

DATA PROTECTION OFFICERS GDPR COMPLIANCE

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ADVOCATES



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Overview of this session

- ✓ The role of controllers and processors and the relationship between them.
- ✓ Transferring personal data outside the EU and the mechanisms for compliance.





The Role of Controllers and Processors:

The Evolution of their Roles





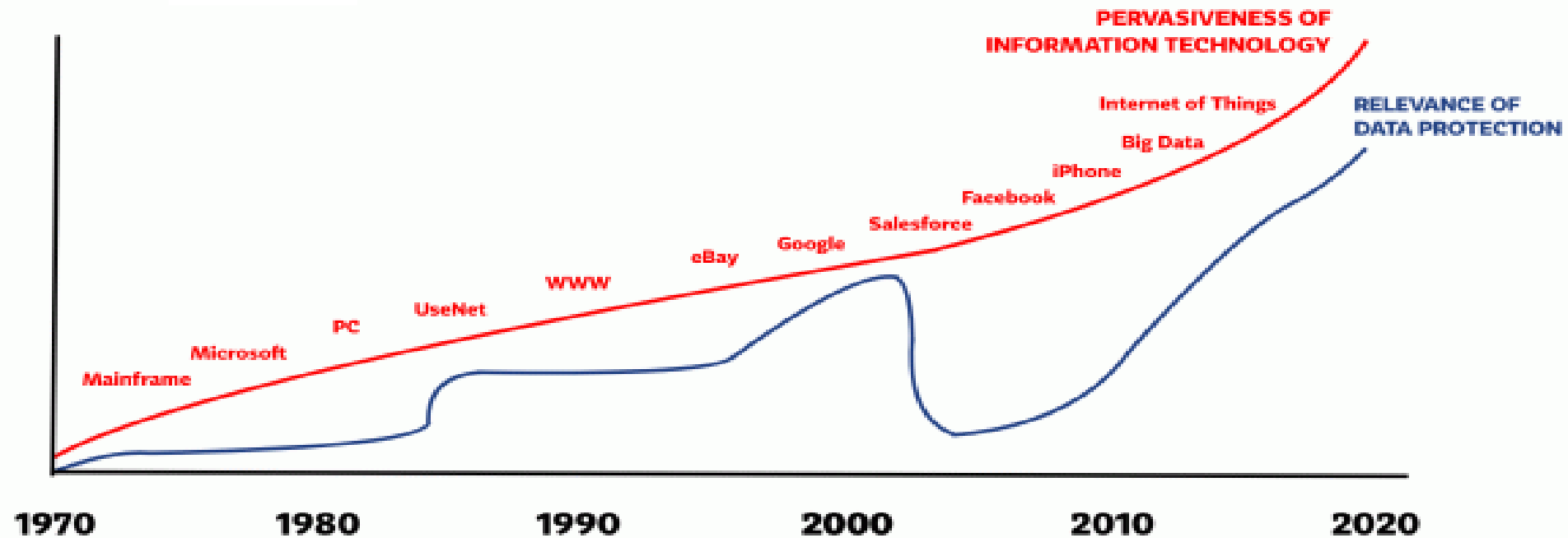
Overview of DP Laws

- ✓ Privacy as a Fundamental Human Right
- ✓ Data Protection Act, Chapter 586 LOM (repealed former Chapter 440 - LOM)
- ✓ General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (repealed Directive 95/46/EC on protection of personal data)
- ✓ Directive (EU) 2016/680 on processing for law enforcement purposes (The Police and Criminal Justice Authorities)
- ✓ E-Privacy Directive and Subsidiary Legislation 586.01





Legal Challenges: Tech Evolution v Legal Evolution





1995 Directive - Definition

Controller:

shall mean the natural or legal person, public authority, agency or any other body which alone or jointly with others determines the purposes and means of the processing of personal data; where the purposes and means of processing are determined by national or Community laws or regulations, the controller or the specific criteria for his nomination may be designated by national or Community law;

Processor:

shall mean a natural or legal person, public authority, agency or any other body which processes personal data on behalf of the controller;





GDPR – Definition of Controller

Directive Controller:

shall mean the natural or legal person, public authority, agency or any other body **which alone or jointly with others determines the purposes and means of the processing of personal data**; where the purposes and means of processing are determined by national or Community laws or regulations, the controller or the specific criteria for his nomination may be designated by national or Community law;

GDPR Controller:

means the natural or legal person, public authority, agency or other body **which, alone or jointly with others, determines the purposes and means of the processing of personal data**; where the purposes and means of such processing are determined by Union or Member State law, the controller or the specific criteria for its nomination may be provided for by Union or Member State law





GDPR – Definition of Processor

Directive Processor:

shall mean a natural or legal person, public authority, agency or any other body **which processes personal data on behalf of the controller;**

GDPR Processor:

means a natural or legal person, public authority, agency or other body **which processes personal data on behalf of the controller**

→ Both definitions are essentially the same, so what has changed?





Major Breaches Pre 2018



Post 1995 Companies





Liability

Article 23 of the Directive:

1. Member States shall provide that any person who has suffered damage as a result of an unlawful processing operation or of any act incompatible with the national provisions adopted pursuant to this Directive **is entitled to receive compensation from the controller for the damage suffered.**
2. **The controller** may be exempted from this liability, in whole or in part, if he proves that he is not responsible for the event giving rise to the damage.

Article 82 of the GDPR:

1. Any person who has suffered material or non-material damage as a result of an infringement of this Regulation **shall have the right to receive compensation from the controller or processor for the damage suffered.**
2. Any controller involved in processing shall be liable for the damage caused by processing which infringes this Regulation. A processor shall be liable for the damage caused by processing only where it has not complied with obligations of this Regulation specifically directed to processors or where it has acted outside or contrary to lawful instructions of the controller.





The Role of Controllers and Processors:

What is a Data Controller and a Data Processor?





Data Controller

A natural or legal person, public authority, agency or other body which, alone or jointly with others, determines the purposes and means of the processing of personal data

