GDPR: Right Side Of Automation

A Mailjet Research Study
In May 2017, Mailjet commissioned a new piece of research to identify whether marketers are aware that their operations constitute automated decision making and understand the actions required by the industry to update procedures to deal with the requirements of GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation). The survey was taken by 200 marketers from a selection of industries across the UK.

GDPR will provide a safeguard for individual, mitigating the risk that a potential damaging decision is taken without human intervention.
Executive Summary

The European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will come into effect on May 25th, 2018 and will have direct application in all EU members states - and at which time those organizations in non-compliance may face heavy fines.

One in four businesses are ‘unprepared’ for new data laws and a third believe their companies will not be compliant in time for the deadline. Consent is the biggest cause for concern, cited by 70% of respondents, followed by legacy data at 50% and profiling at 37%, the survey from the DMA found in February.

In light of the concern among marketers, to what extent are they familiar with the changes that must take place before the guidelines come into effect? Are they familiar with the steps they need to follow and the penalties they face should they fall short of requirements?

Marketing automation is a core practice of modern marketing and delivering effective one-to-one communications at scale. It is paramount that marketers understand what they are and are not able to do from a policy and ethics perspective.

With such a focus on GDPR in the media, Mailjet has aimed to see if brands are on the right side of automation?
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The Lay Of The Land: Data Protection
UK Inexperienced In Regulation Changes

Is the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) the first time you have had to change procedure for a regulation?

Only 38% of UK marketers have changed procedure for a regulation before.
Experience is particularly scarce within marketing agencies, where 90% are potentially facing change for the first time.
Significantly **23%** of marketers are aware their company may not be compliant with existing regulations.
Compliance Levels Unknown

Are you aware and compliant with the existing EU Data Protection Directive?

Only half of marketers state they are aware and compliant with the existing EU Data Protection Directive, dipping to 41% in in-house marketers.
42% of test respondents believe marketing communications will become more relevant to what recipients want to see and the quality of campaigns will improve under GDPR.
GDPR May Not Effect Marketing Practices

What impact will the GDPR have on your marketing practices when it comes into effect?

28% don’t believe there will be any effect as a result of the stricter consent based rules coming into place. This rises to 37% among marketers with decision making authority within their organization.
The GDPR Test Highlights Areas Of Confusion
Consent, under GDPR, must be which of the following:

- Freely given: 29%
- All of these: 27%
- A clear "opt-in" action (ticking a box): 26%
- Not sure: 25%
- Aware of the right to withdraw: 23%
- Specific to the type of data / processing: 21%
- Renewed regularly: 18%
- Aware of the data controller: 15%
- Written not simply selected: 9%
- Requested in a separate communication: 7%
- None of these: 2%

64% assume GDPR means they must ensure individuals are able to opt-out easily.
Under GDPR, marketers will be able to automate processing of which of the following data sets without “opt-in consent”:

- Not sure: 40%
- All of these: 19%
- Personal preferences: 16%
- Location: 13%
- Gender: 13%
- Performance at work: 12%
- Age: 12%
- Health: 11%
- None of these: 10%
- Economic situation: 10%
- Behaviour: 10%
- Interests: 10%

32% of UK marketing professionals believe they will be able to automate processing of location data without “opt-in consent”, this rises to 35% in the case of personal preferences data.
Over a third of marketers (34%) incorrectly think individuals over the age of 70 and those who have not been responsive for 90 days are exempt from all automated marketing decisions.
Which of the following steps have you put into action ahead of GDPR coming into force?

Only 17% of respondents have taken all of the recommended steps towards GDPR compliance, while the same proportion admit they have not enacted any such checks or changes.
When it comes to the new GDPR, which of the following statements do you believe to be true?

- Under GDPR, you are held responsible for notifying the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) within 72 hours of data breach: 28%
- Businesses that employ over 250 people must appoint a data protection officer (DPO): 22%
- All of these: 22%
- You must seek direct consent from subject of third party data to process this external data for campaign: 19%
- The GDPR will not apply to firms operating outside of the EU: 17%
- Individuals may be subject to an automated decision that is necessary for fraud prevention: 15%
- The Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations (PECR) will exempt B2B marketers from the GDPR: 13%
- None of these: 1%

44% of respondents claim businesses that employ over 250 staff must appoint a chief data officer, despite this only being a requirement where data is of a particularly sensitive nature.
In €, what is the maximum penalty for breaching the GDPR rules?

Marketers believe they’re facing a total fine of €5.2 million. In reality, the maximum penalty for noncompliance is €20 million, or 4% of their global revenue.
The new GDPR laws will mean you must ensure that individuals are:

- Able to opt-out easily: 45%
- Able to obtain an explanation of the decision and challenge it: 29%
- Not sure: 24%
- Free to express their point of view: 21%
- All of these: 19%
- Able to obtain human intervention: 19%
- Free of imprisonment: 13%
- Able to access the internet: 10%
- None of these: 2%

32% claim the regulatory changes will mean their organization must guarantee that all marketing recipients are free from imprisonment.
According to GDPR, what safeguards do you need in processing personal data for profiling purposes?

- Explicitly ask for consent: 36%
- Not sure: 30%
- Secure personal data in a way that prevents discriminatory effects: 26%
- Implement technical and organisational measures to minimise the risk of errors: 25%
- Time stamps for all incoming data sets: 23%
- All of these: 16%
- Third party verification of data accuracy and relevancy for purpose: 14%
- A central, EU based data centre for all internally managed processes: 11%
- Use mathematical or statistical procedures for profiling: 9%
- None of these: 2%

72% of UK marketers either cannot answer, or incorrectly list the necessary conditions to meet GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) requirements for “opt-in” consent.
While it’s relieving to hear 48% of marketers have begun reviewing how they seek and record consent, there’s no doubt that GDPR will have a huge impact when it comes into force. For many it’s the first time they have had to respond to international legislation and the scope of work this process entails is only just becoming clear to them.

It’s up to every partner in their ecosystem to provide the support, guidance and expertise that will ensure they don’t fall foul of the heavy penalties reserved for any noncompliant businesses. For marketers who think it will negatively impact their marketing efforts, need to put their customers interests ahead of more stringent processes and regulations.
Fly Higher

Give your email marketing strategy the edge against your competition with our Segmentation, Email Automation, A/X Testing and Campaign Comparison tools. Our Premium Features can enable you to meet consumer expectations.

Send breath-taking, personalized emails that land in the inbox at a time that’s relevant to your customers.

A True Partner

Mailjet’s sophisticated analytics tools and simple APIs give businesses the best understanding of how to maximize the benefits to each individual contact of every email sent. Founded in France, Mailjet achieves exceptionally high deliverability rates for its global customer base through a combined emphasis on achieving the email sender’s goals and safeguarding brand reputation over time.
Thank You