

Advisory: Privacy Features of Oracle Cloud Infrastructure

How Oracle Cloud Infrastructure Helps Customers
Align with Common Data Privacy Principles

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Introduction

Many jurisdictions around the world have implemented data privacy regulations. Examples of such regulations are the European Union General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the Australian Data Privacy Act, Canada's Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA), the Japan Act on the Protection of Personal Information, and the South Korean Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA). These regulations define rules for the collection and processing of the personal information of individuals.

Document Purpose

This document describes how the features and functionality of Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI) can help you address some of the requirements that arise from data privacy regulations found across the world.

The information contained in this document does not constitute legal advice. Customers are advised to seek their own legal counsel to develop and implement their privacy compliance program and to assess the features and functionality provided by OCI in regard to their legal and regulatory requirements.

The following policies and documents are referenced throughout this paper:

- Oracle Services Privacy Policy at oracle.com/legal/privacy/services-privacy-policy.html
- Oracle General Privacy Policy at oracle.com/legal/privacy/privacy-policy.html
- Data Processing Agreement for Oracle Services (DPA) at oracle.com/contracts/cloud-services/

About Oracle Cloud Infrastructure

Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI) is a set of collaborative cloud services that enable you to build and run a range of applications and services in a highly available and secure hosted environment. OCI offers high-performance computing capabilities and storage capacity in a flexible overlay virtual network that is easily accessible from your on-premises network. OCI offers platform as a service (PaaS) and infrastructure as a service (IaaS) that delivers high-performance computing power to run cloud native and enterprise IT workloads. For more information about OCI services, see docs.oracle.com/iaas/Content/home.htm.

OCI continues to invest in features and services that can help our customers more efficiently address their security and compliance needs. For more information about how OCI services and features can help with your compliance and reporting requirements, see oracle.com/corporate/cloud-compliance/.

The Cloud Shared Management Model

From a security management perspective, cloud computing is fundamentally different from on-premises computing. On-premises customers are in full control of their technology infrastructure. For example, they have physical control of the hardware and full control over the technology stack in production. In the cloud, however, customers use components that are partially under the management of the cloud service providers. As a result, the management of security in the cloud is a shared responsibility between the cloud customers and the cloud service provider.

Oracle provides best-in-class security technology and operational processes to secure enterprise cloud services. However, customers must also be aware of and manage their security and compliance responsibilities when running their workloads in Oracle cloud environments. By design, Oracle provides security functions for cloud infrastructure and operations, such as cloud operator access controls and infrastructure security patching. Customers are responsible for securely configuring and using their cloud resources. For more information, see your [cloud service documentation](#).

The following figure illustrates this division of responsibility at a high level.