Data Controller



Data Subject





Data Controller



Personal Data

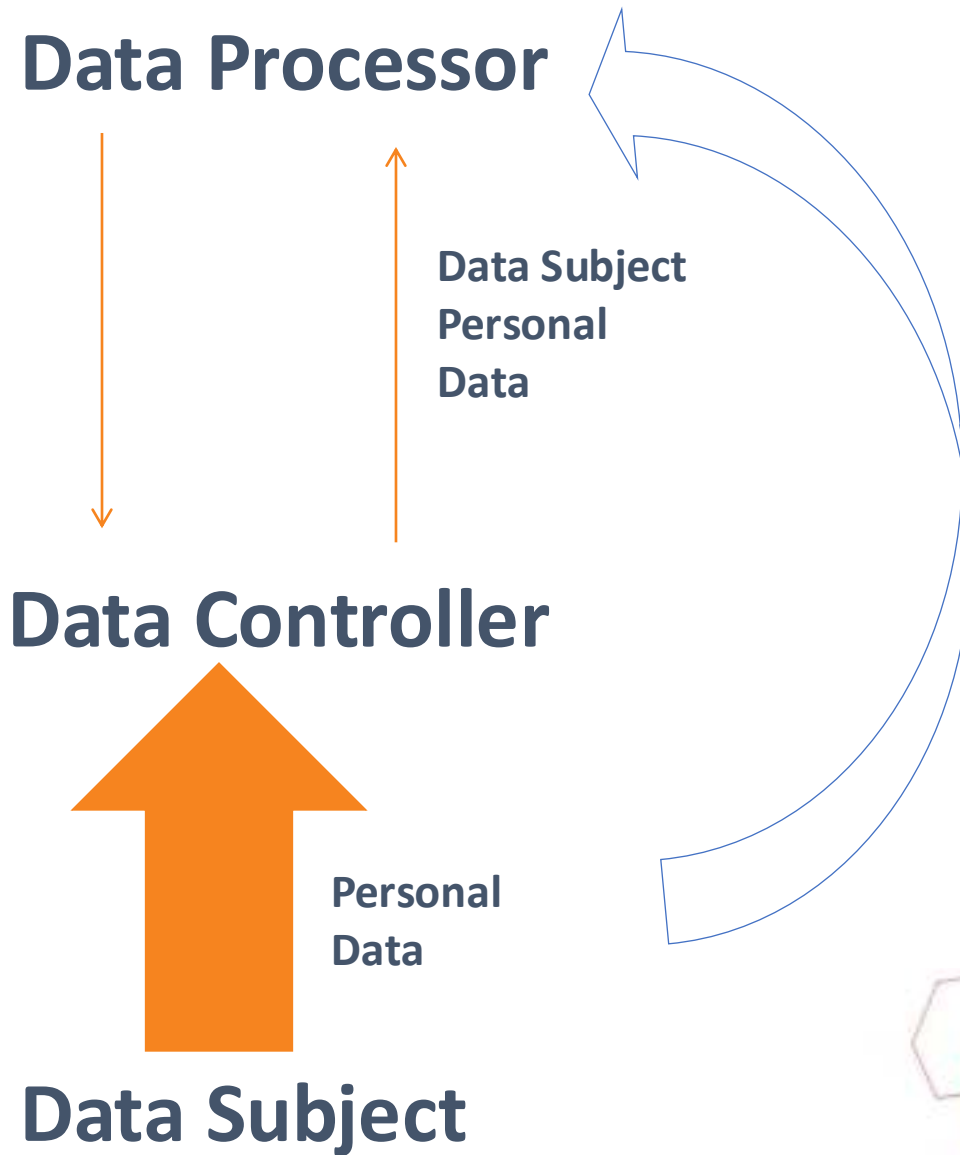
Data Subject

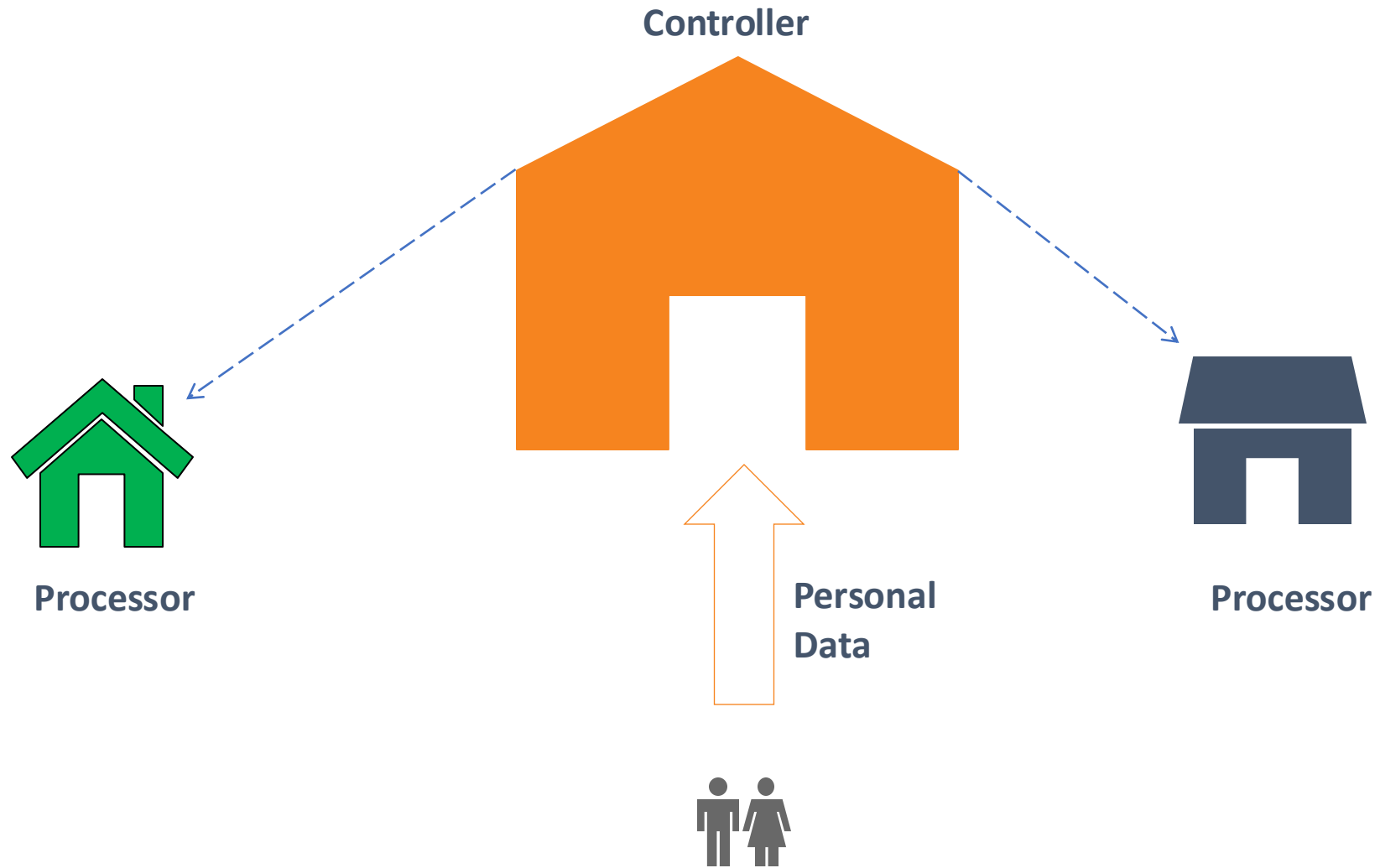
At the point of Personal Data collection, the Data Controller must provide the Data Subject with certain information that is stipulated in articles 13 and 14 of the GDPR

