# DATA SECURITY

## PROTECTING
## SMART CITIES

Protecting critical data and public resources from cybercriminals has become a priority for local governments. A single, robust security policy and data governance model across all municipal services can offer communities the best protection.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF DATA SECURITY

As smart cities programs are implemented across municipal functions, there is a unique opportunity to improve the security of critical infrastructure systems and better protect the sensitive data collected. The existing model—having multiple agencies and entities access and store confidential data—poses a greater security challenge as hackers become more sophisticated.

In addition, many public resources that are critical to the lives of citizens—such as airports, power grids and emergency services—have ad hoc or fragmented security. The advances in security technologies that can be incorporated into smart cities initiatives will safeguard the vital systems that protect the health and safety of the community, and better protect personal data.

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## IMPLEMENTING DATA SECURITY MEASURES

With the rise of ransomware attacks, viruses and other cybercrime, municipalities need comprehensive security plans. This includes a data governance model, which dictates how personal data is collected and protected and identifies who has authorized access to the data. It also outlines how all elements of every system must be protected, including hardware sensors, software applications and data storage devices, as well as the network that connects them.

In addition, this model details how security safeguards should be deployed to create multiple layers of protection. It also outlines the close monitoring required to detect intrusions and other breaches. Finally, it contains an action plan for responding to and correcting any data breaches or hacking attacks.

## A MORE SECURE COMMUNITY IS A BETTER COMMUNITY

Technology is keeping pace with cybercrime, creating practical, cost-effective ways to fight and prevent attacks. When smart security policies are properly put into action—deployed in homes, government agencies and businesses across communities—they will help to prevent attacks, and quickly mitigate incidents that do occur.

These policies will foster confidence among citizens that the data they entrust to local governments will be protected—and that municipal systems can operate reliably without interruption from hackers.

As with many community concerns, the public and private sectors will need to work together to create clear security policies and vigilantly monitor systems to prevent intrusions. With successful joint efforts, the implementations of these policies will strengthen and protect communities—even if most citizens never realize how strong and well-protected they are.

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