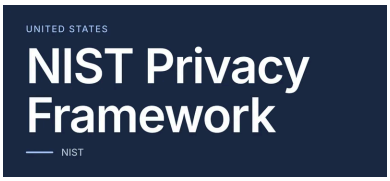
SmartSuite

Framework / Privacy / NIST Frameworks

NIST Privacy Framework: A Tool for Improving Privacy through Enterprise Risk Management, Version 1.0

The NIST Privacy Framework Version 1.0 is a voluntary tool for managing privacy risk: five Functions, 18 Categories, 100 Subcategories, Profiles and four Implementation Tiers.



What it is

The NIST Privacy Framework Version 1.0, titled A Tool for Improving Privacy through Enterprise Risk Management, is a voluntary framework published by the U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology on January 16, 2020. It helps organizations of any size manage the privacy risks that arise when they process data about individuals. Version 1.0 is the current final version; NIST released a Version 1.1 Initial Public Draft on April 14, 2025, and its comment period closed on June 13, 2025.

The framework follows the structure of the Cybersecurity Framework so the two can be used together. Its Core has five Functions, Identify-P, Govern-P, Control-P, Communicate-P and Protect-P, divided into 18 Categories and 100 Subcategories. Profiles compare a Current state with a Target state, and four Implementation Tiers (Partial, Risk Informed, Repeatable and Adaptive) describe how well processes and resources fit the risk. Section 1.0 says it is agnostic to any particular technology, sector, law or jurisdiction, and the cover states that the document has no force and effect of law.

At a glance

PUBLISHER National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)	TYPE Standard	VERSION Version 1.0 (final); Version 1.1 Initial Public Draft released April 14, 2025
EFFECTIVE January 16, 2020	DOMAIN Privacy	FAMILY NIST Frameworks
REGION United States	ADOPTION MODEL Voluntary	IMPLEMENTATION COMPLEXITY Medium

Source: nist.gov/privacy-framework

Why it matters

- **Privacy risk in enterprise terms** Section 1.2.1 connects problematic data actions to organizational impacts, bringing privacy risk into parity with the rest of the risk portfolio.
- **Beyond compliance** Section 1.2.2 notes that a privacy risk assessment can show problems for individuals even where an organization is fully compliant with applicable law.
- **Profiles instead of a checklist** Section 2.2 prescribes no Profile template, so an organization selects and tailors the Functions, Categories and Subcategories to its own needs.
- **A shared vocabulary** The framework gives executives, legal teams and IT a common language, with a Figure 7 flow of collaboration from the senior executive level to operations.

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How SmartSuite supports NIST Privacy Framework v1.0

Data Processing Inventory

Record systems, owners, categories of individuals, data actions, purposes, data elements and processing environments, the inventory outcomes in ID.IM-P1 to P8, with links between them.

Profile Gap Tracking

Hold Current and Target status for each Subcategory, the gap, the action plan and its owner, so the Ready, Set and Go phases run from one record.

Privacy Risk Assessments

Capture problematic data actions, likelihood, impact and the chosen response (mitigate, transfer or share, avoid or accept), as in ID.RA-P3 to P5.

Tier Self-Assessment

Record the Tier you have chosen, from Partial to Adaptive, the evidence for it and the resources needed to move up.

Ecosystem and Vendor Oversight

Track service providers and partners in Third Party Risk Management with the privacy requirements set in their contracts and the checks that verify them (ID.DE-P).

Control Mappings and Reporting

Map Subcategories to GDPR, ISO/IEC 27701 and NIST SP 800-53 controls, and report Profile progress and open actions on dashboards.

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 1.0 (PDF)

The full text of the NIST Privacy Framework Version 1.0 of January 16, 2020.

nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/CSWP/NIST.CSWP.01162020.pdf

NIST Privacy Framework resource repository

NIST's repository of Profiles, crosswalks, guidance and tools contributed for the Privacy Framework.

nist.gov/privacy-framework/resource-repository

Frequently asked questions

What is the NIST Privacy Framework and is it mandatory?

It is a voluntary tool from the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Version 1.0 of January 16, 2020, that helps organizations identify and manage privacy risk. The cover states that it has no force and effect of law. Section 3.0 adds that organizations decide how to apply it and that compliance with the Privacy Framework should not become a uniform, externally referenceable concept.

What are the five Functions of the Privacy Framework Core?

Identify-P, Govern-P, Control-P, Communicate-P and Protect-P (section 2.1). Together they contain 18 Categories and 100 Subcategories listed in Appendix A. Identify-P and Govern-P are foundational, Control-P and Communicate-P cover managing and explaining data processing to and with individuals, and Protect-P covers safeguards against cybersecurity-related privacy events.

How does the Privacy Framework relate to the NIST Cybersecurity Framework?

It follows the Cybersecurity Framework's structure so the two can be used together. Section 1.2.1 explains that cybersecurity risk contributes to privacy risk but is not sufficient, because privacy risks also arise from data processing that works as intended. Protect-P addresses the overlap, cybersecurity-related privacy events, and an organization can also use the Cybersecurity Framework's Detect, Respond and Recover Functions beside the privacy Functions (section 2.1).

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How do Profiles and Implementation Tiers work?

A Profile selects the Core outcomes an organization prioritizes. A Current Profile shows what it achieves now, a Target Profile shows what it needs, and the gap drives an action plan (section 2.2). The four Tiers, Partial, Risk Informed, Repeatable and Adaptive, describe whether processes and resources are sufficient (section 2.3 and Appendix E). Success depends on achieving the Target Profile, not on reaching a given Tier.

Is there a newer version than Privacy Framework 1.0?

Not as a final document. NIST published the Privacy Framework 1.1 Initial Public Draft (CSWP 40) on April 14, 2025, to realign the framework with CSF 2.0 and respond to current privacy risk management needs, and the comment period closed on June 13, 2025. NIST's project page, last updated April 1, 2026, still shows Privacy Framework 1.1 as coming soon, so Version 1.0 remains the current final version.

License included / downloadable: Yes The NIST Privacy Framework Version 1.0 is published free of charge by the National Institute of Standards and Technology; the platform links to the official document, Core spreadsheet and Resource Repository.

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

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