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# Chapter 2

# Data Handling Ethics

# Key Takeaways



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## The Right to Be Forgotten

- **Definition:** The right allows individuals to request the deletion of personal data from an organization's records, especially if the data is no longer needed or consent has been withdrawn.
- **Key Context:** Part of **GDPR**, the right is aimed at protecting privacy and reputation, mostly from online platforms and search engines.
- **Exceptions:** Legal obligations may override this right in some case



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## European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) Opinion on Data Ethics

- **Focus Areas:**
  - **Accountability:** Organizations must be accountable for how they handle personal data.
  - **Privacy by Design:** Privacy must be built into the design of data systems.
  - **Future-Oriented Regulation:** Policies must evolve with technology to protect privacy rights.
  - **Empowered Individuals:** Individuals should have tools to exercise their data rights.
- **Not Included:** The **Right to Request Removal of Personal Data** is not part of the EDPS's primary focus.



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## **Drivers of Legislation for Information Security and Data Privacy**

- **A recognition of Ethical issues in information management is increasingly driving legislation for information security and data privacy.**
  - Ethical concerns regarding how personal data is collected, used, and protected are shaping data privacy laws like the **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**.
  - Ethical issues include concerns about data ownership, privacy rights, consent, and the potential for misuse of personal information.

**Reference:** Laws like GDPR and others aim to address these ethical concerns by setting standards for how organizations should handle personal data.





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## Unethical Data Handling Practice in Visualizations

- **Misleading visualizations** occurs when the requirement that the sum of numbers representing percentages on a pie chart does not add up to 100.
  - This is a common unethical data handling practice because it intentionally or unintentionally misrepresents the data, leading to incorrect interpretations.
  - Misleading visualizations can distort reality and lead to poor decision-making by presenting data inaccurately.

**Reference:** Ethical data visualization practices require accurate representation of data to avoid deceiving or confusing the audience.



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## Three Principles of Data Ethics in the Belmont Report

- The three principles of data ethics laid out in the **Belmont Report** are **Respect for Persons**, **Beneficence**, and **Justice**.
  - **Respect for Persons** involves obtaining informed consent and ensuring voluntary participation.
  - **Beneficence** means doing no harm and maximizing possible benefits while minimizing possible harms.
  - **Justice** ensures that the benefits and burdens of research are distributed fairly among all groups in society.

**Reference:** The Belmont Report's principles serve as foundational ethical guidelines for conducting research involving human subjects, including how personal data is handled in such research.