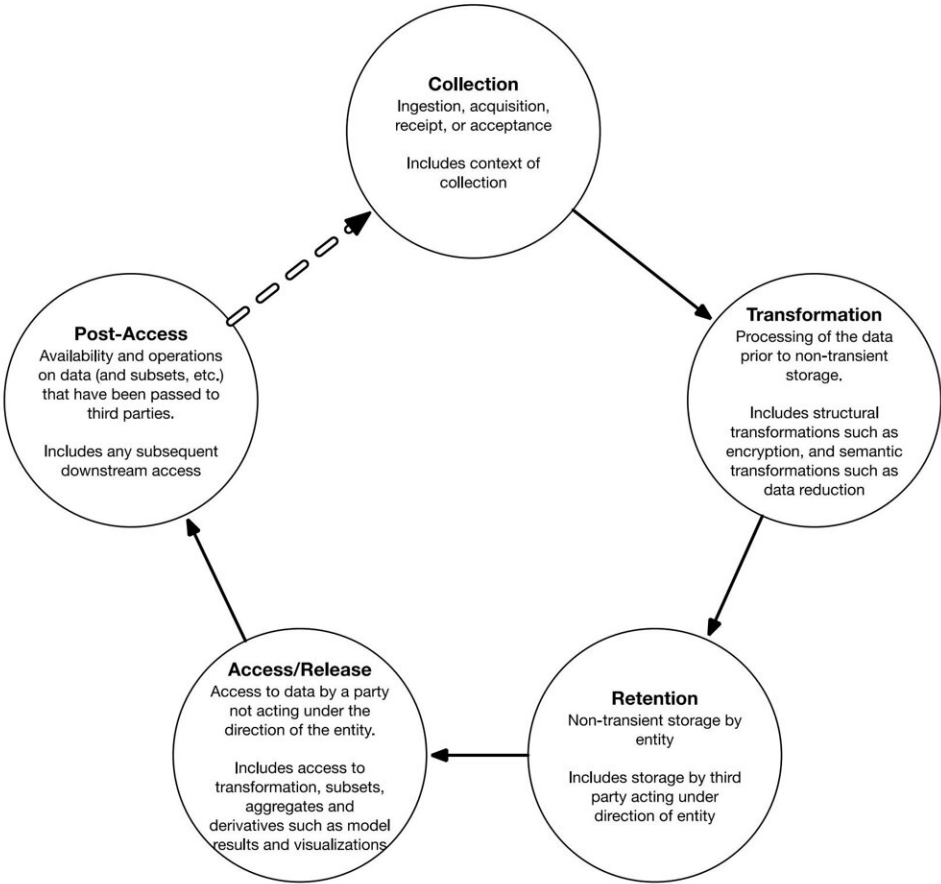


De-identifying government datasets: Techniques and governance

September 15 2023



Altman’s “modern approach to privacy-aware government data releases.” Credit: *NIST* (2023). DOI: 10.6028/NIST.SP.800-188

NIST has published Special Publication (SP) 800-188, [De-Identifying](#)

[Government Datasets: Techniques and Governance.](#)

De-identification removes identifying information from a data set so that the remaining data cannot be linked to specific individuals. Government agencies can use de-identification to reduce the privacy risks associated with collecting, processing, archiving, distributing, or publishing government data.

Previously, NIST published NIST Internal Report (IR) 8053, De-Identification of Personal Information, which provided a survey of de-identification and re-identification techniques. SP 800-188 provides specific guidance to [government agencies](#) that wish to use de-identification.

This final document was authored by [experts](#) at NIST and the U.S. Census Bureau and references up-to-date research and practices for both traditional de-identification approaches as well as the use of formal privacy methods, such as differential privacy to create de-identified datasets.

This document also addresses other approaches for making datasets that contain [sensitive information](#) available to researchers and for public transparency. Where appropriate, this document cautions users about the inherent limitations of traditional de-identification approaches when compared to formal privacy methods, such as differential privacy.

More information: Simson Garfinkel, De-Identifying Government Datasets, *NIST* (2023). [DOI: 10.6028/NIST.SP.800-188](https://doi.org/10.6028/NIST.SP.800-188)

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