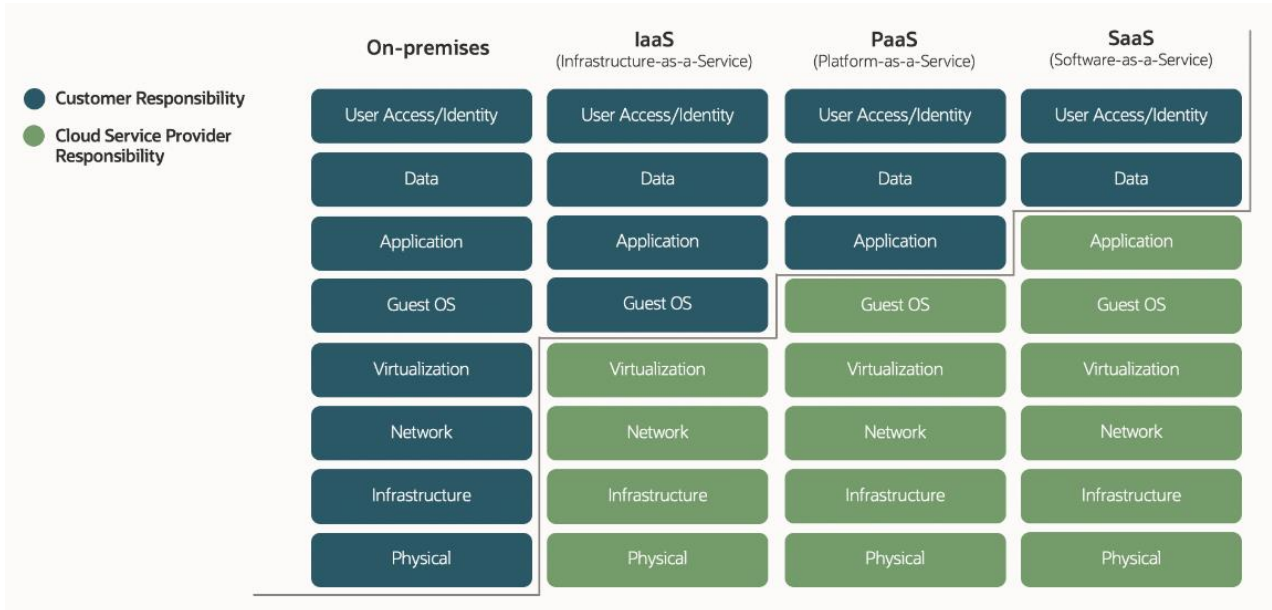


Figure 1: Conceptual Representation of the Various Security Management Responsibilities Between Customers and Cloud Providers

Roles

As a cloud service vendor that hosts personal information on behalf of our customers, Oracle takes on the role of a *processor*. Processors carry out the instructions of the *controller*. You, our direct customers who build applications by using the features and functionality of OCI, typically assume the role of controller. As controller, you decide for what purposes your data is processed. Your own customers are the *end users* of the applications that you create. In many situations, your end users are also referred to as *data subjects* or *individuals*.

Data subjects (end users) ↔ Controller (Oracle customer) ↔ Processor (Oracle)

Within the context of the service, Oracle does not have a direct relationship with your end users or data subjects—the individuals whose personal information you might process. You manage any personal information that you collect, and decide how it is processed and in which data center region.

OCI is an infrastructure as a service (IaaS) product in which responsibility for data security and data privacy is shared between Oracle and its customers.

Customer Data

Generally speaking, OCI handles two broad categories of data in its interactions with customers:

- **Data about our customers:** The contact and related information needed to operate your OCI account and bill you for services. The use of any personal information that Oracle gathers from you for purposes of account management is governed by the Oracle General Privacy Policy.
- **Data brought into OCI by our customers:** The data that you bring in to OCI may be stored as files, documents, or database entries. Your data might include personal information, but Oracle does not have insight into the contents of this data, how you collect or use it, or whether it is subject to any specific data privacy regulations. Oracle’s handling of this data is described by the Oracle Services Privacy Policy and the Data Processing Agreement for Oracle Services.

This document provides general information about the features and services available to Oracle customers for the handling of the data that they store in their OCI services and tenancies and any personal information that the data might contain.

Data Privacy Principles

The following sections outline how OCI customers can use the features of the service to help them comply with many key data privacy principles. The sections also explain how Oracle and its customers share the responsibilities for these principles. The definitions provided at the beginning of each section are based on some of the definitions in the IAPP Glossary of Privacy Terms at iapp.org/resources/glossary/.

Transparency—Openness

Transparency: Taking appropriate measures to provide any information relating to processing to the data subject in a concise, intelligible and easily accessible form, using clear and plain language.

Transparency of Processing

The Oracle Services Privacy Policy and Data Processing Agreement for Oracle Services provide transparency about Oracle's overall approach to the handling of your data. However, as a cloud provider, Oracle generally has no insight into the data that you store and process in OCI, or whether it is personal information that belongs to a particular individual. In this context, Oracle has no relationship with your end users and therefore does not inform them about any of your data processing details. Only you can be transparent to your end users about how the data is processed.

Location Transparency

OCI is transparent about where your data is processed and stored. This transparency is important because some data privacy regulations define requirements for cross-border data transfers. When setting up your account, you choose a *home region* in which to initially locate your *tenancy*. Your data stays within that region unless you choose to move it outside the region. OCI offers powerful services that might operate cross-tenancy or cross-region. Through the Oracle Cloud Console user interface and API documentation, you will be informed when your actions might cause data to move to another region or tenancy. Depending on the terms of your agreements with Oracle, Oracle may process data globally to fulfill its obligations to deliver the services.

For information about regions and availability domains, see docs.cloud.oracle.com/iaas/Content/General/Concepts/regions.htm. For information about setting up your tenancy, see docs.cloud.oracle.com/iaas/Content/GSG/Concepts/settinguptenancy.htm.

Data Localization

Data localization laws, also known as data residency laws, may require certain categories of data to be stored in a specific country. It may be necessary to familiarize yourself with the regulatory requirements of the data localization laws or regulations that may apply to your data, and then determine what steps you must take to comply.

