



Cloud Privacy Check (CPC)

Requirements under Data Protection Law that a Cloud Service Customer must ensure when moving into a cloud environment.







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hen it comes to moving data into the cloud, data protection rules seem to act as a significant hurdle to cloud customers.

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However, the topic of cloud computing and data protection can be consolidated within a few steps. These are summarised in the Cloud Privacy Check, a visualised tool that helps cloud customers find answers faster.

The purpose of the Cloud Privacy Check (CPC) is to determine actions from a data protection perspective on the basis of four simple tests. By applying this method, the legality of using a particular cloud solution can be ascertained quickly and easily, and the appropriate legal action items as required by law can be determined.

The Cloud Privacy Check is designed to be performed in four test steps. Each step calls for one or more particular action items. The range of the action items that may be needed is presented in the so called CPC Legal Toolbox. From a data protection perspective, if the action items have been properly implemented, then a cloud solution is deemed to be used in a lawful manner.

In every case, a cloud service contract will be necessary. Further measures may then need to be implemented in order to make the use of a cloud solution compliant from a data protection perspective. We have identified four additional instruments and placed them into what we call the "CPC Legal Toolbox":



A Data Processing Agreement.

- A number of Crossborder Measures, i.e. measures involved when data leaves the country of the Cloud Service Customer.
- 3 A number of measures in order to make subcontractors part of the cloud computing supply chain.
- The provision of certain notices to the cloud service customer that help to increase transparency.





In the first stage of the CPC, we check whether the given fact pattern includes any personally identifiable information.



Does the transaction in question affect personal data in any way?



- ► If the answer is NO, then no data-protection-related measures are required. The only instrument in place is the service contract between the cloud service provider and the cloud service customer.
- If the answer is YES, the second test of the Cloud Privacy Check must be performed.





In the second stage of the CPC, we check whether a third party - involved within the cloud setup - processes personal data or has access to personal data.



Is data processed by or visible to the Cloud Service Provider?



The technical design of the service as provided is crucial. Therefore, a lawyer must analyse and understand the technical setup, i.e. the service design. Within the service design, a point of change can be defined.

- If the point of change is not exceeded, the setup has no specific data protection relevance. The analysis under the CPC can therefore be stopped. The sole instrument in place will be the service agreement between the cloud service customer and the cloud service provider.
- If the delineation marked by the point of change has been exceeded, further controls need to be implemented. In particular, a data processing agreement must be concluded in addition to the service agreement.

After the second stage, the third and fourth tests must be performed.





In stage three of the CPC, we check whether data leaves the home jurisdiction of the cloud service customer.



Does any of the data leave the customer's country?



- If the answer is NO, then no data protection instrument is required as a result of this test, and the analysis can proceed with the fourth test.
- If the answer is YES, then the crossborder "package" must be implemented. This package involves some paperwork (the EU model agreement with the cloud service provider, activation of the Safe Harbor regime, and respective notifications to authorities, if required). After this, the fourth step must be performed.



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In the fourth test, we consider whether the cloud provider uses subcontractors.



- If the answer is NO, then the Cloud Privacy Check is complete and no additional instrument needs to be deployed.
- If the answer is YES, the set of measures we refer to as the "subcontractor package" must be implemented.

This package requires the cloud service provider to impose the obligations it has - in regard to the cloud service customer - on the subcontractor. In addition, the cloud service customer should be informed of the fact that subcontractors are involved and where they operate. The action item in question here is "Notification of the Cloud Service Customer". The purpose of this measure is to increase transparency.

Where data crosses a border while subcontractors are involved, the measures to be deployed can become complicated. We do not address these measures in a comprehensive fashion in the CPC. It is probably easiest to adhere to the EU model clauses (also: "Standard Contractual Clauses") that cover subprocessing. In some countries, such measures require approval from the data protection authorities (e.g. Austria), while in others it is sufficient to submit a notice to the local data protection authority (e.g. Switzerland).

Furthermore, a direct data processing agreement between the cloud service customer and the subprocessor can increase compliance.

If the Cloud Privacy Check has been performed in full, you will have the following:

- in the first two steps, you will have analysed whether the setup in question is relevant from a data protection perspective
- in the third and fourth steps, the compliance measures to be undertaken will have become visible.



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