



Be Careful with Personal Data

Technology, Privacy, and eCommerce



In our day-to-day work we are not always aware that when we talk about personal data and its management, we do not readily see the bigger implications and scope.

First, let's be clear what we mean by personal data (PD). PD refers to "any information related to an identified or identifiable person expressed in alphabetical, numerical, graphic, acoustic, photographic or any other form, concerning natural or legal persons, identified or identifiable, directly or indirectly, and whose dissemination directly affects the right to privacy of its owner." Within this, there are also "sensitive data," which need special protection, given that they can reveal intimate details about someone or could, if shared, be used to discriminate against them (physical, ideological, religious, health).



PD belongs to their owner, and only they can decide whether their data can be used and for what purpose. The owner has ARCO rights (Access, Rectification, Cancellation, or Opposition to the publication of PD).

However, many people across the business who handle the PD of third parties daily could unintentionally share them without knowledge of the regulations.

Marketing

Human resources

Highly regulated sectors

Whether due to labor or health regulations, some business units carry out medical examinations and provide care to employees, giving rise to the handling of sensitive personal data.

Providers of specialized services

Where, for example, security guards are responsible for registering visitors and verifying their identity by requesting PD embodied in official identity documents such as passports, voting credentials, professional licenses, etc.

Final consumer

Made up of tend users who purchase products created by your company or distributed through its partners.



Why are all these activities relevant? Some of these areas collect and, where appropriate, transfer PD, including sensitive PD, to Syngenta. As a legal area, we must ensure that anyone handling PD has the knowledge to properly use it, through the Privacy Notice and the Policy. In addition, to prevent incorrect handling, it is important to approach all the areas involved with PD in a didactic and friendly way to convey the need to comply with regulation in accordance with the current legislation of each country.

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If we do not consider the correct protection for requested, stored and, where appropriate, transferred PD, there is a significant risk for our organization in the form of large fines. The use of sensitive PD is even more delicate since it can involve discriminatory categories, such as: the recruitment process and selection of personnel and the medical examination on entry or exit that is carried out on employees. Everything related to a person's health is sensitive information.



If personal data is not properly protected, large fines can be a huge consequence for organizations.

What can be done to safeguard your company?

Make a list

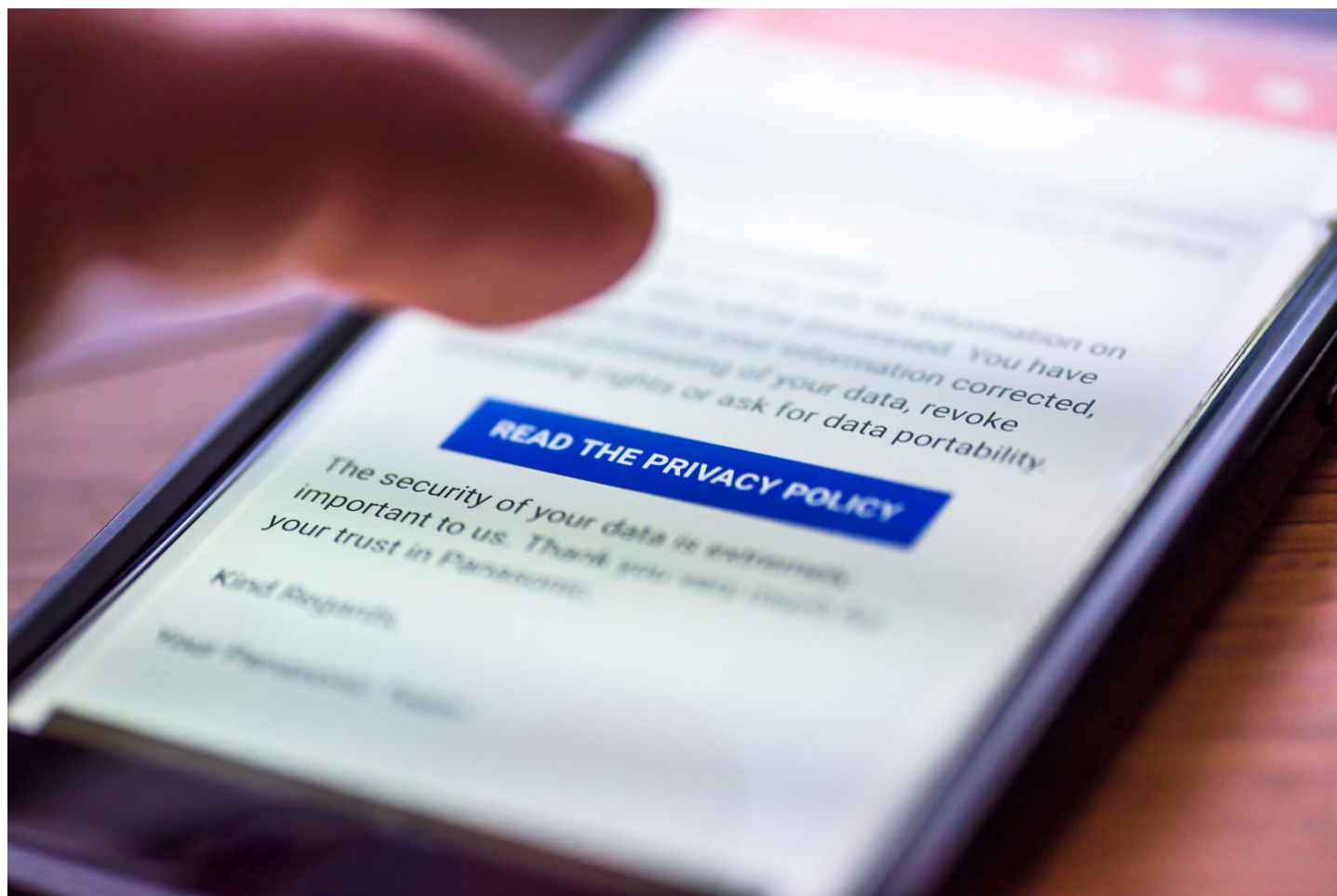
Know who is collecting PD. Catalogue the different PD databases existing at your company in order to adequately protect the PD collected by its different stakeholders.

Identify third-party PD

Do any third parties handle from third-parties that is handled within Syngenta and that is not the latter's primary responsibility, for example, PD that is collected relating to subcontracted doctors and guards.

Ensure privacy notices are implemented

that prevent and protect the company by implementing the requirements of PD standards are placed in media such as social networks or virtual media, in writing, by telephone and on office reception signs.



Many companies have privacy policies in place to protect their customers private information.

Train for the specific PD risks

attached to the PD owner exercising their ARCO rights, in the event that the company does not have the authorizations and/or consent for their handling and/or transfer, or with the necessary infrastructure to protect them.

Finally, we must promote these initiatives to raise awareness among different functions of the regulations applicable to their area in their country. The goal is to bring about cultural change, making staff aware that when collecting PD from third parties, they are ambassadors of the company. Of course, this can only be done in collaboration with other areas that have the necessary expertise.

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Rodolfo Ibarra studied law at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) and holds a specialization in Administration Degree at Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey

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