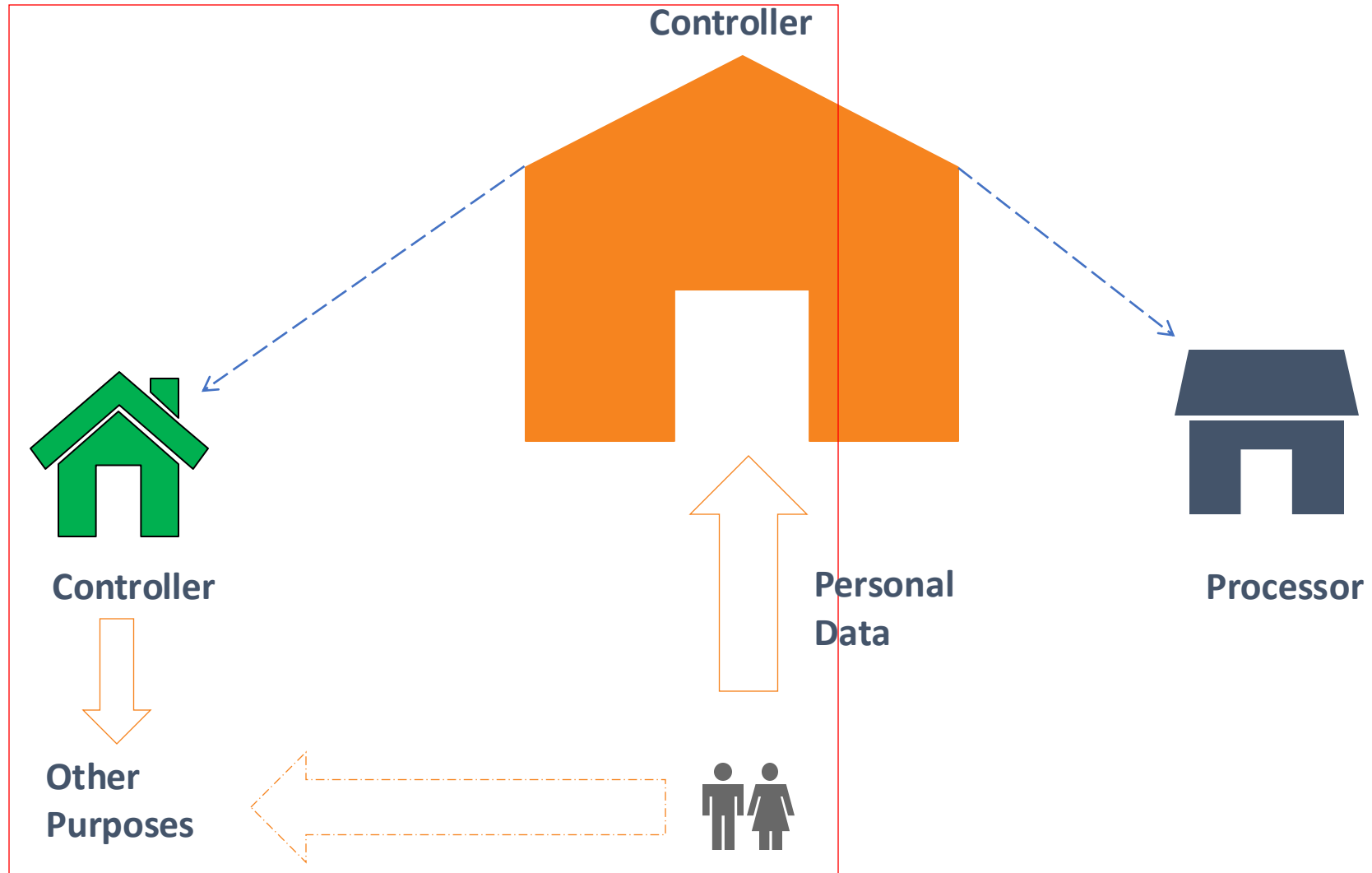


Data Processor

A natural or legal person, public authority, agency or other body (other than an employee) which processes personal data on behalf or on the instruction of the controller









Processing

Any operation or set of operations which is taken in regard to personal data, whether or not it occurs by automatic means:

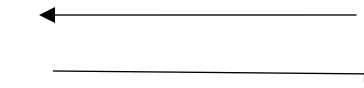
collection
recording
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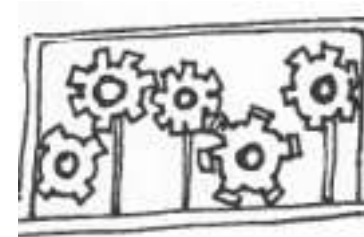
use
disclosure
dissemination
alignment
alteration
combination
blocking
destruction



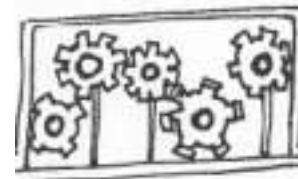
Key Players



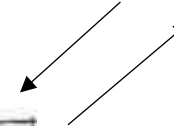
Authorised Person



Data Processor



Sub-Processor





The Role of Controllers and Processors:

How can you determine who is a Controller and who is a Processor?

→ This can be tricky.





Controller or Processor?

- ✓ Essential to determine whether an entity is a controller or processor
 - ✓ Different implications under the GDPR
 - ✓ Data breach responsibilities – notification to Supervisory Authorities
 - ✓ Rights of data subjects – Controllers responsibility to respect, Processor responsibility to assist
 - ✓ Liabilities and indemnities – both liable in terms of GDPR, unless proof can be provided that it is not in any way responsible for the event giving rise to the damage.





Who is a Controller?

Data controller exercises overall control over the ‘what’, ‘why’ and the ‘how’ of a data processing activity.





Who is a Controller?

Decisions that can only be taken by controller include the purpose of processing and 'essential means':

- ✓ collects the personal data in the first place;
- ✓ determines the legal bases of processing;
- ✓ determines purpose the data are to be used for;
- ✓ determines which items of personal data to collect;
- ✓ determines categories of data subjects;
- ✓ determines whether to disclose the data, and who to;
- ✓ determines whether data subject rights apply;
- ✓ determines how long to retain the data.





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- ✓ determines how long to retain the data.

Privacy Notice





Who is a Processor?

- ✓ Role limited to the more 'technical' aspects of an operation, such as data storage, retrieval or erasure.
- ✓ Acts as a service provider to the controller i.e. process data on the controller's behalf.
- ✓ Cannot take any of the over-arching decisions, e.g. what the personal data will be used for or what the content of the data is





Who is a Processor?

A processor may decide the 'non-essential means':

- ✓ what IT systems or other methods to use to collect data;
- ✓ how to store the personal data;
- ✓ detail of the security surrounding the personal data;
- ✓ means used to transfer the personal data from one organisation to another;
- ✓ the means used to retrieve personal data about certain individuals;
- ✓ the method for ensuring a retention schedule is adhered to;
- ✓ the means used to delete or dispose of the data.





Who is a Processor?

- ✓ IT admins
- ✓ An Internet Service Provider providing web hosting services which processes personal data published online by its customers, who use the ISP for their website hosting and maintenance
- ✓ Payment gateways (e.g. PayPal) that process payments
- ✓ Payroll companies – the payroll company stores the employee data on its IT systems and pays the wages at the instructions of the company which ultimately determines when they should be paid, at which amount and the information to be included in the pay slip
- ✓ Outsourced services





Controller **and** a Processor?

