

GÉANT Data Classification Tool

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GÉANT Data Classification Tool

The GÉANT Data Classification Tool has been created to help institutions that use cloud-based computation solutions assess data sensitivity, and criticality, to estimate the risks of placing data on the cloud. This is a critical component of General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) compliance, and is an important indicator of whether data can, or should be, migrated to a cloud-based platform.

While the GÉANT framework agreements and cloud catalogue facilitate an easy and intuitive migration path, every institution must evaluate and assess its own data and make appropriate decisions.

In accordance with the GÉANT guidelines for information classification in higher education, there are three levels of risk for data:

Low Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data for public use • Loss of confidentiality, integrity, or availability of the data or system has no significant impact
Medium Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personally Identifiable data • Data is not generally available to the public • Loss of the data or system could have a mildly adverse impact
High Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitive (Personally Identifiable) data • Loss of the data or system could have a significant adverse impact on our mission, safety, finances or reputation.

The GÉANT Data Classification Tool is an easy way to assess the data a user is considering moving or placing on cloud-based solutions. Data classification uses several metrics related to security, where each metric is divided into three or four classes indicating security levels:

Confidentiality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open • Restricted • Confidential
Integrity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low • Medium • High
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low • Medium • High
Storage Period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary • Fixed • Variable • Permanent
Storage Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any • EU • National
Disposal Rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low • Medium • High

How to use the GÉANT Data Classification Tool

Answer the questions on the QUESTIONS worksheet by inserting Y for YES and N for NO in the green cells. There is no need to answer every question if it is not applicable. Depending on your answers, the tool will automatically calculate the resulting level of each security metric. The results will also be summarised in the SUMMARY worksheet.

The EXAMPLE worksheets may help you get started classifying your data types, and the EXAMPLE SUMMARY worksheet illustrates the output you will receive.

Please keep in mind that the results obtained from the tool should be treated as a suggested assessment or indication for final data classification. The final classification must be made by users themselves (data managers) and may vary by organisation. In order to do that, it is suggested that users export the summary results into their own system or document to revise and adjust before it is officially accepted and checked for compliance against an organisation's internal rules.

Warranty and Limitation of Liability

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