at the [DTI website](#). Local guidelines are established by the state organization itself. For a complete list, please contact the organization's Information Resource Manager (IRM).

ENFORCEMENT and WAIVER

DTI will enforce this policy during the course of normal business activities, including review of proposed projects and during the design, development or support of systems. This policy may also be enforced by others during the course of their normal business activities, including audits.

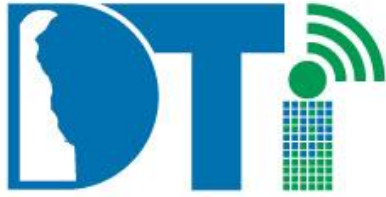
If any dispute arises regarding the minimum classifications of data contained in this policy, the waiver process will resolve the issue. If any disputes or questions arise from the [Data Classification Guidelines](#), the data steward or designee can present them to the State's Chief Security Officer for help in determining the proper classification.

Failure to Comply

Failure to comply with the policy is a serious matter whether through intentional act or negligence and may be grounds for discipline up to and including dismissal based on the Just Cause standard set forth by Merit Rules, or collective bargaining agreement, whichever is applicable to the subject employee. Exempt employees shall be subject to appropriate discipline without recourse, except as provided by law. While DTI has no authority to discipline employees of other agencies/organizations in the Executive, Legislative, or Judicial branches of government, it will take the appropriate steps to ensure any misconduct is appropriately addressed.



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Doc Ref Number:	IN-DataClass-001	Revision Number: 3
Document Type:	Enterprise Policy	Page: 6 of 9
Policy Title:	Data Classification Policy	

II. Definitions

Data – Distinct pieces of information in digital (computer-readable) format that can be stored, read, manipulated, or transmitted.

Dataset – A Dataset is a collection of data elements in a structure that is its own unique entity and usually associated with a name. Examples include files, databases, etc. A Dataset’s classification must be at least as high as that of the highest data element contained therein (classification by association). This also applies to multiple Datasets when stored or transmitted together; the classification of the combined Datasets must be at least as high as that of the highest Dataset in the combination.

Data Owner –

Consult the [Delaware Information Security Policy](#) for this definition

Data Steward –

Consult the [Delaware Information Security Policy](#) for this definition

Data User -

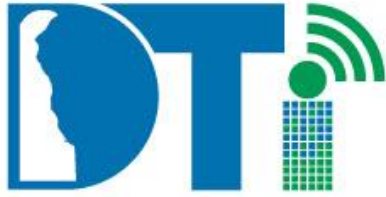
Consult the [Delaware Information Security Policy](#) for this definition

Information Resource Manager (IRM) – Those assigned the responsibility to act as the primary points of contact for appropriate communications between DTI and the organization.

Personally Identifiable Information (PII) – Information which can be used to identify or contact a person uniquely and reliably, or can be used with other sources to uniquely identify an individual. Examples include but are not limited to full name, full social security number, full date of birth, street address, telephone number, email address, and fingerprints or other biometric data.



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Doc Ref Number:	IN-DataClass-001	Revision Number:	3
Document Type:	Enterprise Policy	Page:	7 of 9
Policy Title:	Data Classification Policy		

III. Development and Revision History

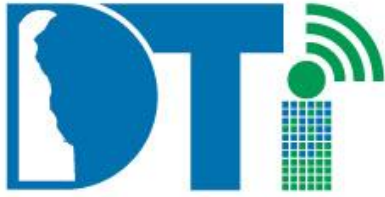
Date	Revision
3/1/2006	Rev 1 - Initial version
2/28/2008	Rev 2 - Updated version
3/22/2011	Rev 2 - Minor revision
4/4/2014	Rev 2 - Minor revision
1/19/2021	Rev 2 - Updates for data destruction
2/3/2023	Rev 2 - Updates for links
02/26/2024	Rev 3 - Updates for definitions and NIST reference
11/1/2024	Rev 3 - Removed a reference to the Technology Investment Council

IV. Approval Signature Block

Name & Title:	Date
State Chief Information Officer	



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Doc Ref Number:	IN-DataClass-001	Revision Number:	3
Document Type:	Enterprise Policy	Page:	8 of 9
Policy Title:	Data Classification Policy		



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Dover, Delaware 19904

Doc Ref Number:	IN-DataClass-001	Revision Number:	3
Document Type:	Enterprise Policy	Page:	9 of 9
Policy Title:	Data Classification Policy		

V. Other Documents

A Data Classification Guideline has been published and it is hereby noted. If there is any conflict between the Data Classification Guideline and this policy, the policy shall prevail. To obtain more information, please reference the [Enterprise Standards and Policies](#) and notable the [Delaware Information Security Policy](#) for further insight.

External Providers must provide written [Certificate of Destruction](#) as directed in the [Delaware Terms and Conditions Governing Cloud Services and Data Usage Agreement](#).

