PREPARING FOR GDPR

Moving from Production Test Data to Synthetic Test Data

Are you Ready for the New EU General Data Protection Regulations?

Is your company ready for the coming EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)? If your company is located within the European Union or uses data from EU users/customers, even if your office is located outside the EU, you are most likely impacted by this regulation. This coming legislation is replacing the current Data Protection Directive 95/46/EC on May 2018, only 7 months away from the publishing of this document. Read more below to find out what GDPR means for your organization's test data practices.

Making your Test Data Practices Compliant

What does GDPR mean for your test data practices? Well, depends on your organization's current test data strategy. At a high level, the regulation does not allow personal data to be exposed in testing environments/unprivileged users. You can see their definition for personal data below:

> *Any information related to a natural person or 'Data Subject', that can be used to directly or indirectly identify the person. It can be anything from a name, a photo, an email address, bank details, posts on social networking websites, medical information, or a computer IP address.*

Compliant Test Data Management Strategies

If your test data practices exposes that this type of information above you are most likely not compliant. Let's explore these two strategies and how they affect your testing practices and ability to ship at the speed of development.

Classic TDM: Pruning & Masking Production Data

Classic TDM solutions prune and mask production data. These solutions solve the regulation requirements needed for GDPR but introduce their own, new business challenges:

1. **Creation/Delivery of Test Data is Too Slow:** Pruning test data is a slow process which result in wait times of days or weeks for testers to start testing.
2. **Low Quality Test Data:** Delivered test data sets are not in the correct format, bulky, and require testers to manually modify the data to meet their scenario needs.
3. **Centralized Process:** Companies have to hire a centralized team to create and/or prune data for their entire testing organization which can become a test data bottleneck.
4. **Room for Error:** If your test data practices still rely on using production data, even if it is masked, there is room for user error and you may risk exposing sensitive information.

The Future of TDM: Synthetic Data Generation

Synthetic TDM solves the regulation requirements for GDPR and solves the business challenges introduced by other TDM solutions:

1. **On-Demand Data:** The test data needs to be generated on-demand in real time for each tester. This decreases the wait time of weeks or days for test data to just minutes.
2. **High Quality Test Data:** Testers need to easily generate small, efficient, test data to meet each test case. This decreases the wait time to kick off each test case.
3. **Decentralized (Self-Service) Process:** Anyone can generate the test data they need on their local machine. Companies no longer need resources to manage test data.
4. **No Risk:** If you never touch production data in your test data process there is zero risk of exposing sensitive information inside your test environment.

A GDPR Violation is an Expensive Mistake

This is not a regulation you can take your time adapting to: non-compliance can result in a fine of 4% annual global turnover or €20 million. Non-compliance can mean miss-using data or losing it.

GenRocket: Patented Technology for Synthetic Test Data Generation

So, why haven't organizations shifted to a purely synthetic test data generation model before? The reason comes down to three requirements from testing organizations:

1. The system would need to be able to generate any possible data.
2. Along with generating any possible data, it would have to create the test data with full referential integrity.
3. The system would need to be able to generate small to large amounts of data fast enough to meet testers tight deadlines.

GenRocket has invented a system and method to achieve these requirements and created a system for test data generation that was not previously possible. We even have a patent for it— Patent #9,552,266 B2 for Systems and methods for test data generation. GenRocket was awarded this patent in 2017. Our solution not only removes the test data bottleneck but enables your test data management practices to be compliant with GDPR. **A completely synthetic test data strategy is a winning strategy for GDPR compliance.**

Not Ready for a Pure Synthetic Test Data Strategy?

No worries, GenRocket offers its own version of data masking called synthetic data replacement. This process allows you to blend insensitive production data with synthetic data so you don't expose sensitive information inside your test environment.

Ready for a secure, affordable, and compliant test data management strategy? Send an email to **info@genrocket.com** to start the discussion.

About GenRocket

GenRocket is an emerging technology leader in software testing technology, serving IT services companies and enterprise customers who demand superior quality and efficiency in their software development operation. GenRocket is the next generation of Test Data Management (TDM) solutions that uses a synthetic test data generation system that allows users to generate test data on-demand and in real-time. This system was built for enterprise use cases and can scale to large, complex database environments while preserving referential integrity.

GenRocket, Inc.
2930 East Ojai Ave.
Ojai, CA 93023, USA

1-805-836-2879

info@genrocket.com