Itillious

Practical Data Classification

What Is Data Classification?

We classify the people and things around us everyday – homes, cars, family, friends, etc. Many of our actions are based on the value we place on those people/things. Data, or information, is no different – we inherently know our trade secrets are more valuable than the employee newsletter or the company "home" page.

Data Classification Reduces Risk

We provide greater levels of protection for those things we value most – our children versus our pets, for example – why? The answer is *to reduce the risk of damage or loss*. Likewise, we should provide more protection for our trade secrets than our employee newsletters. By classifying our information into the proper "buckets", we can provide the proper levels of protection to reduce risks.

Data Classification Reduces Cost

Most of us will buy smoke detectors and maybe even security systems for our homes, but do we usually buy indoor sprinkler systems? Probably not – why? The answer is that the expense far outweighs the risk – it is cheaper to buy insurance to replace our home. The same concept applies to our information. By classifying our information into the proper "buckets", we can make cost effective decisions to reduce risks to the information we must protect.

▶ **Data classification provides the foundation for all other information protection decisions.**

i•til•li•ous (ī-tĭl´-ē-ŭs) *adj.* 1. Honest and practical. *n.* 2. The highest level of integrity. ▶

Data Classification Improves Security Awareness

It is commonly acknowledged that **people** can *make or break* an information protection program. How do they know which information assets are the most valuable and how do they know how to properly handle those assets? By classifying our information into the proper "buckets", we can train our people on the proper information handling and disposal techniques, increasing consistency and reducing risk.

Data Classification and Healthcare

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) privacy and security regulations require that organizations provide appropriate, reasonable protection based on information value and risk. A data classification program is fundamental to complying with HIPAA – ad-hoc approaches to determining value, risk, and protection mechanisms cannot be defended, nor should they be. Training is critical to successful HIPAA compliance and a data classification program provides the foundation for employee training – what should be protected and how!

The Itillious Approach

Itillious has developed a practical approach to the development of a Data Classification program. Our approach combines a logical discovery process with a reasonable risk management approach to deliver an easy-to-use and maintain program. The Itillious security portal (Iris) is tailored to your intranet environment for easy access to data classification policies, examples, handling guidelines, and training courses. Contact us today to learn how Itillious can help you develop a practical data classification program or visit us on the web at www.itillious.com/iris for more information and an online demo.

"We didn't think Data Classification could be done in our organization. Seeing the Itillious approach and deliverable showed us that it was both achievable and affordable!"

Security Manager for a large healthcare organization.

**Itillious is a professional consulting firm specializing in information security.
Contact Itillious for all your practical information security needs.**

Itillious

Practical Information Security

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