A possibility!

Examples:

- The IT service provider is a processor to its clients and a controller to its employees
- A payment gateway services provider may be a processor to its clients and considered a controller for reporting money laundering





Controller **and** a Processor?

Art.28(10) GDPR

If the processor makes its own decisions, rather than following controller's instructions, that processor **is treated as a controller in respect of that processing activity.**

This may have implications on liability.





The Role of Controllers and Processors:

Controller Responsibilities





Controller Governance (1) – Privacy Notices

Art.12 GDPR

The **controller** shall take appropriate measures to provide a Privacy Notice and any communication under Articles 15 to 22 and 34 relating to processing to the data subject





Controller Governance (2) - Rights

GDPR data subject rights





Controller Governance (3) - Reporting

Art.33 and 34 GDPR

It is the **controller's** responsibility to notify data protection authorities and/or data subjects as a result of a data breach, where applicable





Controller Governance (4) — Record Keeping

Art.30 GDPR

- (a) the name and contact details of the controller and, where applicable, the joint controller, the controller's representative and the data protection officer;
- (b) the purposes of the processing;
- (c) a description of the categories of data subjects and of the categories of personal data;





Controller Governance (4) – Record Keeping

- (d) the categories of recipients to whom the personal data have been or will be disclosed including recipients in third countries or international organisations;
- (e) where applicable, transfers of personal data to a third country or an international organisation, including the identification of that third country or international organisation and, in the case of transfers referred to in the second subparagraph of Article 49(1), the documentation of suitable safeguards;
- (f) where possible, the envisaged time limits for erasure of the different categories of data;
- (g) where possible, a general description of the technical and organisational security measures referred to in Article 32(1).





Controller Governance (5) – DPAs

Article 28 (1) GDPR

Where processing is to be carried out on behalf of a controller, the controller shall use only processors providing sufficient guarantees to implement appropriate technical and organisational measures in such a manner that processing will meet the requirements of this Regulation and ensure the protection of the rights of the data subject





The Role of Controllers and Processors:

Processor Responsibilities





Processor Governance

- ✓ Internal record keeping of processing activities
- ✓ Cooperation with supervisory authorities
- ✓ Data breach reporting to Controller
- ✓ Erasing, deleting or returning all the personal data processed to the controller at the end of the data processing services
- ✓ Appoint DPO
- ✓ Responsible for technical and organisational measures





Processor Obligations





The Role of Controllers and Processors:

The Data Processing Agreement





The Data Processing Agreement

- ✓ Must be a written legal instrument which must include:
 - Subject Matter of processing.
 - Duration of processing.
 - Nature of processing activity.
 - Type of personal data.
 - Categories of data subjects.
 - Obligations and rights of Controller
- ✓ Must contain certain provisions: the technical and organisational security measures put in place by the Data Processor, deletion of personal data at the request of the Data Controller
- ✓ Must Specify if personal data is going to be transferred to other entities
- ✓ Only applies to Controller – Processor (and Processor – SubProcessor) relationships
- ✓ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02016R0679-20160504>





Article 28 (3)

3. Processing by a processor shall be governed by a contract or other legal act under Union or Member State law, that is binding on the processor with regard to the controller and that sets out the subject-matter and duration of the processing, the nature and purpose of the processing, the type of personal data and categories of data subjects and the obligations and rights of the controller. That contract or other legal act shall stipulate, in particular, that the processor:
- (a) processes the personal data only on documented instructions from the controller, including with regard to transfers of personal data to a third country or an international organisation, unless required to do so by Union or Member State law to which the processor is subject; in such a case, the processor shall inform the controller of that legal requirement before processing, unless that law prohibits such information on important grounds of public interest;
 - (b) ensures that persons authorised to process the personal data have committed themselves to confidentiality or are under an appropriate statutory obligation of confidentiality;
 - (c) takes all measures required pursuant to Article 32;
 - (d) respects the conditions referred to in paragraphs 2 and 4 for engaging another processor;
 - (e) taking into account the nature of the processing, assists the controller by appropriate technical and organisational measures, insofar as this is possible, for the fulfilment of the controller's obligation to respond to requests for exercising the data subject's rights laid down in Chapter III;
 - (f) assists the controller in ensuring compliance with the obligations pursuant to Articles 32 to 36 taking into account the nature of processing and the information available to the processor;
 - (g) at the choice of the controller, deletes or returns all the personal data to the controller after the end of the provision of services relating to processing, and deletes existing copies unless Union or Member State law requires storage of the personal data;
 - (h) makes available to the controller all information necessary to demonstrate compliance with the obligations laid down in this Article and allow for and contribute to audits, including inspections, conducted by the controller or another auditor mandated by the controller,





Record Keeping Obligation: Processor

2. Each processor and, where applicable, the processor's representative shall maintain a record of all categories of processing activities carried out on behalf of a controller, containing:
- (a) the name and contact details of the processor or processors and of each controller on behalf of which the processor is acting, and, where applicable, of the controller's or the processor's representative, and the data protection officer;
 - (b) the categories of processing carried out on behalf of each controller;
 - (c) where applicable, transfers of personal data to a third country or an international organisation, including the identification of that third country or international organisation and, in the case of transfers referred to in the second subparagraph of Article 49(1), the documentation of suitable safeguards;
 - (d) where possible, a general description of the technical and organisational security measures referred to in Article 32(1).





The Role of Controllers and Processors:

What other relationships exist?



Other Relationships

✓ Sub-Processors → flow-down obligations

- Data Processing Agreement

✓ Joint Controllers

- Joint liability before Data Subjects and Authorities
- Publication of substance of the agreement

✓ Controller - Controller





Joint Controllers

- ✓ A joint controller agreement must be entered into
- ✓ Must:
 - Cover compliance with the obligations under GDPR, in particular as regards the exercising of the rights of the data subject and the controllers' respective duties to provide the information referred to in Articles 13 and 14
 - designate a contact point for data subjects.
- ✓ The essence of the arrangement shall be made available to the data subject.
- ✓ Irrespective of the terms of the arrangement, the data subject may exercise his or her rights in respect of and against each of the controllers.





Controller to Controller Situations

- ✓ Both parties act independently in the processing of PD
- ✓ Company X processes data of its employees for accounting purposes. Company X is obliged to send such data to the IRD for fiscal purposes. Both Company X and the IRD process the same data but lack shared purpose or means with regard to this data processing, and thus are two separate data controllers.
- ✓ An independent travel agent sends PD of its customers to an airline and a hotel in order to make reservations. The airline / hotel confirm booking. In this case, each of the 3 are separate data controllers.





Controller to Controller main issues

- ✓ Data transfer/sharing agreement
- ✓ Privacy Notice disclosures
- ✓ Handling of complaints/breaches
- ✓ Third party data
- ✓ Indemnities / liabilities
- ✓ Guarantees





The Role of Controllers and Processors:

Examples





Example 1

- ✓ A bank hires an IT services firm to store archived data on its behalf. The bank will control how and why the data is used and determine its retention period. In reality, the IT services firm will use a great deal of its own technical expertise and professional judgement to decide how best to store the data in a safe and accessible way.
- ✓ Is the IT services firm a controller or a processor?



