

DATA CLASSIFICATION at home

At home, you more than likely have many types of information stored on your computers, mobile devices and in hard copy. In general, this information can be considered either **PUBLIC** or **PRIVATE**.

PUBLIC

Anyone can see this information, any time they want. It might as well be posted on any social media site.

PRIVATE

You don't want anyone seeing this information without your explicit approval. Perhaps there are *some* texts, photos, documents or emails you might be comfortable with anyone seeing. But if *others* were made public, you might shrink in embarrassment.

Now, how do you decide what is **Public** and what is **Private**?

How to Classify?

You might want to create a more complex—and accurate—data classification system for your personal life. The method you choose is entirely up to you. No matter what, keep it simple so it's easy to use and follow. Complexity breeds insecurity.

Where is it?

Once you have an idea of what information you want to protect, the next step is figuring out where the information you want to protect resides. That sounds simple, but organizations constantly struggle with this fundamental aspect of data classification. USB sticks, desktops, laptops, home networks, media centers, safety deposit boxes, file cabinets, smartphones, backup drives, in the cloud, in your brain... And then think about how many different places any one piece of information might reside!

Home Classification Exercise

How would you classify the following types of information that most of us have collected over the years? **Bonus:** *Where would they be stored?*

Kids' school records

Passwords to financial institutions

Your family tree

Your contacts

SAT/ACT scores & college grades

Family medical records

Bachelor(ette) party photos

Family trip videos

Upcoming travel schedule

User_IDs for social media sites

Alcohol purchases

Motor vehicle records

Criminal history

Last 5 addresses

Home ownership

Car & Boat Ownership

Work history

Social security or national ID

Skype conversations

Texts

Phone calls/records

Credit scores

Tax returns

Honeymoon photos

Loans

Marriage, birth & death certificates

Legal actions

Insurance Policies