

Data Retention Policy

Use this template to policy for retention, deletion, and archival of data.

Template Metadata

Field	Details
Category	Cybersecurity & Privacy
Owner	[Team or owner]
Version	[Version number]
Effective Date	[Date]
Review Cycle	[Monthly / Quarterly / Annual / Event-based]
Status	[Draft / In Review / Approved]

Policy Statement

State the purpose and governing principles for retention and deletion.

Item	Details	Owner	Status
[Item or requirement]	[Describe the relevant detail, evidence, or decision]	[Owner]	[Open / Complete]
[Item or requirement]	[Describe the relevant detail, evidence, or decision]	[Owner]	[Open / Complete]

Notes

[Add context, assumptions, exceptions, evidence links, screenshots, calculations, or reviewer comments.]

Scope

Define covered systems, data categories, environments, and exclusions.

Item	Details	Owner	Status
[Item or requirement]	[Describe the relevant detail, evidence, or decision]	[Owner]	[Open / Complete]
[Item or requirement]	[Describe the relevant detail, evidence, or decision]	[Owner]	[Open / Complete]

Notes

[Add context, assumptions, exceptions, evidence links, screenshots, calculations, or reviewer comments.]

Retention Schedule

Provide retention periods by data category and legal basis.

Item	Details	Owner	Status
[Item or requirement]	[Describe the relevant detail, evidence, or decision]	[Owner]	[Open / Complete]
[Item or requirement]	[Describe the relevant detail, evidence, or decision]	[Owner]	[Open / Complete]

Notes

[Add context, assumptions, exceptions, evidence links, screenshots, calculations, or reviewer comments.]

Deletion Process

Describe deletion, anonymization, backup expiry, and owner responsibilities.

Item	Details	Owner	Status
[Item or requirement]	[Describe the relevant detail, evidence, or decision]	[Owner]	[Open / Complete]
[Item or requirement]	[Describe the relevant detail, evidence, or decision]	[Owner]	[Open / Complete]

Notes

[Add context, assumptions, exceptions, evidence links, screenshots, calculations, or reviewer comments.]

Legal Holds

Explain how holds suspend deletion and who can approve them.

Item	Details	Owner	Status
[Item or requirement]	[Describe the relevant detail, evidence, or decision]	[Owner]	[Open / Complete]
[Item or requirement]	[Describe the relevant detail, evidence, or decision]	[Owner]	[Open / Complete]

Notes

[Add context, assumptions, exceptions, evidence links, screenshots, calculations, or reviewer comments.]

Audit Evidence

List logs, tickets, approvals, and reports used to prove compliance. Use precise retention periods and clear operational ownership.

Item	Details	Owner	Status
[Item or requirement]	[Describe the relevant detail, evidence, or decision]	[Owner]	[Open / Complete]

Item	Details	Owner	Status
[Item or requirement]	[Describe the relevant detail, evidence, or decision]	[Owner]	[Open / Complete]

Notes

[Add context, assumptions, exceptions, evidence links, screenshots, calculations, or reviewer comments.]

Review and Signoff

Document review conclusions, approvals, unresolved items, and next review date.

Role	Name	Date	Notes
Preparer	[Name]	[Date]	[Notes]
Reviewer	[Name]	[Date]	[Notes]
Approver	[Name]	[Date]	[Notes]