Privacy regulations on video data collection worldwide

Understanding the rules and best practices of major regulations in times of processing data for AI and analytics

In cooperation with

KI BUNDESVERBAND

With insights from executives and data privacy experts worldwide, including:
Usage of this report

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There is no doubt that the ongoing revolution in analytics and artificial intelligence requires enormous amounts of data. In industries from healthcare and retail to automotive and public transport, image and video analytics is one of the key techniques to fuel new digital solutions. Smart stores will be filled with numerous cameras and autonomous vehicles will generate and process Zettabytes of visual data.

Meanwhile, events such as the use of facial recognition during Black Lives Matter protests in 2020, have raised increasing concerns associated with recording and processing publicly-recorded images. Following a strong backlash from society, companies like IBM, Microsoft and Amazon stopped selling the software to government authorities. While the importance of data privacy for social responsibility increases, regulators worldwide are updating laws to establish clearly defined rules for the digital revolution. For companies, it is important to keep up with the dynamic environment to minimize regulatory risks and to develop future-proof solutions that are trusted by consumers.

In this report, we collect relevant information on privacy laws and best practices to consider when engaging in analytics and artificial intelligence. Building upon experience from data projects all over the world, we summarize key aspects about data protection laws of six regions: the European Union, the United States, China, Japan, South Korea and Brazil. Furthermore, we highlight insights from industry leaders and privacy experts. There exists some skepticism about the impact of regulation on progress in AI and analytics. However, companies increasingly find value in complying and developing responsible, data-driven innovations – as this is not only appreciated by regulators, but also by consumers.
### Overview

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<tr>
<td><strong>Applicability (entities)</strong></td>
<td>All private and public entities</td>
<td>Companies with • USD 25M+ revenues • Data of 50,000+ consumers • 50%+ of revenue by selling data</td>
<td>All types of organizations and individuals</td>
<td>All business operators handling personal information</td>
<td>Any entity that manages personal information directly or indirectly</td>
<td>All entities and public authorities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Territorial scope</strong></td>
<td>Entities established in EU or offering goods &amp; services to or monitoring the behavior of persons in the EU</td>
<td>Entities doing business in the state of California</td>
<td>Not specified, CSL even applies to overseas entities whose activities could risk CII (Art. 75)</td>
<td>Entities established or located in Japan, and providing goods or services to individuals located in Japan</td>
<td>Entities established or located in South Korea, and those processing personal data there</td>
<td>Any entity that processes personal data in Brazil / collected in Brazil, or that supplies goods &amp; services in Brazil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rights of individuals</strong></td>
<td>• Information • Objection / consent denial • Data erasure • Data access • Rectification • Data portability • Restriction of processing</td>
<td>• Information • Objection (opt-out) and data erasure • Data access • Data portability • No discrimination for exercising rights</td>
<td>• Be informed of rights prior to collection / use of personal data • Request removal or correction of personal data</td>
<td>• Be informed of rights prior to collection / use of personal data • Request deletion or correction • Filing utilization cease request or complaint to PPO</td>
<td>• Be informed of rights and usage of personal data • Request access, correction and deletion of personal data</td>
<td>Any entity that processes personal data in Brazil / collected in Brazil, or that supplies goods &amp; services in Brazil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Data protection officer</strong></td>
<td>DPO required, if: • public authority • large-scale monitoring of individuals • processing special data categories</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
<td>PIS requires a person in charge of personal information protection</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
<td>Every data handler must install designated DPO</td>
<td>Any organization that processes data will need to have a DPO</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Risk/Impact assessment</strong></td>
<td>Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) required when project might involve “high risk” to individuals’ personal data</td>
<td>Security assessment must be conducted if data needs to be transferred outside China</td>
<td>Privacy risk assessments are recommended</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
<td>DPIA required for public agencies in case of data breach (this does not apply to private sector companies)</td>
<td>No specification about when a DPIA is required, but the ANPD can request the controller to perform and provide it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fines</strong></td>
<td>Up to EUR 20M or 4% of annual global turnover</td>
<td>Up to USD 7,500 per (intentional) violation, plus compensation up to USD 750 per consumer</td>
<td>Up to ONY 1M (EUR 130,000), plus 1-10 times the amount of unlawful gains, plus civil fines for responsible personnel</td>
<td>Up to JPY 500,000 (EUR 4,000) and up to one year’s imprisonment</td>
<td>Fines up to KRW 50M (EUR 35,000), plus up to 5 years prison for responsible personnel</td>
<td>Up to BRL 50M (EUR 11.5M), or up to 2% of revenues</td>
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The first years of GDPR were marked by burdensome constraints and terrible user experiences. However, the legislation marks the first time a political system has enforced its fundamental values well beyond its own tech ecosystem, driving user trust and adoption – adherence is already becoming a global competitive advantage.  

