

Principles of Data Governance

This document sets out the Government's guiding principles of data governance.

Data is a key element of new production in the digital era. Effective data governance plays a strategic role in driving our society and economy towards digital transformation and high-quality development. The philosophy and strategy underpinning data governance must be holistic and pay heed to the overriding principle of secure data flow, thereby maximising the value of data resources.

The Government has all along been adopting a multi-pronged strategy, encompassing policies, laws and guidelines, infrastructural support, etc., with a view to promoting the sharing, usage, opening up as well as interchange of data, whilst strengthening data security.

Guiding Principles of Data Governance

1. The Government upholds the principles of open data and data sharing. The opening up, sharing and application of data shall be conducted in compliance with relevant laws and regulations. In respect of personal data, open data and data sharing should follow the relevant data protection principles and conducted in compliance with relevant laws and regulations.
2. Data security forms the foundation of open data and data sharing. The opening up, sharing and application of data shall take into account data security, which includes ensuring security and protection of data content, as well as safeguards on the sharing, flow and usage of data.
3. Corresponding data governance principles should be adopted for different types of data so as to balance the opening up, usage and protection of data:
 - Data within the Government: With the consent of the data subjects or in compliance with relevant laws and regulations, personal data may be shared among relevant departments so as to enhance the efficiency of government services and user experience.
 - Open Data: Except for internal sensitive data and personal data, the Government should open up more public data for sharing with the industry and drive the data-based application of digital

technologies, so as to launch more digital services that bring convenience and benefits to the public and businesses.

- Data in Private Sector: The Government respects the private enterprises' ownership of data as their assets. Based on their business needs and subject to relevant legal and regulatory requirements, private enterprises should put in place appropriate protection measures for their data. The Government will proactively nurture an environment that facilitates enterprises to make use of data for business innovation and support their digital transformation to keep up with their competitiveness. Initiatives include promoting open data, seeking facilitation measures on cross-boundary data flow from the Mainland to Hong Kong, and fostering enhancement of cybersecurity in the industry, etc.
- Facilitation of Data Flow: The Government will endeavour to maintain a highly open and safe cyber environment of Hong Kong that enables data from all over the world to flow freely in Hong Kong in accordance with relevant laws and regulations, sector-specific regulatory requirements and on the premise of protection of privacy of personal data. To spur development of Hong Kong into a global data hub that integrates data from different places, the Government will actively solicit support of our country to the implementation of relevant policies that facilitate cross-boundary data flow from the Mainland to Hong Kong.

Objectives of Data Governance

In a bid to support government departments and society in optimising data and drive data-based development, the Government will take the following actions to continuously enhance the quality and reliability of data, facilitate data flow and sharing, as well as enhance protection of data:

1. Promote the opening up, analytics, sharing and application of data through the formulation and continuous enhancement of the data governance policies, relevant laws and regulations, standards and guidelines.
2. Unleash the potentials and functions of data by providing and continuously enhancing the digital government infrastructure to connect different public data resources of the Government in an effective and rule-complying manner, whilst continuing to strengthen data security and protection capability of the Government.

3. Foster implementation of data-driven, people-centric and outcome-based digital government services by government departments through improving the scale, quality, sharing standards and governance of data resources, as well as harnessing the use of information technology and data.
4. Expand the scope of cross-domain collaboration and create an environment that embraces the opening up and free flow of data, in compliance with relevant laws and regulations and on the premise of protection of privacy of personal data.

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