

Message from CEO

2018 was abuzz with a plethora of developments and happenings around Data Protection and Data Privacy, and was a year where everyone was looking forward to and gearing up for something in this realm. Not unlike 2017, this year too stood testimony to few critical legislations that changed the course of the discipline of Privacy and are expected to have a significant bearing on shaping up this domain. The EU GDPR for which organizations have been extensively preparing, came into effect on May 26 of 2018, and has been a force responsible for paradigm shift of Privacy practices and principles for one and all. Changes have not only been happening at process level, but also the core technological fabric underlying Privacy implementation has been continuously evolving because of the innovations and experimentations taking place around the world. Clearly, the cognizance of Privacy imperatives and thereby, the expectation of end users for safeguarding their personal data is on the rise.

It was not just the EU that made waves with the GDPR implementation, India too came out with a framework and a draft Personal Data Protection Bill, 2018. The committee headed by Justice BN Srikrishna came out with its final report and the draft bill following a series of extensive consultations. While we await the bill being taken to the parliament for enactment, there is little doubt to the fact that the law would have to do a fine balancing act of safeguarding personal information and ensuring a conducive environment for innovation to thrive.

The US as well, was not too far behind in terms of framing legislations impacting privacy. First was the CLOUD Act (a federal law) which became effective from March 2018 and the second was the California Consumer Privacy Act which was signed into law by California Governor Jerry Brown on June 28, 2018. As a practical matter, this law has the potential to change the privacy law landscape in the entire US – not just California.

Amendment of its Act on Protection of Personal Information (APPI) by Japan and European Commission's adoption of adequacy decision on Japan have paved way for personal data to flow freely between the two economies on the basis of strong protection guarantees.

Having taken a look at some of the major developments on the legislative front, it is time to bring the focus back on how we, as individuals, need to contribute to the evolution of this exciting and important domain. It has been DSCI's endeavour for the past several years now, to proactively engage with different stakeholder groups to disseminate best practices in the field of Data Privacy. From capacity building standpoint, DSCI, by virtue of its Privacy credentials (DCPLA & DCPP) has been working towards building the profession of Privacy in the country. As an opportunity area, Privacy is emerging as a top area and the demand for talent, both, in India and global geographies, is expected to accelerate. User organizations across all verticals are gearing up their internal readiness to roll out a robust enterprise Privacy program meeting expectations of the consumers they serve.

With an eye to spur innovation in the Privacy technology/solution development, DSCI has recently conducted Privacy use cases workshops that intend to discover the white spaces in this field and encourage start-ups and other organizations to come up with niche ingenious solutions and products.

It is imperative for us as a country to continuously strive to become Privacy aware and build a robust Privacy posture for our organizations and citizens. This Data Privacy Day, let us pledge to embark on this promising journey of Data Protection and become the true champions of Data Privacy.

Rama Vedashree,

CEO, DSCI