Clark Parsons  
Managing Director, Internet Economy Foundation  
Partner, iconomy  

Widely viewed as the global gold standard of privacy laws, GDPR is arguably the most comprehensive and strictest law of its kind. With hefty potential fines of up to €20M or 4% of annual global revenues, its impact on organizations can be severe and since its inception, privacy protection has become a priority on corporate agendas.

While some European companies feel a competitive disadvantage, the regulation applies to all companies operating in any of its member states and worldwide adoption of its principles is evident. Even the controversial ruling of the European Court of Justice making “Privacy Shield”, the agreement on data exchange between EU and US, illegal, might eventually speed up international convergence.

25.05.2018  
Applicable since  
25.05.2018  

Supervising authority  
Independent Data Protection Authority announced in each member state to provide guidance and handle complaints. The European Data Protection Board ensures consistent application of the GDPR and promotes cooperation among the data protection authorities.
Key principles:

**Data Minimization** Most fundamentally, “personal data shall be adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed” (Art. 5, GDPR). Bases for lawful processing can be consent, a contract with the data subject, legal obligations, protection of vital interests of the data subject, public interests and legitimate interest of the data controller (Art. 6, GDPR).

**Consent Requirement** Consent of the data subject is the most common basis for lawful processing. This consent needs to be “freely given, specific, informed and unambiguous” (Art. 7 & Recital 32, GDPR).

**Impact Assessment** When processing might result in risks to rights of natural persons, i.e. “using new technologies” such as video analytics or machine learning, data controllers should perform a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) in order to identify and mitigate potential risks for data subjects (Art. 35, GDPR). When conducting the DPIA, controllers must seek advice of a Data Protection Officer (DPO), who is required for large data-driven companies.

**Privacy By Default & By Design** Not new as a data privacy concept, with GDPR these are now legal requirements. “By default” means that strictest privacy settings should be the standard and “by design” describes that state-of-the-art technical and organizational measures (TOMs) need to be in place to safeguard data protection. Here, the regulator explicitly recommends to implement privacy-enhancing technologies such as pseudonymization (Art. 25, GDPR).

**Processing For Scientific Research Purposes** Where personal data are processed for scientific research purposes, i.e. for technological development and demonstration, GDPR should apply to that processing (Recital 159). As Art. 89 further states, processing for these purposes is subject to appropriate safeguards for the rights and freedoms of the data subject.

**Enforcement**

Until end of January 2020, European data protection authorities have imposed fines of €114 million for GDPR violations.8

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“...to start whacking companies with higher fines.”

Ross McKean
Partner, DLA Piper

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**Facts & Figures**

A member survey by the KI Bundesverband (German AI Association) shows that 75% of polled companies do not experience any disadvantages by GDPR and 16% explicitly benefit from it.
California, U.S.
California Consumer Privacy Act

Only introduced this year, CCPA is now the most comprehensive privacy law in the United States and the first to give consumers actual control over how their personal information is used, especially online. Similar to GDPR, its impact is expected to be global, given California's status as the fifth largest economy worldwide (if it was a nation).

While the general purpose of CCPA is clear, some unclear definitions and contradictions with industry-specific regulations are bringing forth numerous debates. Also, there is increasing demand for a country-wide law as other states start introducing privacy bills.

A surprise to many, California is America's frontrunner in data privacy. Recently, the city of San Francisco was the first to ban use of facial recognition technology.

“It's important not to assume that CCPA is ‘GDPR Lite’ because there are some distinctions that could result in non-compliance. Understanding the difference between the two will allow you to put the controls in place to ensure compliance to both.”

