

Foundation Working Group Meeting #3

Framework for De-identifying Information
for Disclosure to Third Parties

June 17, 2015

Session Agenda

- Objective for the Working Group
- De-Identification Definition Recap
- Round Table
- Expert Panel
- Next Steps

Objective and Considerations

- Objective for the Working Group
 - To provide input to the IESO for:
 - de-identifying data to protect privacy.
 - providing access to third parties.
- Considerations
 - De-identification techniques (and technologies) will continue to evolve.
 - Methods to re-identify data will also continue to evolve.
 - The amount of available digital information from other sources is growing exponentially.

Definition: De-Identified Information

“De-identified information is information that cannot be used to identify an individual, either directly or indirectly. Information is de-identified if it does not identify an individual, and it is not reasonably foreseeable in the circumstances that the information could be used, either alone or with other information, to identify an individual.”

Source: Cavoukian, Ann, Ph.D., and Khaled El Emam, Ph.D. "De-identification Protocols: Essential for Protecting Privacy." 25 June 2014. Web:

https://www.privacybydesign.ca/content/uploads/2014/06/pbd-de-identification_essential.pdf

Examples of De-Identification Techniques

- Anonymization
 - Removal or encryption of personally identifiable information
- Pseudonymization
 - One or more pieces of information are replaced with artificial identifiers
- Aggregation
 - Combination or summarization of records to a level that no individual record can be reasonably identified
- Other techniques
 - Shuffling, number and date variance, masking

Each technique and how it is applied may impact analysis and the risk of re-identification.

Round Table and Panel Discussions

- Discussion of experience de-identifying and using de-identified data:
 - Techniques
 - Application
 - Uses
 - Costs
 - Access

Third Party Access to De-identified Data

- Working assumption (for this discussion) is that all third parties will be entitled to have access to de-identified data
- Vision of a spectrum of available data evolving from experience in providing the service
- Spectrum of available data access and delivery timing and channel subject to service constraints