



CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE DIGITAL WORLD: PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA

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Abstract

The article is dedicated to pressing issues of personal data security in the modern digital world.

Keywords: Personal data, cybersecurity, digital world, legislation of Uzbekistan, identification, online security.

Introduction

We live in the 21st century, in the era of information technologies. The 21st century is an era of advanced information technology. The digital world is a modern world where the internet, social networks, artificial intelligence, and technologies have become an integral part of our lives. In this environment, personal information - our name, address, financial information, or our online activities - is collected, stored, and processed daily. However, these processes pose a threat to users' privacy and increase the risk of illegal use or disclosure of information. In the digital world, ensuring civil rights, especially the protection of personal data, is becoming one of the most pressing issues. This article examines the protection of personal data, legal norms, and ensuring user safety.

The digital world (English: "digital world") is a virtual environment based on information technologies, the internet, and digital devices. It is formed through computers, smartphones, the Internet, and other digital platforms. The advent of the internet, smartphones, and social networks has fundamentally changed human



life. For some, the network has become the foundation of business, while for others, it has become a source of information and a means of communication. Today, many people have stopped watching television, listening to the radio, buying music and films on physical media, and sending paper letters. Every day, more and more people around the world are being drawn into the global network. Several decades ago, the internet was called a separate "digital space" or "virtual world." The internet, which emerged in the lives of ordinary people, has made a huge leap over several decades from a simple tool for searching for information and exchanging mail messages to a vital space. "Everything through the network" is the motto of the modern generation. Today, approximately 4.66 billion people are truly participating in this process. Young people are the main consumers of the Internet and social networks. Today, 1.8 billion of the world's population are adolescents and young people. This age group is the primary and most active consumer of the internet and social networks¹. Based on internet data, the number of internet users in Uzbekistan as of January 2025 is 32.7 million. This equals 89% of the total population. Approximately 30-35% of Uzbekistan's population consists of young people aged 14-30, who are the most active internet users. According to 2022 data, Telegram, WhatsApp, and Facebook have been recognized as the most popular social networks and messengers in Uzbekistan².

Currently, Telegram and Instagram are more commonly used in Uzbekistan. These social networks are also widely used among young people. Telegram is a fast messaging tool where regular users can send each other photos, videos, audio, and various files up to 2 GB in addition to text messages, make voice and video calls, and participate in voice and video chats in channels and groups. As of 2025, Telegram has over 900 million active users. Instagram is a social network platform owned by Meta that allows users to share photos, videos, and stories. The platform is especially popular among young people (18-34 years old). As of 2025, Instagram has over 2 billion active users. These apps are one of the most popular messaging apps in the world.

Presidential Decree No. PP-25 of February 1, 2024, "On Priority Measures for the Establishment of the International Center for Digital Technologies," aims to increase the investment attractiveness of the digital technology market, attract

¹ <https://ict.xabar.uz/uz/startap/raqamli-hayot-tarzi>

² <https://innofund.uz/xabarlar/post-745>



foreign investment in the development of the digital economy, expand the export activities of IT enterprises, and strengthen integration with international markets. The decree approves the composition of the Coordinating Council for the establishment of the International Center for Digital Technologies and outlines priority measures for launching the center's operations. These measures are aimed at developing the digital economy, creating favorable conditions for foreign companies, increasing the export of IT services to \$5 billion, and increasing the number of IT Park residents³. For example, according to the results of the first 11 months of 2023, the number of IT Park residents reached 1598, and 411 companies have foreign capital participation from various countries, including the USA, Great Britain, Germany, Georgia, Korea, and various CIS countries. In particular, during the first 11 months of 2023, the number of export-oriented companies in IT Park increased significantly, reaching 550, of which 328 are BPO (Business Process Outsourcing) and 222 provide IT services. Compared to the same period last year, growth of 1.9 times was observed. In the first 11 months of 2023, the total volume of exports reached 280 million dollars, which is almost twice as much as the total figure for 2022 (140.9 million dollars)⁴. In our national legislation, in accordance with the Law "On Personal Data," the following basic concepts are used in the legal regulation of this area: personal data - information belonging to a specific individual or allowing for its identification, recorded electronically, on paper, and (or) in other tangible media; personal data base (database) - a database in the form of an information system containing personal data. Personal information consists of any information about a person. Personal data is divided into three types: firstly, general data; secondly, specific data; and thirdly, biometric data.