Example 1

Answer = Data Processor

- ✓ Despite the IT service provider's freedom to take technical decisions, the IT firm is still not a data controller in respect of the bank's data.
- ✓ It retains exclusive control over the purpose for which the data is processed and the content of the data, if not exclusively over the manner in which the processing takes place.
- ✓ Key consideration = who exercises control over the content of the personal data.





Example 2

- ✓ A firm contracts a market research company to carry out some research. The firm's brief specifies its budget and that it requires a customer satisfaction survey of its main retail services. The firm leaves it to the research company to determine sample sizes, interview methods and presentation of results. The research company is processing personal data on the firm's behalf, but it is also determining which customers to contact, determining what to ask the bank's customers and the manner in which the survey will be carried out. It has the freedom to decide such matters as which customers to select for interview, what form the interview should take, what information to collect from customers and how to present the results.
- ✓ Is the market research company a controller or a processor?





Example 2

Answer = Controller

- ✓ a data controller in its own right in respect of the processing of personal data done to carry out the survey
- ✓ even though the firm retains overall control of the data in terms of commissioning the research and determining the purpose the data will be used for, the 'how' and 'why' is determined by the marketing company when carrying out the research





Example 3

A luxury car company teams up with a designer fashion brand to host a co-branded promotional event. The companies decide to run a prize draw at the event. They invite attendees to participate in the prize draw by entering their name and address into their prize draw system at the event. After the event, the companies post out the prizes to the winners. They do not use the personal data for any other purposes.

ICO <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-data-protection/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/controllers-and-processors/what-does-it-mean-if-you-are-joint-controllers/>





Example 3

The companies will be joint controllers of the personal data processed in connection with the prize draw, because they both decided the purposes and means of the processing.

ICO <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-data-protection/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/controllers-and-processors/what-does-it-mean-if-you-are-joint-controllers/>





Example 4

A gym engages a local printing company to produce invitations to a special event the gym is hosting. The gym gives the printing company the names and addresses of its members from its member database, which the printer uses to address the invitations and envelopes. The gym then sends out the invitations.

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-data-protection/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/controllers-and-processors/what-are-controllers-and-processors/>





Example 4

The gym is the controller of the personal data processed in connection with the invitations. The gym determines the purposes for which the personal data is being processed (to send individually addressed invitations to the event) and the means of the processing (mail merging the personal data using the data subjects' address details). The printing company is a processor processing the personal data only on the gym's instructions.

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-data-protection/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/controllers-and-processors/what-are-controllers-and-processors/>





Example 5

A firm uses an accountant to do its books. When acting for his client, the accountant is a controller in relation to the personal data in the accounts. This is because accountants and similar providers of professional services work under a range of professional obligations that oblige them to take responsibility for the personal data they process. For example, if the accountant detects malpractice while doing the firm's accounts he may, depending on its nature, be required under his monitoring obligations to report the malpractice to the police or other authorities. In doing so, an accountant would not be acting on the client's instructions but in line with his own professional obligations and therefore as a controller in his own right

If specialist service providers are processing data in line with their own professional obligations, they will always be acting as the controller. In this context, they cannot agree to hand over or share controller obligations with the client.

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-data-protection/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/controllers-and-processors/what-are-controllers-and-processors/>





Example 6

A GP surgery uses an automated system in its waiting room to notify patients when to proceed to a GP consulting room. The system consists of a digital screen that displays the waiting patient's name and the relevant consulting room number, and also a speaker for visually impaired patients that announces the same information.

The GP surgery will be the controller for the personal data processed in connection with the waiting room notification system because it is determining the purposes and means of the processing.

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-data-protection/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/controllers-and-processors/what-are-controllers-and-processors/>





Example 7

A property management company maintains student halls of residence for the landlord, the university. The company enters into tenancy agreements with the students on the university's behalf and chases any rent arrears. It collects the rent and passes it to the university after taking a commission.

The company is a joint controller of the tenancy-related information, including regarding rental payments. It decides what information it needs from the residents to set up and manage the tenancies but will share this data with the university.

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-data-protection/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/controllers-and-processors/what-does-it-mean-if-you-are-joint-controllers/>



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The Role of Controllers and Processors:

Consequences of Non-Compliance





Fines and Penalties

10, 000, 000 EUR

Or

**up to 2 % of the total
worldwide annual turnover**





Fines and Penalties

20, 000, 000 EUR

Or

**up to 4 % of the total
worldwide annual turnover**



Supervisory Authorities also have the power

to ...

- ✓ order the controller and the processor, and, where applicable, the controller's or the processor's representative **to provide any information it requires for the performance of its tasks**;
- ✓ carry out **investigations** in the form of data protection audits;
- ✓ **notify** the controller or the processor of an alleged infringement of the GDPR;
- ✓ **obtain**, from the controller and the processor, **access to all personal data** and to all information necessary for the performance of its tasks;
- ✓ obtain **access to any premises** of the controller and the processor, including to any data processing equipment and means;
- ✓ **issue warnings** to a controller or processor that intended processing operations are likely to infringe provisions of the GDPR;
- ✓ **issue reprimands** to a controller or a processor where processing operations have infringed provisions of the GDPR;
- ✓ **order** the controller or the processor to **comply with the data subject's** requests to exercise his or her rights pursuant to the GDPR;



The list goes on ...

- ✓ order the controller or processor to bring processing operations into compliance with the provisions of the GDPR, where appropriate, in a specified manner and within a specified period;
- ✓ order the controller to communicate a personal data breach to the data subject;
- ✓ impose a temporary or definitive limitation including a ban on processing;
- ✓ order the rectification or erasure of personal data or restriction of processing pursuant to Articles 16, 17 and 18 and the notification of such actions to recipients to whom the personal data have been disclosed pursuant to Article 17(2) and Article 19;
- ✓ impose an administrative fine pursuant to Article 83, in addition to, or instead of measures referred to in this paragraph, depending on the circumstances of each individual case;
- ✓ order the suspension of data flows to a recipient in a third country or to an international organisation.





