



Privacy Matters @ WWU

January 2024



With privacy being a major concern among the public and a top risk for both private and government entities, University Compliance Services is beginning the new year by launching the Privacy Matters @ WWU newsletter. Information will be provided to highlight important privacy developments and to provide a centralized platform where WWU Privacy Owners and stakeholders can connect on privacy topics relevant to Western in an effort to strengthen its developing Privacy Program.

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- Western's Privacy Program Efforts to Date
- State Office of Privacy and Data Protection Updates
- 2023 and 2024 Legislative Sessions – Privacy Bills
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Western's Privacy Program Efforts to Date

- ✓ [Affording Individual Privacy Rights Policy](#) approved by President Randawah in 2021. The policy committed the University to establish and maintain a centralized

University Privacy Program to proactively protect personal information and manage associated risks.

- ✓ [University Privacy Committee](#) established.
- ✓ [Privacy Framework](#) created to identify key functions and objectives from which tasks and internal controls will be implemented.
- ✓ [Data Privacy Principles](#) were developed to ensure the Program aligns with and reflects Western's values and to support decision making when privacy laws and regulations are in conflict, silent on a particular issue, or out of date and not current with public expectations.
- ✓ [Privacy @ WWU website](#) published to provide information on Western's Privacy Program and resources. [new sections under development]

State Office of Privacy and Data Protection

[WaTech](#) presented on the following topics:

Artificial Intelligence:

On August 29th, the State's Chief Privacy Officer, Chief Technology Officer, and Chief Data Officer presented WaTech's [Generative AI Guidelines](#) which includes best practices to mitigate privacy and information security risks for local government agencies. See [webinar recording](#).

Facial Recognition:

On June 28th, the State Chief Privacy Officer discussed current legal requirements and regulations on facial recognition technology. See [webinar recording](#).

Washington State Legislative Session Update

2023 Legislative Session – Bills Passed

[HB 1335](#): **Prohibits “doxing”** which is when a person publishes an individual's personal identifying information without the express consent of the individual and the publication:

- Is made with intent to harm the individual or made with reckless disregard, and
- Causes the individual to suffer physical injury, significant economic injury, mental anguish, fear of serious bodily injury or death of themselves or a close relation to themselves, or a substantial life disruption.

“**Publish**” means to: circulate, deliver, distribute, disseminate, post, transmit, or otherwise make available to another person, through any oral, written, visual, or electronic communication.

[HB 1533](#): Exempts disclosure of certain **personnel records** of state agency employees or their dependents who are survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, harassment, or stalking.

[HB 1491](#): Prohibits unjustified **employer searches** of employee personal vehicles.

[HB 1187](#): Makes **union conversations** with their members privileged. With some exceptions, testimonial privilege prohibits a union representative and an employee the union represents or has represented from being examined or required to disclose any communication between an employee and union representative or between union representatives that is made in the course of union representation.

2024 Legislative Session – Bills Introduced

This session begins January 8, 2024 however, a number of privacy related bills have already be introduced. Three are related to **artificial intelligence**:

[HB 1934](#): Establishing an artificial intelligence task force.

[HB 1999](#): Concerning fabricated intimate or sexually explicit images and depictions.

[HB 1951](#): Promoting ethical artificial intelligence by protecting against algorithmic discrimination.

January 21 – 27 is Data Privacy Week!

Data Privacy Week is an national annual campaign to educate the public about the importance of online privacy and how to manage their personal information and keep it secure.

Keep your eyes open for awareness activities that will be posted in Western Today and sent to you via email directly from University Services.

Please send in your comments, suggestions, and questions to <mailto:compliance.matters@wwu.edu>

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Risk, Ethics, Safety, and Resilience

This email was sent by:
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