General information includes information such as a person's name, surname, passport, and other personal documents, date and place of birth, email address, place of residence, study, and work, family, social, and property status, where they received their education, their profession, and their income. Phone numbers are considered personal information only when they are written together with the owner's full name. The state registration number of a vehicle and the utility account

³ O'zbekiston Respublikasi Prezidentining 01.02.2024 yildagi 1-fevraldagi «Raqamli texnologiyalar xalqaro markazini tashkil etish bo'yicha birinchi navbatdagi chora-tadbirlar to'g'risida»gi PF-25-son Farmoni, Qonunchilik ma'lumotlari milliy bazasi, 01.02.2024-y., 06/24/25/0081-son, <https://lex.uz/uz/docs/-6786380>

⁴ <https://it-park.uz/uz/itpark/news/it-park-rezident-kompaniyalari-sharhi-iqtisodiy-ta-sir-va-ularning-bandlikni-ta-minlash-va-eksportni-kengaytirishdagi-rol>



are not considered personal data. Because the first of them relates directly to the car, and the second relates to the dwelling.

Special information refers to information related to a person's racial and national affiliation, political, religious, and philosophical views, health status, and intimate information, i.e., information related to their daily life.

Biometric data are personal data with physiological and biological characteristics that allow for the identification of a person's personality. For example, this includes information about a person's DNA, voice, pupils, fingerprints, facial features, height, and weight.

Worldwide, since 2007, January 28th has been celebrated annually as International Data Protection Day. In some countries, it is also celebrated as "Data Privacy Day." This date is organized so that internet users do not forget to comply with the rules of etiquette in this regard, which contributes to ensuring the security of virtual and real life. The decision to mark this day was made by the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers on April 26, 2006. Therefore, it was chosen in accordance with the European Council's Convention on the Protection of Persons in Connection with the Automated Processing of Personal Data of January 28, 1981. This Convention is the first international instrument that imposes obligations in the field of personal data protection. It defines mechanisms for protecting human rights, ensuring the inviolability of private life. Furthermore, the concept of "personal data" has been clarified. Therefore, it was chosen in accordance with the European Council's Convention on the Protection of Individuals in Connection with the Automated Processing of Personal Data of January 28, 1981. This Convention is the first international instrument that imposes obligations in the field of personal data protection. It defines mechanisms for protecting human rights, ensuring the inviolability of private life. Furthermore, the concept of "personal data" has been clarified⁵. The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Personal Data" (O'RQ-547, July 2, 2019) regulates relations in the field of collection, storage, processing, and protection of personal data⁶. The main purpose and scope of the law is to regulate relations in the field of personal data. Ensuring the protection and confidentiality of personal data of individuals. Guaranteeing human rights and freedoms The law applies to electronic, paper, or other types of

⁵ <http://nhrc.uz/oz/news/m12336>

⁶ O'zbekiston Respublikasining 2019-yil 2-iyuldagi "Shaxsga doir ma'lumotlar to'g'risida"gi O'RQ-547-son Qonuni, Qonun hujjatlari ma'lumotlari milliy bazasi, 03.07.2019-y., 03/19/547/3363-son; <https://lex.uz/uz/docs/-4396419>



information, but it does not apply to cases related to operational-search, intelligence, state secrets, or combating crime.

Strong passwords must be created to ensure the security of personal data. Passwords must contain at least 12 characters, including letters, numbers, and special symbols. Use the Internet with caution. We must refrain from clicking on unknown links and entering our personal information on suspicious websites. To protect our devices from malware, we must install and regularly update reliable antivirus software. Be careful on social media. Do not make your personal information (address, phone number, workplace) public. Check confidential parameters and only consult with trusted people. Regularly store important files on secure cloud services or on a hard drive. Many countries around the world have adopted special laws for the protection of personal data. For example, in the European Union, the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) law introduced strict requirements for the protection of users' personal data. In Uzbekistan, there is also a law "On the Protection of Personal Data," which requires taking measures against the illegal use of personal data. Users should be aware of their rights and should contact the relevant authorities if they discover that their information has been misused.

Conclusion

The protection of personal data depends not only on technical measures, but also on the vigilance and awareness of users. To ensure our security in the digital world, we must constantly update our knowledge and take a responsible approach to protecting our personal data. This is important not only for financial security, but also for the protection of our private lives. We must not forget that the more secure our information, the more freely we feel in the digital world.

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