GDPR Enforcement Tracker

<https://www.enforcementtracker.com/>

ETId	Country	Date of Decision	Fine (€)	Controller/Processor	Quoted Art.	Type	Source
<input type="text" value="Filter Column"/>	<input type="text" value="Filter Column"/>	<input type="text" value="Filter Column"/>	<input type="text" value="Filter Column"/>	<input type="text" value="Filter Column"/>	<input type="text" value="Filter Column"/>	<input type="text" value="Filter Column"/>	<input type="text" value="Filter Column"/>
ETId-2560	FRANCE	2024-04-04	525,000	HUBSIDE.STORE	Art. 6 GDPR, Art. 14 GDPR, Art. L33-5 CPCE	Insufficient legal basis for data processing	link
ETId-2559	GREECE	2024-05-27	40,000	Member of the European Parliament	Art. 5 (1) a) GDPR, Art. 6 (1) GDPR, Art. 14 GDPR	Insufficient legal basis for data processing	link
ETId-2558	SPAIN	2024-02-09	3,500,000	IDE REDES ELÉCTRICAS INTELIGENTES, S.A.U.	Art. 5 (1) f) GDPR, Art. 32 GDPR	Non-compliance with general data processing principles	link
ETId-2557	SPAIN	2024-02-07	3,000,000	BERDROLA, S.A.	Art. 5 (1) f) GDPR, Art. 32 GDPR	Non-compliance with general data processing principles	link
ETId-2556	GREECE	2024-05-27	400,000	Ministry of Interior (Greece)	Art. 5 (1) f) GDPR, 32 GDPR, 25 (1) GDPR, 33 (3), 34, (5) GDPR	Insufficient technical and organisational measures to ensure information security	link
ETId-2555	UNITED KINGDOM	2024-08-26	904,000	Police Service of Northern Ireland	Art. 5 (1) f) GDPR, Art. 32 (1), (2) GDPR	Insufficient technical and organisational measures to ensure information security	link
ETId-2554	SPAIN	2025-01-17	76,000	CAJA RURAL DE GIJÓN, S.C.A.C.	Art. 5 (1) f) GDPR	Non-compliance with general data processing principles	link
ETId-2553	SPAIN	2025-01-17	200,000	CAJA RURAL DE SALAMANCA, S.C.C.	Art. 5 (1) f) GDPR	Non-compliance with general data processing principles	link
ETId-2552	SPAIN	2025-01-17	80,000	CAJA RURAL DE ALBACETE, CIUDAD REAL Y CUENCA, S.C.T	Art. 5 (1) f) GDPR	Non-compliance with general data processing principles	link
ETId-2551	SPAIN	2025-01-17	8,000	CAJA RURAL NTRA. SRA. DEL ROSARIO	Art. 5 (1) f) GDPR	Non-compliance with general data processing principles	link



Meta's record €1.2 billion fine

- Issued by the Irish Data Protection Authority against Meta in relation to transfers of personal data from the EU to the US and the safeguards
- The authority said that changes introduced by Meta Ireland in response to a 2020 ruling by the European Court of Justice “did not address the risks to the fundamental rights and freedoms” of such transfers — even though the transfers largely took place on the basis of contractual clauses endorsed by the European Commission
- Highest fine awarded under the GDPR to date – the fine was calculated on the basis of several factors including the severity of the violation, the large amount of personal data involved, and the significant number of data subjects affected

Malta – GDPR Enforcement

Case	Case	Country	Date of Decision	Fine (€)	Controller/Processor	Grounds	Type	Source
OT4-1910	OT4-1910	Malta	2020	2,000	Unknown	Art. 5(1)(a) GDPR, Art. 12(1)(2) GDPR, Art. 19 GDPR, Art. 14 GDPR, Art. 13(1)(2) GDPR, Art. 34(2) GDPR, Art. 38(1) GDPR	Insufficient fulfilment of data subjects' rights	GD
OT4-1908	OT4-1908	Malta	2020	8,000	Unknown	Art. 5(1)(a) GDPR, Art. 8 GDPR	Non-compliance with general data processing principles	GD
OT4-1906	OT4-1906	Malta	2020-01-17	48,000	G-Persal IT Solutions Limited	Art. 5(1)(9) GDPR, Art. 8(7) GDPR, Art. 9(1)(2) GDPR, Art. 14 GDPR, Art. 32 GDPR, Art. 33 GDPR, Art. 34 GDPR	Insufficient technical and organisational measures to ensure information security	GD
OT4-1911	OT4-1911	Malta	2020	48,000	Unknown	Art. 5(1)(9) GDPR, Art. 8(7) GDPR, Art. 9(1)(2) GDPR, Art. 32(1) GDPR, Art. 33(1) GDPR, Art. 34(1) GDPR	Non-compliance with general data processing principles	GD
OT4-1888	OT4-1888	Malta	2020	280,000	Unknown	Art. 32(1)(2) GDPR	Insufficient technical and organisational measures to ensure information security	GD
OT4-1884	OT4-1884	Malta	2020	2,000	Unknown	Art. 34(2) GDPR, Art. 32(1)(a) GDPR, Art. 32(4) GDPR	Insufficient technical and organisational measures to ensure information security	GD
OT4-1848	OT4-1848	Malta	2020	4,000	Unknown	Art. 19 GDPR, Art. 18 GDPR, Regulation 5(1), 5(2)(f)	Insufficient fulfilment of data subjects' rights	GD
OT4-1842	OT4-1842	Malta	2020	20,000	Unknown	Art. 18 GDPR, Art. 19 GDPR	Insufficient fulfilment of data subjects' rights	GD
OT4-1847	OT4-1847	Malta	2020	2,000	Unknown	Art. 5(1)(9) GDPR, Art. 32(1)(a) GDPR	Insufficient technical and organisational measures to ensure information security	GD
OT4-1840	OT4-1840	Malta	2020	2,000	Unknown	Art. 32(1)(a) GDPR	Insufficient technical and organisational measures to ensure information security	GD
OT4-1838	OT4-1838	Malta	2020	2,000	Unknown	Art. 32(1)(a) GDPR	Insufficient technical and organisational measures to ensure information security	GD
OT4-1837	OT4-1837	Malta	2020	2,000	Unknown	Art. 32(1)(a) GDPR	Insufficient technical and organisational measures to ensure information security	GD
OT4-1836	OT4-1836	Malta	2020	8,000	Unknown	Art. 5(1)(9) GDPR, Art. 32(1)(a) GDPR	Insufficient technical and organisational measures to ensure information security	GD
OT4-181	OT4-181	Malta	2019-02-18	5,000	Local Authority	Art. 5 GDPR, Art. 32 GDPR	Insufficient technical and organisational measures to ensure information security	GD



Year	Type	Description	Outcome	Corrective Action	Decision
2025	Data protection complaint	The complainant alleged that the controller failed to handle his request to access all his personal data pursuant to the requirements of the GDPR.	<p>The Commissioner decided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the controller failed to inform the complainant about the limitation invoked pursuant to article 15(4) of the GDPR, and therefore, the reply lacked the necessary elements of transparency and fairness as required by the principles set forth in article 5(1) of the GDPR; and - the reply of the controller failed to include information in relation to the processing activity as set forth in article 15(1) (a) to (d) of the GDPR, save for the information that the personal data of the complainant were not disclosed to third parties; - the controller was not justified to limit the right of access pertaining to the complainant in terms of article 15(4) of the Regulation in relation to the personal data contained in the emails exchanged among the employees of the controller, and therefore, the non-disclosure of this personal data led to an infringement of article 25(2) of the GDPR. 	A reprimand and an order to comply with the right of access.	Click here



