

NIST Privacy Framework v1.0

NIST Privacy Framework provides voluntary guidance to help organizations identify, assess, and manage privacy risks to individuals' data.



What it is

The NIST Privacy Framework v1.0 is a voluntary privacy risk management framework that helps organizations identify, assess, and manage privacy risks to protect individuals' data and support compliance efforts. It is structured to facilitate better privacy outcomes across products, services, and business operations.

Developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the framework is used by privacy professionals, IT teams, and compliance officers in both private and public sectors. The framework covers areas such as data governance, risk assessment, privacy policies, user rights management, and integration with security controls, aligning closely with broader cybersecurity and risk management standards like the NIST Cybersecurity Framework.

At a glance

<div>PUBLISHER</div> <div>National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)</div>	<div>TYPE</div> <div>Standard</div>	<div>VERSION</div> <div>NIST Privacy Framework v1.0</div>
<div>EFFECTIVE</div> <div>January 16, 2020</div>	<div>DOMAIN</div> <div>Privacy</div>	<div>FAMILY</div> <div>NIST Frameworks</div>
<div>REGION</div> <div>United States</div>	<div>ADOPTION MODEL</div> <div>Risk Management</div>	<div>IMPLEMENTATION COMPLEXITY</div> <div>Moderate</div>

Source: <https://www.nist.gov/privacy-framework>

Why it matters

- **Enhance privacy governance** Support consistent evaluation and oversight of privacy policies, roles, and responsibilities across all business units.
- **Support regulatory compliance** Facilitate alignment with global privacy laws and regulations, reducing legal exposure and minimizing compliance gaps.
- **Strengthen risk management** Enable structured identification, assessment, and mitigation of privacy risks throughout the data lifecycle.
- **Increase audit readiness** Help maintain comprehensive documentation and processes that support internal and external audits more efficiently.

How SmartSuite supports NIST Privacy Framework v1.0

Privacy Risk Register Track privacy risks, owners, and mitigations across systems and processes.	Data Processing Inventory Document data categories, purposes, sharing, retention, and controls with traceability.	DSAR and Request Workflows Manage access, deletion, correction, and opt-out requests with deadlines and audit trail.
DPIAs and Assessments Run privacy impact assessments and track mitigation actions and approvals.	Vendor and Data Sharing Governance Oversee processors/subprocessors with contracts, reviews, and monitoring evidence.	Accountability Reporting Report privacy posture, open actions, and compliance readiness across teams.

Common framework mappings

GDPR

ISO 27001:2022

ISO 27002:2022

ISO 27701

ISO 29100

NIST CSF 2.0

NIST 800-53 Rev.5

SOC 2

Official resources

NIST Privacy Framework Version 1.0 Defines a voluntary privacy risk management framework to help organizations manage privacy risks. nist.gov/privacy-framework	NIST Privacy Framework FAQs Provides answers to common questions regarding the implementation of the NIST Privacy Framework. nist.gov/privacy-framework/frequently-asked-questions
NIST Privacy Framework: Annotated Outline Outlines the structure and main components of the NIST Privacy Framework. nist.gov/privacy-framework/privacy-framework	NIST Privacy Framework: Overview Describes the NIST Privacy Framework's goals, structure, and potential applications in privacy management. nist.gov/privacy-framework

Frequently asked questions

What is the NIST Privacy Framework v1.0 used for? The NIST Privacy Framework v1.0 is used to help organizations identify, assess, and manage privacy risks to protect individuals' data and meet regulatory compliance obligations. It provides a structured approach to embed privacy risk management into business processes, products, and services. The framework is intended to improve privacy outcomes while supporting operational goals.
Is the NIST Privacy Framework mandatory or certifiable? The NIST Privacy Framework is a voluntary, non-certifiable framework. It is not required by law, but organizations may adopt it to strengthen privacy risk management and demonstrate due diligence during audits or regulatory reviews. Adoption can also support compliance with various privacy laws and standards.
What types of organizations should use the NIST Privacy Framework? The NIST Privacy Framework is designed for organizations of all sizes and sectors, including both private and public entities. It is particularly useful for organizations that process personal data, face regulatory privacy requirements, or want to align privacy management with broader risk and cybersecurity practices.
What are the core concepts and artifacts required by the NIST Privacy Framework? Key concepts include the Core Functions (Identify-P, Govern-P, Control-P, Communicate-P, and Protect-P), Categories and Subcategories of Data, Privacy Principles, and Privacy Risk Management. Artifacts include privacy policies, privacy impact assessments (PIAs), policies, procedures, and compliance reporting documentation.

How does implementation of the NIST Privacy Framework work?

Implementation involves mapping the Core Functions to existing business and IT processes, conducting privacy risk assessments, and prioritizing actions to address identified gaps. Organizations must document data flows, integrate privacy controls, assess compliance, and regularly review their privacy posture as part of ongoing operational activities.

How does the NIST Privacy Framework relate to other frameworks like the NIST Cybersecurity Framework?

The NIST Privacy Framework is designed to complement the NIST Cybersecurity Framework and integrates with broader risk management standards. Organizations can align privacy and security programs by mapping privacy requirements to cybersecurity controls, achieving a unified approach to managing data protection and regulatory obligations.

What are the ongoing compliance requirements for the NIST Privacy Framework?

Ongoing compliance requires continuous monitoring of privacy risks, regular updates to privacy controls, performance of periodic assessments, and maintenance of documentation and evidence for audits. Organizations should also engage in staff training, incident response planning, and update privacy policies as regulatory landscapes evolve.

How would SmartSuite support NIST Privacy Framework v1.0?

SmartSuite enables organizations to manage the NIST Privacy Framework by offering risk tracking, control management, and workflow automation linked to Core Categories and Profiles. It supports evidence collection for audits, tracks compliance tasks and remediation activities, and provides dashboards and reports for monitoring privacy risk and audit readiness. This enhances overall governance and facilitates continuous improvement in privacy management.

License included / downloadable: Yes The NIST Privacy Framework is published by the National Institute of Standards and Technology and is publicly available through official NIST publications.

Full framework page and mappings: smartsuite.com/frameworks/nist-privacy-framework-v10