Oracle generally has no insight into the data that you store and process in OCI or whether it falls in categories covered by data localization laws. The location transparency described in the previous section may help with data localization because you know the geographic location of your data in OCI. Oracle continues to open new data center regions in countries around the world, which allows more of its customers to store their data within their own country.

For a map of OCI data center regions, see oracle.com/cloud/public-cloud-regions/.

Data Minimization—Collection Limitation

Data minimization principle: The idea that one should only collect and retain that personal data which is necessary.

As a cloud provider, Oracle generally has no insight into the data that you store and process in OCI or whether it constitutes the minimum necessary to accomplish the purpose agreed to with your end users. It is your responsibility to assess whether the minimum amount of data was collected from your end users.

Purpose Specification—Notice and Consent

Purpose specification: The purposes for which personal data are collected should be specified no later than at the time of data collection.

As a cloud provider, Oracle generally has no insight into the data that you store and process in OCI or whether it constitutes the minimum necessary to accomplish the purpose agreed to with your end users. Any assessment of whether the minimum amount of data was collected (or appropriate notice and consent were provided) from your end users is your responsibility.

Purpose Limitation

Purpose limitation: The purposes for which personal data are collected should be specified no later than at the time of data collection and the subsequent use of that personal data is limited to the fulfillment of those purposes.

You remain the controller at all times. Oracle processes your data at your request and uses it only for purposes specified in your agreement with Oracle.

As a cloud provider, Oracle generally has no insight into data that you store and process in OCI, the reasons for which it was collected, or whether it is being processed beyond any purpose limitation that you have communicated to your end users. However, OCI has the following features designed to facilitate effective management of purpose limitation.

Tagging

Oracle offers a flexible tagging operation to help you label and aggregate resources (even across compartments) with similar purposes and run bulk processing on those resource groups. Your tenancy administrators can plan and implement a resource tagging strategy to help enforce the purposes for which the data you are processing was collected.

For more information, see docs.cloud.oracle.com/iaas/Content/Tagging/Concepts/taggingoverview.htm.

Compartments

Oracle gives you the ability to create compartments under your initial root compartment (or tenancy). Your administrators can plan and create compartments in your tenancy to enable you to organize cloud resources (for example, block volumes and compute instances) and the data that they contain so that only specific groups can access them. These features can help you organize and isolate your cloud resources in a way that aligns with your data management goals of enforcing the purpose limitation of any personal information to be processed. For example, an enterprise could create one compartment for their human resources department and another compartment for the finance department. Doing so would effectively separate the cloud resources, which in turn would help keep separate the data, for the two departments.

For more information, see docs.cloud.oracle.com/iaas/Content/Identity/Tasks/managingcompartments.htm and docs.oracle.com/iaas/Content/Identity/compartments/managingcompartments.htm (with identity domains).

Virtual Cloud Networks

You can use virtual cloud networks (VCN) to segment different parts of your infrastructure and control the communication of resources across these segments. You can proactively plan your VCN architecture so that its potential network isolation supports the necessary security and purpose limitation of your data by using the following configurations:

- Security lists: docs.oracle.com/iaas/Content/Network/Concepts/securitylists.htm
- Network security groups: docs.oracle.com/iaas/Content/Network/Concepts/networksecuritygroups.htm
- Network firewalls: docs.oracle.com/iaas/Content/network-firewall/home.htm

See the following OCI Networking documentation pages for more information about VCNs:

- docs.cloud.oracle.com/iaas/Content/GSG/Tasks/creatingnetwork.htm
- docs.oracle.com/iaas/Content/Network/Tasks/VCNs.htm

Accuracy—Data Quality

Accuracy: Organizations must take every reasonable step to ensure the data processed is accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date.

As a cloud provider, Oracle generally has no insight into whether you store personal information or its accuracy regarding individuals. However, OCI offers the Object Storage, Block Volume, and File Storage services to help you store accurate copies of your data.

- **Object Storage** lets you store unstructured data of many content types. Object Storage is a regional service in which data is stored redundantly across multiple storage servers and multiple availability domains. It actively monitors technical data integrity by using checksums that automatically detect and repair damaged data. Object Storage actively monitors and provides data redundancy. If a redundancy loss is detected, Object Storage automatically creates more data copies. **Archive Storage** is another available storage class tier for data objects that must be retained for long periods of time but are rarely accessed. For more information, see docs.cloud.oracle.com/iaas/Content/Object/Concepts/objectstorageoverview.htm and docs.cloud.oracle.com/iaas/Content/Archive/Concepts/archivestorageoverview.htm.
- **Block Volume** lets you use a block volume as a regular hard drive when it is attached and connected to a compute instance. Volumes can be disconnected and attached to another compute instance without the loss of data. Data durability is enhanced by automatically replicating volumes to help protect against data loss. For more information, see docs.cloud.oracle.com/iaas/Content/Block/Concepts/overview.htm.
- **File Storage** lets you manage shared file systems and mount targets and create file system snapshots. File Storage uses synchronous replication and high availability failover for resilient data protection. For more information, see docs.cloud.oracle.com/iaas/Content/File/Concepts/filestorageoverview.htm.

