

# **The USA Needs A GDPR**

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## **Introduction**

### **A. Topic Description & Background**

Cybersecurity, data privacy, and protection are some of the most concerning issues for many today. With enhanced protection, the ways to hack and exploit data are also advancing. In such a scenario, there is a need for a comprehensive and complete law in the US just like Europe has the General Protection Regulation.

### **B. Research Question and Objectives**

Why does the US also need a comprehensive law like the GDPR of Europe? One of the biggest concerns of citizens is the protection and privacy of their data. The US lacks a comprehensive law to tackle cyber security problems. Lawmakers in the United States should focus on devising a comprehensive law for all cybersecurity problems. This research paper will evaluate why there is a need for such a law and how it will benefit the public at large.

## **Sub-topics**

### **Sub-topic 1**

There are several rules and regulations in America for cybersecurity-related issues however, there is a need for one comprehensive law to prevent data theft and tackle all cybersecurity-related issues. One of the ways for the protection of data is the anonymity of data (Zimmer, 2020). Although data is already public, there are ways to protect it. Anonymization of data refers to the process in which the personal data and private information of people are erased or encrypted in such a way as to ensure protection and privacy. Different techniques are used for data anonymization including but not limited to data masking, pseudonymization, generalization, data swapping, data perturbation, etc. (Mogre et al., 2012). The traditional methods of consent-taking should also be revived. According to Article 7, recital 32 of the GDPR, consent must be freely given, specific, informed, and unambiguous (Quinn, 2021). Freely given consent is only possible if it is given on a voluntary basis (Zimmer, 2022). There is a need for similar laws in the US as well.

## **Sub-topic 2**

GDPR not only mitigates data theft but also provides the steps to follow after a data or privacy breach has occurred (Quinn, 2021). The United States should follow Europe's lead and must develop a comprehensive document on data privacy and protection because the US currently lacks a comprehensive data protection law and is in dire need of one. It will benefit the citizens as well as the businesses, and finally, it will make doing foreign business easier and more transparent. If such a law is made and adopted in the US, there will be anonymization of data (Zimmer, 2020), new consent-taking practices (Zimmer, 2022), enhanced data processing (Pokorny & Stantic, 2016) and incorporation of ethics in data (Harvard Business School, 2021).

## **Sub-topic 3**

There is no comprehensive law in the US to regulate data processing. Algorithm bias and data diversity are some issues that have surfaced recently (Pokorny & Stantic, 2016). To counter these, instead of a prescriptive approach, GDPR focuses on a risk-based approach for data protection and privacy. To prevent the misuse of this big data and make the process more transparent and accountable, it is pertinent to have some rules and regulations (Zimmer, 2021). The US also needs a law like GDPR to ensure data protection and privacy.

## **Sub-topic 4**

Health and insurance companies have the biggest amount of data of citizens. They sell the data for revenue (Buchanan, 2017). There must be a law to restrict the selling and usage of this data. Citizens should have full control over their data and only they should get to decide how, who can, and when their data can be used (Harvard Business School, 2021). A law like GDPR ensures that the owner of data has full control over their data. Their data would not be shared if they do not want it to be shared. The US also needs a law like this in the land to ensure the restricted usage of private data.

## **Conclusion**

The United States has several rules and regulations to counter cybersecurity issues. However, these rules and regulations are not only not enough but also very scattered. The US needs a comprehensive law like the GDPR of Europe to tackle all issues related to cybersecurity. Such a law not only mitigates cyber theft but also provides a framework on how to handle the issue after the theft. The research conducted, it can be concluded that the US needs a cybersecurity law like GDPR to tackle issues related to data breach, theft, and misuse. However, the demographics of the US are different from Europe, hence the laws should be amended as required.

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