

About this second edition, contributors and the author

Since the first edition of this Field Guide went to print in March 2012, data processing technologies, laws and public attention to data privacy have evolved, particularly following the media coverage of NSA programs since 2013. Some countries have enacted new data privacy laws, including Colombia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and South Africa. The enforcement of data privacy laws has picked up. In Europe, data protection authorities have increased their audit activities and issued fines. In the United States, plaintiffs' lawyers have brought numerous class action lawsuits based on data privacy and security claims against companies and the government; the U.S. Federal Trade Commission is further developing a body of data privacy and security law through complaints and consent decrees; and the State of California, where most major information technology companies are headquartered, is actively passing new laws in response to perceived new threats and abuses. But, a lot also remains the same: The European Union has still not managed to update its main, omnibus privacy law, which is going to be 20 years old in 2015. In the United States, Congress debates many, but passes few, data privacy laws. Other major jurisdictions, including Brazil and the People's Republic of China, have not enacted comprehensive data privacy laws yet. Thus, much of the practical guidance and the general direction of this Field Guide remain steady. The author is grateful for the interest and feedback regarding the first edition and looks forward to continued dialogue with users of this Field Guide.

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