Availability

Availability: Data is “available” if it is accessible when needed by the organization or data subject.

The following OCI features help with data availability.

Availability Domains and Fault Domains

Your tenancy is created in the available home region of your choice. Many OCI regions are composed of physically isolated and fault-tolerant availability domains. You can use these availability domains to build replicated systems.

Fault domains are a grouping of hardware and infrastructure within an availability domain. You can optionally specify the fault domain for a new compute instance when it is created. This allows you to distribute your compute instances so that they are not on the same physical hardware within a single availability domain.

For more information, see docs.cloud.oracle.com/iaas/Content/General/Concepts/regions.htm and docs.cloud.oracle.com/iaas/Content/Compute/Tasks/edit-fault-domain.htm.

Backups

The following flexible data storage backup options are available:

- **Block Volume:** Block Volume backups can be manual or scheduled, incremental or full. Cross-region backups can be used for business continuity, disaster recovery, and application migration and expansion. Policy-based backups have different backup frequencies and retention periods. These backups are encrypted in Object Storage. For more information, see docs.cloud.oracle.com/iaas/Content/Block/Concepts/blockvolumebackups.htm.
- **Object Storage:** Object Storage replication aids in disaster recovery efforts and addresses data redundancy compliance requirements. Copies of objects can be made to other buckets in the same region or across regions. For more information, see docs.cloud.oracle.com/iaas/Content/Object/Tasks/usingreplication.htm and docs.cloud.oracle.com/iaas/Content/Object/Tasks/copyingobjects.htm.
- **Base Database Service:** Backups can go to Object Storage or local storage. Data Guard can also be used for data protection and availability. For more information, see docs.oracle.com/iaas/dbcs/doc/backup-and-recovery.html and docs.oracle.com/iaas/dbcs/doc/use-oracle-data-guard-db-system.html.
- **Exadata Cloud Service:** Exadata database backups go to Object Storage and can be managed or unmanaged. Data Guard can also be used for data protection and availability. For more information, see docs.oracle.com/iaas/exadatacloud/exacs/ecs-managing-db-backup-and-recovery.html (both Oracle-managed and user-configured backups are available) and docs.oracle.com/iaas/exadatacloud/exacs/using-data-guard-with-exacc.html.

Learn more about high-availability solutions for OCI at docs.oracle.com/en/solutions/design-ha.

Security Safeguards

Security safeguards: Personal data should be protected by reasonable security safeguards against such risks as loss or unauthorized access, destruction, use, modification or disclosure of data.

You, the customer, are responsible for securing your workloads and securely configuring services (such as compute, network, storage, and database). See information about the shared security model at docs.cloud.oracle.com/iaas/Content/Security/Concepts/security_overview.htm.

OCI's many security services, features, and recommended practices are documented in the following resources:

- Security services and features at docs.cloud.oracle.com/iaas/Content/Security/Concepts/security_features.htm
- OCI security architecture at oracle.com/a/ocom/docs/oracle-cloud-infrastructure-security-architecture.pdf
- Service-specific security best practices at docs.cloud.oracle.com/iaas/Content/Security/Reference/configuration_security.htm

Sensitive Information

Sensitive personal information: Data which is more significantly related to the notion of a reasonable expectation of privacy, such as medical or financial information.

As a cloud provider, Oracle generally has no insight into the data that you store and process in OCI or whether it is sensitive information. Any assessment of whether data contains sensitive information and must undergo special processing is left for you to determine. Such an assessment should include an evaluation of whether a particular service and or region is suitable for your workload and data. However, Oracle offers encryption capabilities and a key management service to help protect your data including, where appropriate, sensitive data.

Encryption

The encryption described in this section occurs by default regardless of the nature of the underlying data. OCI does not have insight into the nature of your data, whether it is personal data, sensitive data, or otherwise.