Cindy Abramson
Vice President Customer Trust, Samasource
Key principles:

**Notice Requirement** Before, or at the point of the data collection, businesses are required to communicate the categories of personal information to be collected, the purpose of collection and the consumer's rights. Information should be openly accessible, e.g. on a company's website, and needs to be updated at least annually (1798.100).

**Opt-Out** CCPA does not require explicit consent or registration before collecting, selling or sharing personal information. However, consumers have the option to opt out of recordings – something that is particularly difficult to realize in publicly-recorded videos.

**Purpose Limitation** Businesses may collect, use or share personal information for business or commercial purpose. While business purpose refers to operational activities including auditing, security, maintenance or R&D, commercial purpose is defined to "advance a person's commercial or economic interest" (1798.140). Due to broad definitions and possibility of dual purposes, a clear distinction is not always possible.13

**Data Minimization** Personal data should be “reasonably necessary and proportionate to achieve the operational purpose” for which it was collected (1798.140).

**Data Transfer** Cross-border transfer is not restricted by CCPA. Date transfer to third parties and service providers require a written agreement containing certain provisions.14

**Anonymization & Pseudonymization** The CCPA does not apply to de-identified or aggregated information. It is not specified whether the same rules apply to data that has been pseudonymized.15

"Consumer protections around data privacy [...] are very likely to be codified in other states and eventually at the federal level. [...] privacy laws are only going to increase in volume and rigor."15

Steve Stein, Principal, KPMG Cyber Security Services
Despite its focus on lightspeed innovation, data protection is also growing in importance in China, highlighted by first lawsuits for unlawful processing of personal data. In general, China's regulatory landscape around data privacy protection is complex. Companies engaging in video data collection need to work with local partners and should furthermore get dedicated legal advice to avoid potential pitfalls.

The Cybersecurity Law (CSL) is China’s legal framework for cybersecurity and data protection that covers personal information protection. It is a high-level law and does not provide practical guidelines. These can be found in the Personal Information Security Specification (PIS), a set of China’s de facto data privacy regulations. It provides detailed requirements on the collection and processing of personal information. These two constitute China’s legal regime for cybersecurity and data protection.

“[In a digitalized society, data security is the guarantee for other forms of security. Without data security, all the products and services based on information technology will lose safety support.”](#)  

Mo Jihong  
Law Professor, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
Key principles:

**Consent Requirement** If a product or service collects personal information, the provider shall clearly indicate this, obtain consent from the user (CSL, Art. 22). This means, the data subject needs to receive relevant information including purpose, method, scope and rules of processing (CSL, Art. 41).

**Purpose Limitation** Processing personal data is legal if justified, necessary, and for a specific purposes (PIS, Art. 4). The controller further needs to bear responsibility for damage to the lawful rights and interests of the PI subject caused by processing of personal information.17

**Minimization Principle** Only the minimum types and quantity of personal information necessary for the purposes for which the consent is obtained from the data subject should be processed – unless explicitly agreed by the data subject (PIS, Art. 4). After the purpose is achieved, the data should be deleted promptly (PIS, Art. 4).

**Cross-border Transfer** Personal information generated and collected in China must be stored within (mainland) China. Cross-border transfer underlies specific rules: the data controller should conduct a security assessment and comply with requirements in measures and relevant standards issued by the relevant offices (PIS, Art. 8).

**Personal Biometric Information** This includes facial recognition features, which is the most common feature in publicly recorded video data, and the data subject must be informed about collection and provide specific consent. Personal biometric data must be stored separately from personal identification data.19

**Anonymization & Pseudonymization** Anonymized data is not considered personal data, and consequently is not subject to privacy regulations (PIS Art. 3). Also, pseudonymization will reduce any risk of non-compliance.20

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**Enforcement**

In 2019, the China Cybersecurity Center has penalized 683 apps across industries from e-commerce to banking.21

“The promulgation and implementation of the Cyber Security Law not only legally protects the interests the masses in cyberspace, and effectively safeguards national sovereignty and security in cyberspace, but it is also conducive to the application of information technology and the great potential of the Internet”.22

Zhuang Rongwen
Head of Cyber Security Coordination Bureau

**Facts & Figures**

In July 2019, Hangzhou safari park introduced facial recognition for annual pass holders and invalidated those whose holders did not register their biometric information by October that year. The park was sued for this action.23
Japan
Act on the Protection of Personal Information

Originally established in 2003, APPI was the first comprehensive data protection regulation in Asia. The new amendment in 2017 brought the establishment of the Personal Information Protection Commission (PPC), an independent agency that protects the rights and interests of individuals while taking into consideration proper and effective use of personal information.

