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Privacy Act 2024 Update

Will have a significant impact on Data Engineering.

Want to get ahead, Read this...

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You need a battle Plan

This is not a small feat, it will take time and a lot of effort.

Trust me, having done this in Europe, we know the changes needed.

You need to get on top of this ASAP.

01

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Audit Your Data Ecosystem—Now

If you don’t have a complete understanding of your current data flows, integrations, and consumers, you’re already behind.

Create or update your documentation today. Compliance starts with clarity.

02

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Delete the Bloat— Stop Hoarding Data

Storing unnecessary data is a ticking time bomb.

Every extra byte increases your exposure to risk.

Be ruthless: if you don’t need it, don’t keep it.

03

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Lock It Down— Refine Data Security

Access should be strictly limited to those who need it.

Build granular, enforceable permissions that your security team can manage and audit seamlessly.

04

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Establish Clear Retention Rules

How long are you keeping client data after they leave?

Without clear, enforceable retention policies, you’re leaving the door open for liability.

05

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Encrypt or Risk Exposure

Identify and encrypt all personally identifiable information (PII).

If it’s not encrypted, it’s vulnerable—period.

06

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No Production Data in Test Environments

Using raw production data in dev or test environments? Stop.

These environments are often neglected in compliance processes, making them the weak link in your chain.

07

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Treat Logs Like Data Gold

Audit and logging systems often fly under the radar, but they’re rich with client data.

Apply stringent retention policies and obfuscate where necessary.

f you’re keeping logs for more than two years without reason, you’re already at risk.

08

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Enforce the ‘Right to Be Forgotten’

This isn’t optional.

Fully deleting clients may be challenging, but at a minimum, obfuscate their data and exclude it from consumer-facing outputs.

09

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Build in Row-Level Security and Partitioning

Not everyone needs to see everything.

Implement robust segregation at the table, row, and column levels to limit exposure.

10

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Automate or Die Trying

Manual processes are your Achilles' heel.

Automate retention, obfuscation, and compliance checks.

If it's not automated, it's at risk of being missed.

11

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Rally Your Governance and Compliance Teams

This isn’t just an engineering challenge.

Your Data Governance, Compliance, and Security teams must be part of the design process.

Collaboration is non-negotiable.

12

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Keep Documentation Air-Tight

TIf it’s not documented, it doesn’t exist.

Outdated or incomplete documentation is a liability waiting to explode.

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Final Thoughts

This isn’t business as usual. It’s a complete paradigm shift.

Complying with the Australian Privacy Act 2024 is no longer just a technical challenge—it’s a strategic imperative.

Ready to lead the charge or get left behind? The choice is yours.

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