- **Block Volume:** Data is encrypted at rest by default, and the backups are also encrypted in Object Storage. For more information, see docs.cloud.oracle.com/iaas/Content/Block/Concepts/overview.htm.
- **Object Storage:** Each object is encrypted with its own key. Encryption is enabled by default. For more information, see docs.cloud.oracle.com/iaas/Content/Object/Concepts/objectstorageoverview.htm.
- **File Storage:** Customer data is encrypted at rest by default. For more information, see docs.cloud.oracle.com/iaas/Content/File/Concepts/filestorageoverview.htm.
- **Base Database Service:** Encryption of user-created tablespaces is enabled by default using Transparent Data Encryption (TDE). For more information, see docs.oracle.com/iaas/dbcs/doc/network-time-protocol-and-transparent-data-encryption.html.
- **Exadata Cloud Service:** All new tablespaces that you create in the Exadata Cloud Service database are encrypted by default. For more information, see docs.oracle.com/iaas/exadatacloud/exacs/exa-conf-db-features.html.

Vault

The Vault key management service provides centralized management of the encryption of customer data with keys that you control. It can be used for the following tasks:

- Create master encryption keys and data encryption keys
- Rotate keys to generate new cryptographic material
- Enable or disable keys for use in cryptographic operations
- Assign keys to resources
- Use keys for encryption and decryption to safeguard data

The Block Volume, Object Storage, File Storage, and Streaming services integrate with Vault to support the encryption of data in those services. The integration of Vault with Identity and Access Management (IAM) lets you control who and what services have access to your keys. The Audit service (see the next section) lets you track administrative actions on your keys and vaults. For more information about Vault, see docs.cloud.oracle.com/iaas/Content/KeyManagement/Concepts/keyoverview.htm.

Breach Notification—Incident Response

Breach disclosure: The requirement that an organization notify regulators and/or victims of incidents affecting the confidentiality and security of personal data.

Oracle has implemented controls and policies designed to detect and promptly respond to incidents that create suspicion of or indicate destruction, loss, alteration, or unauthorized disclosure or access to Oracle-managed customer data transmitted, stored, or otherwise processed. Oracle's Information Security Incident Reporting and Response Policy defines requirements for reporting and responding to events and incidents. For more information, see oracle.com/corporate/security-practices/corporate/security-incident-response.html.

In the event that Oracle determines that a confirmed security incident involving information processed by Oracle has taken place, Oracle will promptly notify impacted customers or other third parties in accordance with its contractual and regulatory responsibilities as defined in the Data Processing Agreement for Oracle Services. Information about malicious attempts or suspected incidents and incident history are not shared externally. As a controller, you must determine whether any of your end users or regulators must be notified of a personal information breach.

You are responsible for the detection of incidents and personal information breaches within the security environment that you control. For example, OCI cannot detect whether a user's login to a customer's tenancy was unauthorized. Cloud Guard and the Audit service (see the next section) can help you monitor the environment that you have set up in OCI. You may want to implement other monitoring software, depending on the functionality that you have implemented on the OCI platform.

For more information about Cloud Guard, see docs.oracle.com/iaas/cloud-guard/home.htm.

Audit

The Audit service logs calls to the OCI public application programming interface (API), whether those calls originate from the Console, software development kit (SDK), or command line interface (CLI). Audit log contents include the event type, the user who initiated it, the date and time of the request, the request description, and the response. Data from these logged events can help you safeguard your data by enabling you to monitor the activity within your tenancy. This logging occurs automatically, and you can set up the Audit log retention period.

For more information, see the following resources:

- docs.cloud.oracle.com/iaas/Content/Audit/Concepts/auditoverview.htm
- docs.oracle.com/iaas/Content/Audit/Reference/logeventreference.htm
- docs.cloud.oracle.com/iaas/Content/Audit/Tasks/settingretentionperiod.htm

Least Privilege

Least privilege: A security control where access is granted at the lowest possible level required to perform the function.

Access control in OCI is based on the concept of least privilege. New resources (for example, block volumes or compute instances) are restricted by default, which means that only users in the administrator group are initially given access to them. Only administrators can give resource access to other users, through existing or new policies, groups, and compartments. Policies only *allow* access to resources in a customer tenancy; they cannot deny it. For access control, there is an implicit deny, which means that by default users can do nothing and have to be granted access through policies.

For more information about policies, see docs.oracle.com/iaas/Content/Identity/Concepts/policygetstarted.htm and docs.oracle.com/iaas/Content/Identity/Concepts/policies.htm.

Storage Limitation

Storage limitation: The principle that personal data must be kept in a form that permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the personal data is processed.

