

Checklist

5 best practices for Contractual Rights Management



Firms need to set in place five key elements if they are to establish a robust approach to rights management that can help them avoid the potential distraction, cost and reputational risk posted by an audit, and enjoy the benefits of gaining control over data usage in their organizations.



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Capture

Rights Management starts with understanding the terms of the data license contract. This entails extracting the core usage rights from the broader contract terms and analysing so that stakeholders know what data they are entitled to have access to and what is off-limits to them.
- 2

Storage

To enable a Rights Management process, firms need to store the highlighted elements of the contract in a database in a structured way that allows access to those who need the details of the usage rights under the terms of the licensing agreement.
- 3

Interpretation

Different data providers and redistributors use different terms to describe how their services may be consumed. Once the key contract clauses have been identified, it's important that they are reviewed and interpreted by people with expert knowledge of the concepts of the contract and the stance of the providers involved.
- 4

Socialization

Having established what the contract means in terms of usage rights, this knowledge needs to be shared with relevant teams. These could include market data, but also developers, end-users and others who touch the data. This may extend to product management where services for clients include data elements
- 5

Compliance / Lineage

The final piece to the puzzle is ensuring the firm is compliant. Data lineage is key to ensuring that business owners and stakeholders are comfortable that their activities comply with their contractual agreements with data suppliers. A key aspect to this is tracking data flows so that managers understand where data is being used and by what systems and applications. In this way, any unauthorized usage can be quickly flagged and dealt with.



With these elements in place, firms can take a major step toward robust contractual rights management that can improve their understanding of how the business side uses data, keep them compliant with vendor licensing agreements, and generate evidence of compliance, thereby alleviating the need for expensive and distracting audits