



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 review the [Executive Summary](#) for this 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](#).
- For FY2023, the [President's Budget requested over \\$65 billion](#) for information technology and cybersecurity spending among federal civilian agencies.
- The [market for global data protection](#) as a service is expected to increase from \$2 billion in 2022 to \$3.9 billion by 2026. The [market for big data](#), data analytics, and cloud services in general was measured at just under \$5 billion in 2018 and is expected to reach \$61.42 billion by 2026.

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://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.