



# Data Privacy | Cybersecurity

## Discussion Guide

### Let's review

*At the start of each discussion, review the conversation ground rules for returning and new members alike to set the stage for active participation by all. You may want to use a timer as you go around the room.*

*And don't forget to decide who will take notes and post a discussion recap.*

- **Be open and curious:** Everyone has a unique perspective, so be prepared to hear a different point of view. Listen first, and focus on the facts.
- **Be respectful and engaged:** Be sure that everyone has a chance to speak before adding a second comment or perspective. Encourage each other's participation.
- **Be focused and concise:** Keep the conversation centered on the issue and the brief.

**The "Table-it" Rule:** If the group has gone off-topic but the area is of interest, the group can table the conversation and save it for another time to be addressed in a different manner.

### Let's begin

- Take five minutes to walk through the brief. Highlight the main point of each section and key statistics.
- Each member is invited to answer the following questions in a **two-three minute reaction** to the brief:
  - Introduce yourself, and share what "lens of care" did you wear when reviewing this brief (e.g. personal, professional, community, state, nation, global)?
  - What did you find most interesting or surprising from reading the brief? What matters?

### Spread the Word: Some Facts to Share with the Group During Your Discussion

- 72% of Americans believe most of their online actions on their phones and computers are tracked by advertisers and tech firms, and 80% do not believe they have control over [data collected about them](#).
- The federal government spent over [\\$18 billion](#) on cybersecurity in FY2021.
- The market for global data protection and cybersecurity as a service accounted for [almost \\$10 billion in 2018](#), and is anticipated to reach [\\$103.8 billion by 2027](#). The market for big data, data analytics, and cloud services in general is expected to reach [\\$11 billion by 2022](#) and continue growing to [\\$51.9 billion by 2025](#).

## Let's discuss

Pick 2 or 3 questions that resonate with the group and discuss, or choose your own.

- **Community:** How safe is your data? Do you think privacy standards are adequate?
- **Local, State or Federal Government:** Should there be a single, all-encompassing privacy and security law protecting data in the U.S., or should legislation be left to the states?
- **Business:** What is the role of “Big Tech” in data privacy and cybersecurity? How might the role differ for smaller businesses?

## Let's act

1. **Take it local. Talk to your neighbors** to identify the status of the data privacy and cybersecurity in your community. Identify the opportunities to work with other community members in your area. Check your own safety at [Haveibeenpwned.com](https://www.haveibeenpwned.com), or search for [your state] + “data privacy” or “cybersecurity.”
2. **Explore the impact of data privacy laws in your community.** Search on your state’s or municipality’s website data privacy laws, or on the [NCSL’s database](#).
3. **Investigate community programs.** Search for [your state] or [your county] + “cybersecurity” to see if there is a related task force or entity to connect with. See what information technology businesses operate in your community.
4. **Research your elected representatives’ positions** on data privacy and cybersecurity laws, and their vision for how to tackle cybersecurity-related challenges facing Americans and your community. You can find contact information for federal, state, and local government officials [here](#). Your state or municipality’s websites will also have information to contact leaders. Try looking at the drop-down menu for a *Government* tab.
5. **Establish a relationship with your legislators.** It’s easy to establish a relationship with your legislators. Start by introducing yourself. You can also learn to write to your representatives or set up a meeting with a legislator on [The Policy Circle website](#).
6. **Consider writing a letter to the editor or an op-ed on your stance on data privacy in your local paper.** Learn how on [The Policy Circle website](#).

## Next Steps for Your Circle

- **Post a Recap:** Summarize your discussion to share thoughts with members not present, and share planned actions from group members. Designate who will post a meeting recap on your circle page.
- **Decide your next meeting topic.** Want to discuss a related brief at your next meeting? Suggestions include:
  - [Digital Landscape](#)
  - [Foreign Policy: Asia Pacific](#)
- **Dive Deeper into the issues.** If this is an area you would like to pursue further, consider taking possible steps to influence policy. The Policy Circle offers resources for [developing a message about your issue](#) and [organizing a petition](#) to amplify your voice and raise awareness. Don’t miss our [latest events](#) that help you dive deeper on this issue and more.