As a cloud provider, Oracle generally has no insight into the data that you store and process in OCI, whether the purposes for processing that data have passed, or whether the data needs to be deleted. If you determine that your data must be deleted, OCI offers services designed to permanently delete data.

Data Deletion

OCI provides deletion capability in all its data storage services. For more information about each service, see the following resources:

- **Block Volume:** docs.cloud.oracle.com/iaas/Content/Block/Tasks/deletingavolume.htm
- **Object Storage:** docs.cloud.oracle.com/iaas/Content/Object/Tasks/managingobjects.htm and docs.cloud.oracle.com/iaas/Content/Object/Tasks/managingbuckets.htm
- **Compute instances and NVMe storage:** docs.cloud.oracle.com/iaas/Content/Compute/Tasks/terminatinginstance.htm
- **File Storage:** docs.cloud.oracle.com/iaas/Content/File/Tasks/managingfilesystems.htm

Object Lifecycle Management

Oracle offers Object Lifecycle Management to help automate the archiving and deletion of data objects. See docs.cloud.oracle.com/iaas/Content/Object/Tasks/usinglifecyclepolicies.htm.

Service Termination

If you terminate your OCI service subscription, Oracle makes your data that resides in the production cloud services environment available for you to retrieve. After the retrieval period, your data will be deleted. Details about this retrieval period are described in section 6, “Oracle Cloud Suspension and Termination Policy,” of the Oracle Cloud Hosting and Delivery Policies at oracle.com/contracts/cloud-services/.

Data Subject (End User) Requests

Data subject: An identified or identifiable natural person.

As a cloud provider, Oracle generally has no insight into what personal information you collect from your data subjects (end users) and process in OCI. However, the “Privacy Inquiries and Requests from Individuals” section in the Data Processing Agreement for Oracle Services describes the assistance that Oracle offers to help you respond to data subject requests to access, delete or erase, restrict, rectify, receive, transmit (data portability), or object to the processing of specific personal information.

Cross-Border Data Transfers

Cross-border data transfers: The transmission of personal information from one jurisdiction to another.

The “Cross-Border Data Transfers” section in the Data Processing Agreement for Oracle Services explains the data transfer mechanisms that Oracle has put in place to support processing that involves transferring data across country borders.

Subprocessors

Outsourcing: Contracting business processes, which may include the processing of personal information, to a third party.

The “Oracle Affiliates and Third Party Subprocessors” section in the Data Processing Agreement for Oracle Services explains that Oracle requires its affiliates and any third-party subprocessors to adhere to the same level of data protection and security that Oracle does under the Data Processing Agreement for Oracle Services. Oracle is transparent about its affiliates and third-party subprocessors that process personal information to assist in the performance of the OCI services.

Privacy Officer

Privacy officer: A general term in many organizations for the head of privacy compliance and operations.

OCI is subject to the Oracle Services Privacy Policy, which explains that a Global Data Protection Officer has been appointed to field inquiries about any privacy matter. The policy also provides the following information:

- How to contact Oracle’s Global Data Protection Officer
- A data privacy inquiry form
- A privacy and security practices dispute resolution process

Oracle Cloud Infrastructure Compliance

Oracle is committed to helping customers operate globally in a fast-changing business environment and address the challenges of an increasingly complex regulatory environment. To that end, Oracle provides information about frameworks for which an Oracle line of business has achieved a third-party attestation or certification for one or more of its services in the form of “attestations.” These attestations can assist in your compliance and reporting, providing independent assessment of the security, privacy, and compliance controls of the applicable Oracle Cloud services.

Also, Oracle provides general information and technical recommendations for the use of its cloud services in the form of “advisories.” These advisories are provided to help you determine the suitability of using specific Oracle Cloud services and to help you implement specific technical controls that may help you meet your compliance obligations.

For more information, see the Oracle Cloud Compliance site at oracle.com/corporate/cloud-compliance/.

Other Resources

- OCI documentation at docs.cloud.oracle.com/iaas/Content/GSG/Concepts/baremetalintro.htm
- Oracle Services Privacy Policy at oracle.com/legal/privacy/services-privacy-policy.html
- Oracle Cloud Services Contracts at oracle.com/contracts/cloud-services/

Conclusion

Oracle Cloud Infrastructure offers autonomous operations, integrated security, and truly elastic, serverless services in Oracle’s global public cloud regions or within your data center. Oracle Cloud Infrastructure provides several built-in security and privacy features that help organizations implement the technical controls required to operate under various regulatory frameworks.

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