In 2019, the EU Commission adopted its adequacy decision in respect of Japan, making it the first formal recognition of bilateral and reciprocal adequacy with a non-EU country.

“When Japan created its rules to protect personal information, it took bits and pieces from other countries’ laws (...). A balanced approach is healthy — we need to protect privacy but also leave room for innovation.”

Jonathan Soble
Communication Lead, World Economic Forum
Key principles:

**Publication Of Purpose** A business operator handling personally identifiable (PII) information shall publish the purpose of the personal data's utilization before or after acquiring it (Art. 18). The data subject can thus either give consent prior or opt-out subsequently. APPI defines biometric data, which usually is collected in visual data, explicitly as being part of PII.

**Data Minimization** Personal information shall not be handled beyond the scope necessary for the achievement of the purpose of utilization (Art. 16). The personal information must not be acquired by deception or other wrongful means (Art. 17).

**Cross-border Transfer** Prior consent of data subject is required unless the foreign country is a country with adequate standards for privacy protection (Art. 24), e.g. the EU.

**Anonymization & Pseudonymization** Processing of pseudonymized information relieves from the obligation to comply with certain requirements under the APPI, such as demands for disclosure or erasure. Anonymized information can be used beyond the original purpose and can be disclosed to third parties without consent.

**Reporting To The PPC** Under new 2020 amendments, reporting to the PPC will become mandatory. However, the obligation will be limited to certain breaches only, which involve a substantial risk to individuals' rights and interests.

"Businesses are required to more strictly manage personal information, as their increasingly globalized operations result in more frequent transmission of such data between (Japan and) overseas."

Harumichi Yuasa
Professor, Institute of Information Security Yokohama

Enforcement

PPC concluded that companies, including Mitsubishi Corp., Mitsubishi Electric Corp. and Toyota Motor Corp., managed personal information inappropriately. No penalties have been imposed so far.

Facts & Figures

Phone manufacturers and carriers have voluntarily cooperated to implement a camera shutter sound to prevent "privacy issues", even though it is not required by law.
Issues on data privacy have gained notable traction in recent years in South Korea and, perhaps reflecting this phenomenon, relevant laws and regulations have been amended frequently.²⁹

Haksoo Ko
Professor, Seoul National University School of Law
Key principles:

**Personal Information Protection Principles** Personal information needs to be collected for specific and lawful purposes and not used for further incompatible purposes. Further, PI needs to be accurate and held securely and collectors are required to publicize their privacy policy and to make personal information anonymous wherever possible (Art. 3).

**Consent And Choice** The data subject has the right to consent to or reject processing of personal information, to be informed of it as well as to elect the scope of consent, to confirm processing, to access, correct and delete the personal information (Art. 4). However, no consent is needed within a scope that is “reasonably related” to the original purpose of collection (Art. 15).

**Pseudonymization & Anonymization:** Anonymized information is considered as non-personal information and thus not subject to the PIPA (Art. 58). Pseudonymized data can be processed without the consent of the data subject for various purposes, including “commercial purposes such as the development of data-based, innovative technology, products, and services”.

**Specifications On Visual Data** “Visual data processing devices” are defined as devices that are installed permanently to take pictures of persons and/or things and/or to transmit them (Art. 2). In public places, they can be installed only for the purpose of prevention of crime and fire, or if related to traffic (control) information (Art. 25). Here, visible notice about a) the purpose of installation and location, b) the range of its operation and duration, c) info (name and contact) of company or person in charge is required. PIPA explicitly states that visual data processing devices shall not be handled for other purposes than the initial one (Art. 25)

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**Enforcement**

Kim Jin-Hwan, DPO of Hana Tour Service Inc, was found guilty of violating PIPA and imposed a penalty of KRW 10 M (EUR 7,000) against him and additional fines of KRW 327.25 M (EUR 232,750) against the company.