2025	Data protection complaint	The complainant alleged that the controller failed to: comply with his request to access his personal data within one (1) month from receipt of the request. In addition, the complainant alleged that the controller unlawfully invoked a restriction vis-a-vis his right to access his personal data.	The Commissioner decided that: the controller failed to provide information to the complainant in relation his request to access his personal data within one (1) month from receipt of the request; and the restriction of the right of the complainant in relation to the request to access his personal data is justified in terms of regulation 4(1) of S.L. 586:09 and regulation 2(1)(1) of S.L. 123:127.	A reprimand for failing to provide a response in a timely manner and an order to develop an appropriate policy for handling data protection requests submitted by data subjects.	Click Here
2025	Data protection complaint	A data subject filed a complaint, alleging that the controller violated their rights by requesting a copy of their passport and failing to provide the required information.	Infringed Article 13.	To develop an internal procedure or policy.	Click Here





Liabilities

Debate:

No exclusion of liability vis-à-vis:

1. the data subjects;
2. the supervisory authority imposing a penalty

But

- Either party may exclude their liability if “it is not in any way responsible for the event giving rise to the damage”
- Burden sharing for payment of compensation





Re - Cap

- ✓ The data controller determines the purposes for which and the means by which personal data is processed.
- ✓ The data processor processes personal data only on behalf of the controller.
- ✓ Distinct yet linked controller vs processor obligations
- ✓ Distinguish between controller to controller, controller to processor, processor to sub-processor, joint controllers



Data Transfers





When can personal data be transferred outside the EU?





Cross-Border Transfers Limitation

Principle:

No transfer of data to countries outside the EU that do not offer an “adequate level of protection”

Rec.101-116; Art.44, 45: Cross-Border Data Transfers may only take place if:

- the transfer is made to an Adequate Jurisdiction;
- the data exporter has implemented a lawful data transfer mechanism; or
- or an exemption or derogation applies





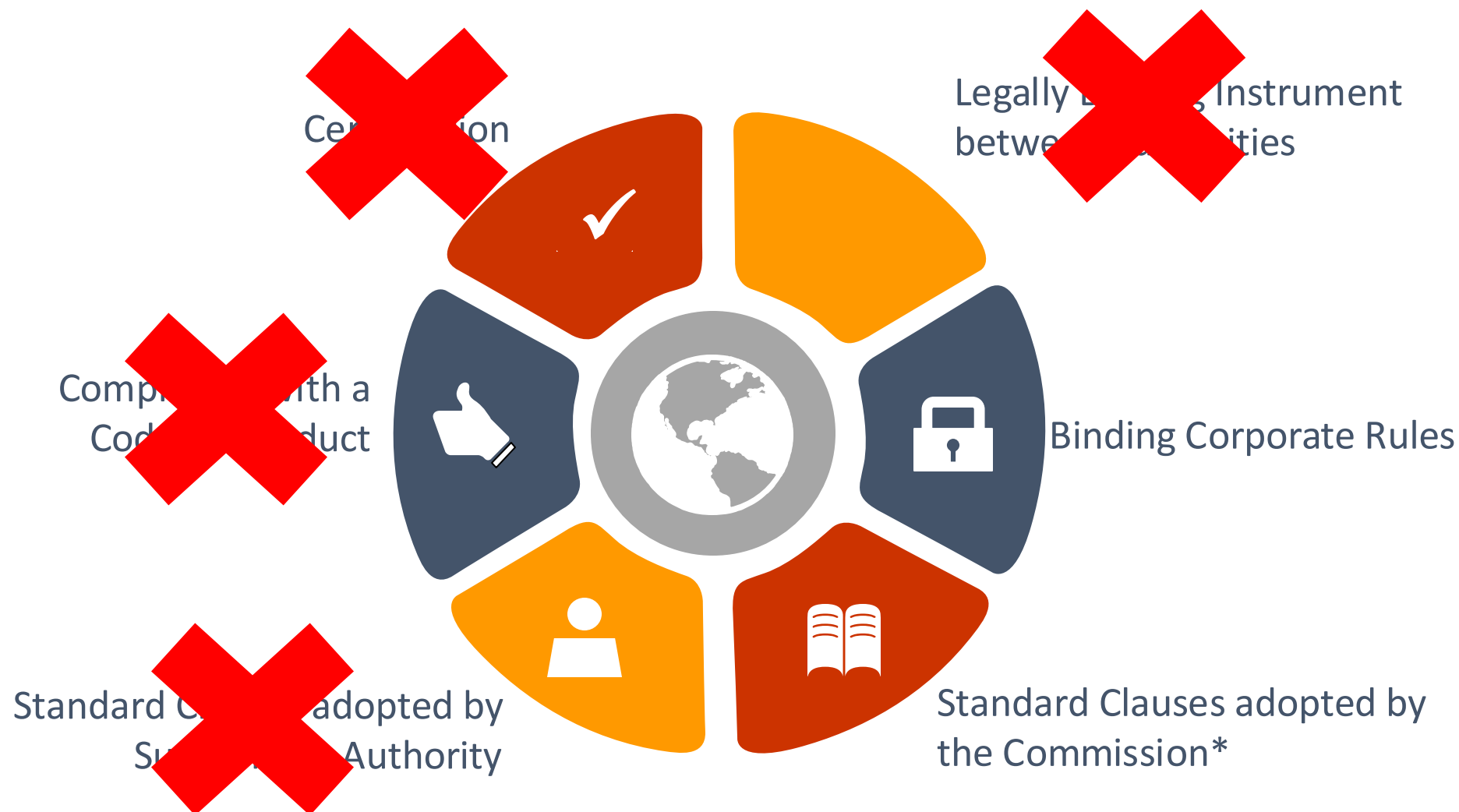
Cross-Border Transfers of Data

Current list of 'Adequate Jurisdictions':

Andorra, Argentina, Canada (commercial organisations), Faroe Islands, Guernsey, Israel, Isle of Man, Japan, Jersey, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, the United Kingdom (under the UK GDPR and the LED), the United States (commercial organisations participating in the EU-US Data Privacy Framework) and Uruguay



Transfers subject to appropriate safeguards



Standard Contractual Clauses/Model Clauses^{CP}

On 12 November 2020 - the European Commission released draft updated standard contractual clauses (SCCs) for consultation

On 4 June 2021 - the Commission issued modernised SCCs under the GDPR for data transfers from controllers or processors in the EU/EEA (or otherwise subject to the GDPR) to controllers or processors established outside the EU/EEA (and not subject to the GDPR):

These modernised SCCs replace the 3 sets of SCCs that were adopted under the previous Data Protection Directive 95/46.





Standard Contractual Clauses/Model Clauses

Old SCCs: only controller – controller or controller – processor

Current SCCs: controller – controller, controller – processor, processor to processor, and processor –controller – Module system

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32021D0914&from=EN>





Derogations

- ✓ individual's informed consent;
- ✓ necessary for the performance of a contract;
- ✓ necessary for the performance of a contract made in the interests of the individual between the controller and another person;
- ✓ necessary for important reasons of public interest;
- ✓ necessary for the establishment, exercise or defence of legal claims;
- ✓ necessary to protect the vital interests of the data subject; or
- ✓ made from a register which under national or EU law is intended to provide information to the public.



