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CYSE525

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### Policy Analysis One

A cybersecurity policy or cybersecurity strategy is a security guideline for protecting various aspects of any company's confidentiality, integrity, and availability(CIA); in other words, cyberspace. Cyberspace consists of networks, company data, and personal information, that when in the wrong hands is detrimental to both employees and the company as a whole. A cybersecurity policy outlines the various measures and detailed procedures that need to be taken place in case of a potential breach of cyberspace. Cybersecurity policies are established to safeguard vital information and essentially for employees to follow to protect the company as a whole. Although cybersecurity is an emerging field with frequent and rapid changes of policies that occur, the cybersecurity policy that will be discussed specifically is the Data Classification and Handling Policy.

The Data Classification and Handling Policy refers to the handling of data and the importance of the data that is being managed. Each classification of data has distinct guidelines on how the data should be safeguarded and handled while in transit based on the data's sensitivity level during its existence. Detailed characteristics that are included with this policy are the classification criteria, data classification levels, storage and transmission, and data handling procedures. According to the Data Classification and Handling Policy created by the North Carolina Department of Internet Technology, their policy contains four parts; the Data

Classification, the System Classification, the Data Classification Roles and Responsibilities, and Safeguarding the Data (2016).

For a company or organization to meet the cybersecurity and data privacy requirements and regulations, the organization must be aware of the different varieties of data that the organization has in cyberspace. Implementing a data classification and handling policy is the best way to keep track of all data, resulting in meeting cybersecurity quotas flawlessly. One of the best ways for any policy to function is to tailor the policy to the company's needs. In regards to data classification and handling, categorizing the types of data along with what data is specifically being stored and transmitted is just one of the ways of tailoring the policy to the needs of the company. In the Data Classification and Handling Policy of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, the reason why this policy is implemented is to "classify and handle Fred Hutch information based on its level of sensitivity and value" (2021).

The Data Classification and Handling Policy is applied whenever data enters the cyberspace of a company. The policy is applied by training employees and staff members on what the policy is and the importance of it, while also having only certain faculty to access and handle the data. In the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine's Data Classification and Handling Policy, the policy clearly states why it needs to be implemented along with what the policy does for the company to alleviate any confusion from faculty and staff members. The Data Classification and Handling fits within the national cybersecurity strategy because the policy itself strengthens the security of cyberspace, overall protecting the cyber ecosystem. Also, the policy prevents and disrupts any criminal use of cyberspace, making it difficult for malicious hackers to wreak havoc and cause disturbances.

## References

North Carolina Department of Internet Technology. (2016) *Data Classification and Handling Policy*  
<https://it.nc.gov/documents/statewide-policies/statewide-data-classification-handling-policy/open>

Fred Hutch. (2021) *Data Classification and Handling Policy: Version 4.0*  
<https://extranet.fredhutch.org/content/dam/extranet/u/consortium-clinical-data-access/Fred-Hutch-Information-Classification-and-Handling%20Policy-04092021.pdf>

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. *Data Classification and Handling Policy*. <https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/sites/default/files/data-classification-and-handling-policy.pdf>