



Internet Society  
Zimbabwe Chapter



# DATA PRIVACY

Mar 3 2025

SIMULCAST BY  
ISOC.LIVE

## ISOC Zimbabwe - Data Privacy – March 3 2025

### 1. Prof. Vusumuzi Maphosa - NUST

- **Introduction:** Director of IT at NUST, specializing in Cybersecurity, Data Protection, and Privacy Advocacy.
- **Importance of Data Privacy:** Data is the new oil of the fourth industrial revolution, determining wealth and economic power. However, it must be balanced with human rights and privacy protections.
- **Current Trends in Data Privacy:**
  - New **Cyber and Data Protection Act (2024)** and **Statutory Instrument 155** regulate data collection, processing, and storage.
  - **Artificial Intelligence (AI) threats:**
    - Deepfake fraud: Employees unknowingly transferred millions due to AI-generated voices/videos.
    - AI-generated phishing attacks make scams harder to detect.
  - **Remote work:** Expands the attack surface for cyber threats.
  - **Ransomware attacks:** Increasing globally, requiring stronger data security measures.
- **Technologies for Data Protection:**
  - Organizations must **prioritize policy** before deploying technologies.
  - **Privacy by design & default** should be integrated at system development stages.
  - Security measures like **firewalls, multi-factor authentication, and access control**.
  - Data **minimization & anonymization** to reduce breach risks.
- **Misconceptions about Data Privacy:**

- **Data privacy ≠ data security** (privacy laws must still be followed even with security measures).
- **Deleting data doesn't remove it permanently**—proper disposal methods are needed.
- **IT departments aren't solely responsible**—privacy is a collective organizational responsibility.

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## 2. Advocate Komborerai Manenji - POTRAZ (Data Protection Department)

- **Defining Data Protection & Privacy:**
  - Data protection = **data security + data privacy**.
  - Governed by the **Cyber and Data Protection Act (2024)**.
- **Compliance Requirements:**
  - **All companies must appoint a Data Protection Officer (DPO) by March 12, 2025.**
  - **Organizations must apply for a Data Controller License by March 12, 2025.**
  - Only organizations with **trained and licensed DPOs** will be approved.
- **Impact of Data Protection Laws:**
  - Ensures **lawful data processing**, requiring **consent or legal justification**.
  - Prevents **unlawful data collection, storage, and sharing**.
- **Ethical Use of AI and Data:**
  - AI use must align with legal guidelines (**Sections 10-13 of the Cyber Act**).
  - **Explicit consent** required before using personal data for AI training.
  - AI decision-making must **include human oversight**.
  - **Data subjects have the right to withdraw consent** at any time.
- **Future of Data Privacy in Zimbabwe & Globally:**
  - **More regulations** are expected, including **sector-specific data protection laws** (e.g., finance, healthcare).
  - The **balance between innovation and regulation** will be crucial.
- **Common Public Concerns:**
  - **High compliance costs for small businesses:** POTRAZ suggests companies **collaborate** to share DPO costs.
  - **International certifications (e.g., GDPR):** Not recognized in Zimbabwe; local certification required.
  - **Multiple DPOs in organizations:** No fixed limit, depends on company structure and workload.

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## 3. Abgirl Chigume (Moderator)

- Led discussions, ensured smooth transitions between speakers.
  - Highlighted audience concerns, especially about **AI, compliance costs, and misconceptions about privacy laws**.
  - Addressed **real-life scenarios of unsolicited data sharing** (e.g., spam messages from unknown sources).
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## Key Takeaways

1. **Legal Obligations:**
  - **March 12, 2025:** Deadline for Data Protection Officer (DPO) appointments & Data Controller License applications.
  - Organizations must comply with the **Cyber and Data Protection Act (2024)**.
2. **AI & Cyber Threats:**
  - AI is being **misused for fraud, phishing, and misinformation**.
  - AI models must be **transparent, secure, and unbiased**.
3. **Data Minimization & Security:**
  - Collect only **necessary** data.
  - Use **multi-factor authentication, encryption, and anonymization**.
4. **Public Awareness & Compliance Challenges:**
  - Individuals must **read terms & conditions** before sharing data online.
  - Small businesses **can collaborate** to meet compliance costs.
  - Zimbabwean **certification is mandatory** for DPOs (not international ones).