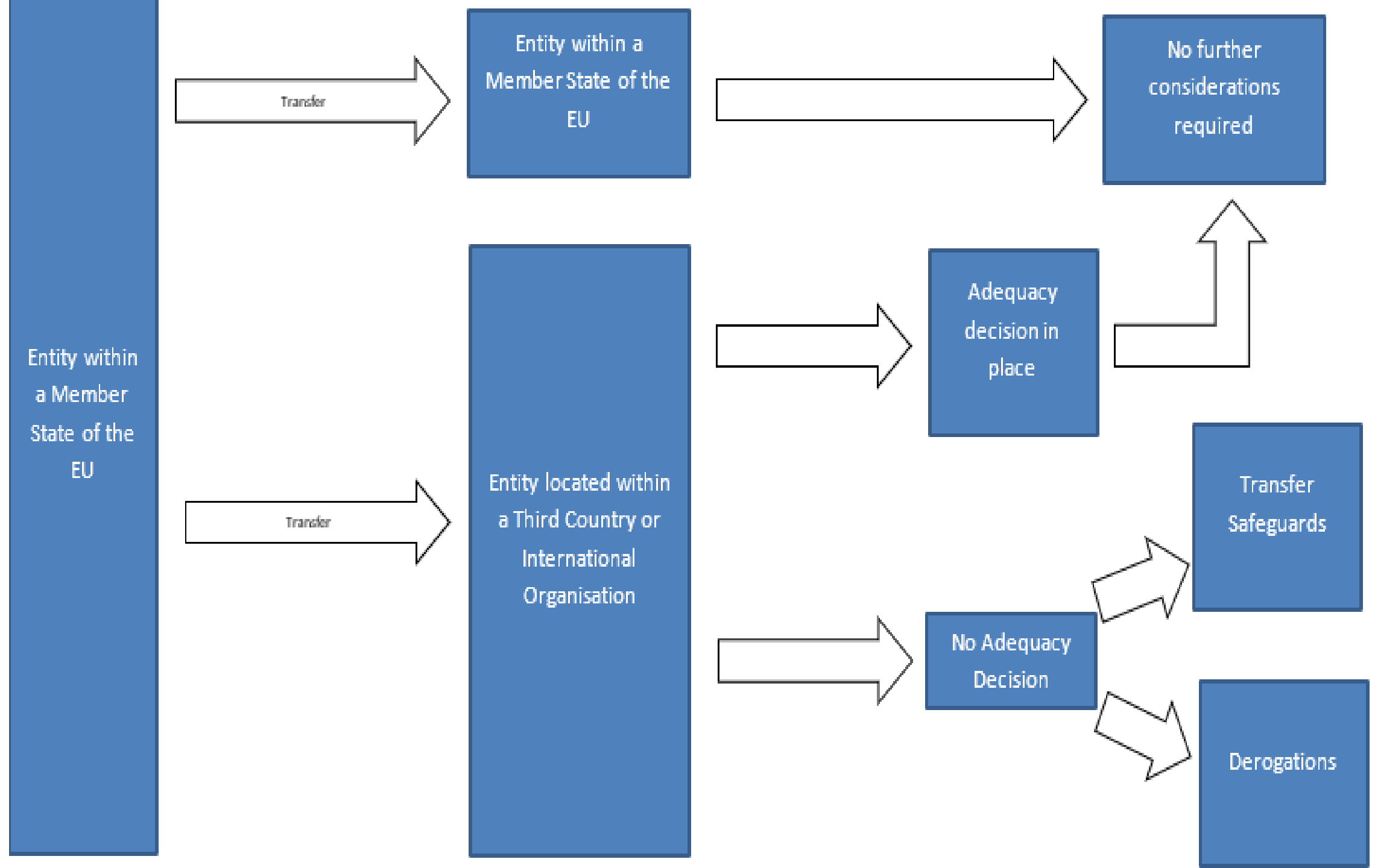


Derogations Application

Where no safeguards are in place and where none of the derogations apply, a transfer to a third country or an international organisation may take place only if:

- ✓ the transfer is not repetitive
- ✓ the transfer concerns only a limited number of data subjects
- ✓ the transfer is necessary for the purposes of compelling legitimate interests pursued by the controller which are not overridden by the interests or rights and freedoms of the data subject; and
- ✓ the controller has assessed all the circumstances surrounding the data transfer and has on the basis of that assessment provided suitable safeguards with regard to the protection of personal data.
- ✓ The controller shall inform the supervisory authority of the transfer.







Brexit

The EU adopted two adequacy decision for the UK, whereby personal data can be transferred between the EU and the UK without restrictions.

UK GDPR:

- ✓ affects EU-based entities that process personal data either (i) pertaining to UK citizens and/or (ii) with UK-based entities

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/data-protection-and-the-eu/data-protection-and-the-eu-in-detail/adequacy/>





The Schrems II Judgement

- ✓ Data Protection Commissioner v Facebook Ireland Limited and Maximillian Schrems (16 July 2020)
- ✓ CJEU ruled that the EU-US Privacy Shield was invalid and threw the use of standard contractual clauses (SCCs) into question
- ✓ In addition, the European Data Protection Board clarified that entities must carry out a review of the law in each country to which they export personal data if those transfers are pursuant to SCCs
- ✓ The new 2021 SCCs introduced the burdensome requirement of a Transfer Impact Assessment to be carried out by controllers and processors – this is an analysis of the laws of the third country to which personal data will be transferred, in order to ensure that the data will be adequately protected in said country





The Schrems II Judgement

- Following the invalidation of the Privacy Shield, the European Commission and the US Government started negotiations on a successor arrangement
- In March 2022, it was announced that the EC and the US had agreed in principle on a new Trans-Atlantic Data Privacy Framework





Transfers to the US

- On 10 July 2023, after almost three years since the last framework for transatlantic data flows was overturned by the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU), the EU Commission adopted a new adequacy decision for EU-US data transfers
- The new framework, the EU-US Data Privacy Framework (EU-US DPF), enables transfers of personal data from the EU to certified US-based companies without additional safeguards.





Risk Mitigation – Administrative and Technical Safeguards to Consider

- ✓ Data Minimisation.
- ✓ Obfuscation/Encryption in certain use cases.
- ✓ Ensure all DPAs include all requisites under Art. 28 **and** Specify Technical and Organisational measures in place.
- ✓ Ensure Notice Obligations.
- ✓ Ensure Termination Clauses.
- ✓ Ensure Security of Return/Deletion of Data.
- ✓ Liability/Indemnity Considerations





Re - Cap

- ✓ The GDPR imposes restrictions on the transfer of personal data outside the European Union, to third countries or international organisations.
- ✓ These restrictions are in place to ensure that the level of protection of individuals afforded by the GDPR is not undermined.
- ✓ The GDPR provides derogations from the general prohibition on transfers of personal data outside the EU for certain specific situations.



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THANK YOU

Technical Excellence, Practical Solutions



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 **INTERLAW**