

# Data Retention Policy

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A **Data Retention Policy**, or **Records Retention Policy**, is an organization's established [protocol](#) for retaining information for operational or regulatory compliance needs.

When writing a data retention [policy](#), you must determine how to: organize information so it can be searched and accessed later, and dispose of information that's no longer needed.

Some organizations find it helpful to use a data retention policy template that provides a framework to follow when crafting the policy.

A comprehensive data retention policy outlines the business reasons for retaining specific data and what to do with it when targeted for disposal. Source:

<https://searchdatabackup.techtarget.com/definition/data-retention-policy>

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