**Facts & Figures**

A survey by Ipsos showed that only 9% of South Koreans agree that the use of AI and facial recognition by the government’s “should not be allowed under any circumstances in order to fully guarantee everyone’s privacy at all times”, compared to 19% in Japan, 18% in China and 16% on a global average.
Brazil

General Data Protection Act

The General Data Protection Act (in Portugese “Lei Geral de Proteção de Dados”, LGPD) shall bring clarification to the Brazilian legal framework related to personal data by replacing some and supplementing others of the 40+ existing federal regulations. It shall regulate the treatment of personal data of all individuals in Brazil and forms the country’s first comprehensive data protection regulation.

LGPD was planned to take effect in February 2020 but the entry into force was pushed back to August 2020. When COVID-19 hit the country, Senate tried to delay its implementation until May 2021 and sanctions until August 2021. To date, there is no decision.33

“We see LGPD as an opportunity for the sustainable development of the country whilst ensuring that fundamental rights and data-driven innovation may coexist in an environment of transparency and trust.”34

Fabricio Lira
Head of Data and Artificial Intelligence, IBM Brasil
Key principles:

Requirements For Processing Personal Data
LGPD states ten legal bases, including consent, but also “for the protection of credit, including as provided in the pertinent legislation” (Ch. 1, Art. 7). LGPD is thus the first and to date only privacy law to contain a specification to empower financial institutions to use data for credit evaluations. Moreover, biometric data, i.e. depiction of faces in camera recordings, is declared sensitive personal data and here, consent of the data subject shall be the legal basis for its collection and processing (Art. 11).

General Principles For Data Processing
Need for data minimization, accuracy, storage limitation, security, lawfulness, fairness, accountability, purpose limitation and transparency on the use of personal data. Further, the LGPD explicitly forbids processing personal data for discriminatory purposes.

Privacy By Design & By Default
The law defines the adoption of practices guaranteeing privacy and data protection rights as mandatory in the design of services, products and business models. Also, privacy controls, especially online, should be the most protective by default and the data subjects should be able to “opt-in”.

Pseudonymization & Anonymization
LGPD states that personal data should be pseudonymized or even anonymized whenever possible (Ch. 2, Art. 7). Anonymized data is not considered personal data and thus specifically excluded from LGPD’s application, except when the process of anonymization has been or can be reversed (Ch. 2, Art. 12)
Looking into privacy regulations of different markets and how industry leaders approach them, it becomes apparent: In our globalized world, data collection and AI projects are increasingly borderless, while privacy laws are inherently not.

However, states are trying to harmonize privacy regulations, not only to facilitate data transfer for multinational companies, but also to give equal rights to all people. At the same, it is inevitable that constitutional, societal and economic differences lead to variations across the globe. Furthermore, the EU’s recent ruling on “Privacy Shield” has shown that formerly adequate measures to align protection efforts between countries can be quickly overturned. Thus, a global perspective on compliance will stay relevant.

Most privacy regulations are defining personally identifiable information rather broadly and miss specific guidelines on video data. But looking at recent developments, this year’s mega topics have been significantly accompanied by discussions around “visual” data privacy. COVID-19 has accelerated growth in leveraging CCTV footage for video analytics and protests in Hong Kong and the US sparked intense discussions about the use of facial recognition technologies and its dangers.

Already in 2017, The Atlantic asked “Who owns your face?” As such, it is evident that the protection of visual PII is not a new topic – but evolving as fast as the opposing technology itself. Currently, South Korea’s PIPA is the only regulation in our report that is specific here, but only on visual data gathering devices that are installed permanently in one place. As our research shows, regulations are constantly being adjusted to new developments and thus, it seems likely that this changes in the future - given the rise of the public opinion that our face is one of the most sensitive personal identifiers that needs additional protection. The ban on facial recognition in San Francisco seems to be a starting point.

“Way forward

"There is still considerable work to do before we can begin to imagine a future where privacy laws are ‘harmonized’. (...) Many countries in the Asia Pacific region have taken inspiration from the (...) GDPR, by either adopting, or planning to adopt, similar or more stringent regulations.”

