Boldon James

A QINETIQ company

The Future Of Data Classification Is Here

The Future Is Business-Centric Data Classification

In an ever-changing digital world – one that promises ever greater protection for data subjects, tighter regulatory oversight and even larger fines for non-compliance – data classification is a key enabler to driving a more streamlined, compliant and effective business.

But not all data classification solutions are the same. The vast majority of today's approaches are rooted in either the **security domain** – where the ultimate goal is data protection and controlling access, or the **data domain** – where the focus is on organising information to support business efficiency. The net result is that too many of these security-based classification solutions support only simple security labelling which limits their applicability and effectiveness. While those coming from the data domain lack the ability to deliver against wider security objectives.
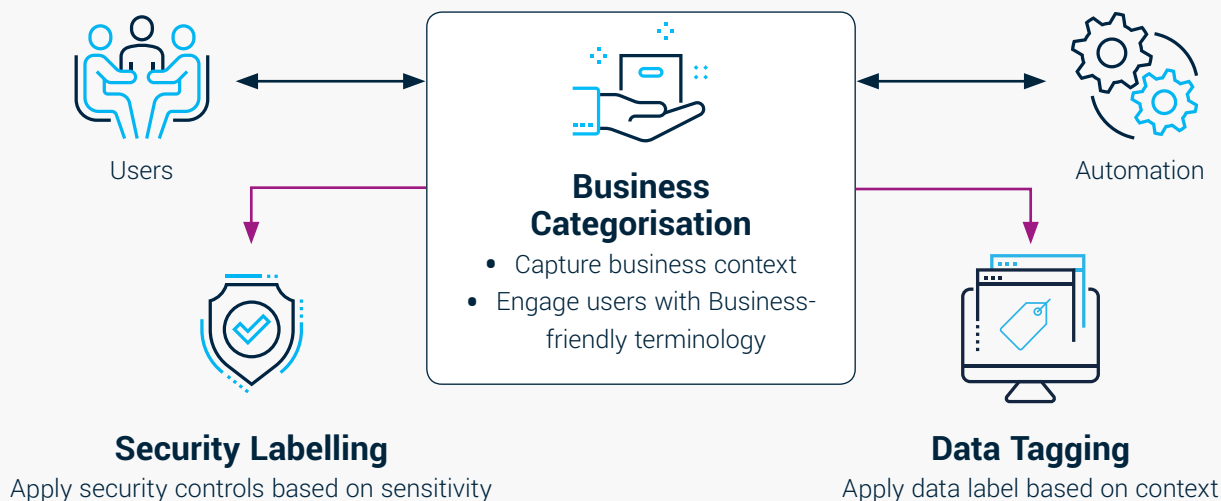
To make the most of the business-enabling value of data, organisations must embrace a more holistic approach to classification that embraces data categorisation and goes beyond simple security labelling. With these two domains inextricably linked, **Boldon James** offers a solution that addresses both your data management and security objectives to unlock the power of data across your organisation.

This is **business-centric data classification**. It not only delivers new levels of sophisticated data categorisation and security labelling, but simplifies the user experience to drive widescale engagement and a stronger security culture across your organisation.

With business-centric data classification from Boldon James, you can wrap a protective governance shield around your data throughout its lifecycle, blending together best practices in user-driven and automated classification techniques to meet the unique needs of your business today and tomorrow.

Business-Centric Data Classification

Users

Business Categorisation
- Capture business context
- Engage users with Business-friendly terminology

Automation

Security Labelling
Apply security controls based on sensitivity

Data Tagging
Apply data label based on context

A holistic approach to data classification requires the uniting of two schools of thought that currently operate as parallel universes.

Data security: Teams in the security domain consider classification as a means-to-an-end approach that involves **security labelling** of data according to its sensitivity, to help users and tools identify its value and protect it appropriately.

Data management: Data teams view classification as the **categorising** of information in order to improve its quality and utility. Business categorisation of data is based around establishing its context and the content, and then considering who has access to it, and how it is organised, stored, used and deleted across its lifecycle. This domain is primarily concerned with how data can be used to raise business performance and efficiency, streamline processes and improve data governance practices.

We see these two domains as inextricably linked – and for an organisation to get the full benefit from data classification they first need to address both worlds, and then make sure they're connected. To do this, you need to go back to the classification policy, and design an approach that goes beyond simple **security labelling** to one that harnesses **business categorisation**.

The Need for Business-Centric Data Classification

- **Standalone security labelling is restrictive and reduces the ability to extract full business value**
- **Organisations need a granular classification policy that captures key data attributes and characteristics**
- **Labelling policy shaped by information categories is more easily understood by users**
- **Key questions to ask are 'What type of information is it?' and 'What information does it contain?'**
- **The required information taxonomy can be unique to every business or area of business**
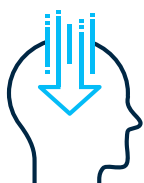
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