Deloitte

"Your face is yours. It is a defining feature of your identity. But it’s also just another datapoint waiting to be collected. At a time when cameras are ubiquitous (...), faces are increasingly up for grabs.”

Adrienne LaFrance
Executive Editor, The Atlantic
In summary, when it comes to the collection and processing of video data in public, companies are moving in a sensitive, volatile and fragmented regulatory environment. Laws and agreements are constantly updated and not yet aligned across the globe. While societal concerns increase, there is still significant acceptance when it comes to security and safety, as seen during the COVID-19 crisis. Additionally, the “Nothing to hide argument” (that even has its own Wikipedia article) continues to be common.

Accompanied by the regulatory and societal discourse, the tech industry’s attitude of “speed over caution” is changing and more companies embrace concepts such as “privacy by design” in order to benefit from rightfully collected data and consumers’ trust.

As a way forward, organizations that engage in analytics and artificial intelligence projects should consider: It is not all or nothing. Privacy regulations and innovation should be seen as an unsolvable dilemma, but as a chance. Data protection laws are not a “showstopper” for projects in computer vision and machine learning. (Also not desired by the law makers!) Based on the increasing public interest and potential sanctions, it is not advisable to turn a blind eye to it or look for loopholes. Instead, insights from leading companies show that it is possible to embrace privacy frameworks for the legitimate use of data to develop sustainable innovation in line with laws and social responsibility. This requires staying up to date, hiring specialized employees and constantly improving safety measures. When done properly, this fosters trust and minimizes reputational or monetary risks – without a negative impact on leveraging data-driven technologies.

“We work with computer vision and we take privacy very seriously. Our clients appreciate this added value to our product because it offers the perfect combination of security and innovation. In the end, it becomes a competitive advantage to treat privacy as an integral part of product design.”

Christoph Schwerdtfeger
Head of AI and Co-Founder, Signatrix

“Organizations need to promote a data protection and privacy mindset among employees and integrate advanced technologies to boost data discovery, data management, data quality, cybersecurity, and information security efficiencies. Firms that take these actions proactively – and view data protection and privacy regulation as an opportunity – will secure a significant competitive advantage.”

Capgemini

“The members of the German AI Association are committed to ensure that artificial intelligence is used in the sense of European and democratic values. Of course, this also includes the protection of individuals when processing their personal data. We believe that AI-based innovations and data protection are not mutually exclusive.”

Daniel Abbou
CEO, KI Bundesverband
## Abbreviations

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>AI</td>
<td>Artificial Intelligence</td>
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<td>ANPD</td>
<td>National Data Protection Authority</td>
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<td>APPI</td>
<td>Act on the Protection of Personal Information</td>
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<tr>
<td>BRL</td>
<td>Brazilian Real (currency)</td>
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<td>CAC</td>
<td>Cyberspace Administration of China</td>
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<td>CCA</td>
<td>China Consumers Association</td>
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<td>CCPA</td>
<td>California Consumer Privacy Act</td>
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<td>CII</td>
<td>Critical Information Infrastructure</td>
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<td>CSL</td>
<td>Cybersecurity Law</td>
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<td>CNY</td>
<td>Chinese Yuan, Renminbi (currency)</td>
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<td>Data Protection Impact Assessment</td>
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<td>General Data Protection Regulation</td>
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<td>IAPP</td>
<td>International Association of Privacy Professionals</td>
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<td>JPY</td>
<td>Japanese Yen (currency)</td>
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<td>KRW</td>
<td>South Korean won (currency)</td>
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<td>LGPD</td>
<td>General Data Protection Act (in Portuguese “Lei Geral de Proteção de Dados”)</td>
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<td>Minister of Industry and Information Technology</td>
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<td>Ministry of the Interior and Safety</td>
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<td>Ministry of Public Security</td>
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<td>PI</td>
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<td>Personally Identifiable Information</td>
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<td>Personal Information Protection Commission</td>
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<td>Research and Development</td>
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<td>Technical and Organizational Measures</td>
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<td>USD</td>
<td>United States Dollar (currency)</td>
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