



Data Protection Excellence Network launches DPO Executive Search Service to meet demand for Data Protection Officers

Number of advertised positions for Data Privacy Expertise in Singapore grow 23% year on year

Singapore, 11 December, 2018 - The Data Protection Excellence Network led by Straits Interactive and SMU Academy, the professional training arm of Singapore Management University, today announced a new Data Protection Officer (DPO) Search service provided by JonDavidson Pte Ltd to help meet demand for data protection officers.

The service was developed to help companies in the region source for competent DPOs as well as allow Singaporean companies who have not appointed a DPO to tap on salary support funding and on-the-job training assistance from SMU's Professional Conversion Programme (PCP) for DPOs.

"This is an ideal time to launch the DPO search service given the strong demand for these professionals. We now have a critical pool of graduates from our DPO courses, as well as our PCP (which trains mid-career professionals and retiring civil servants). This new service serves to enhance the eco-system and network which match aspiring and experienced DPOs with companies looking for data protection expertise," said Dr Lim Lai Cheng, Executive Director, SMU Academy.

The DPO Executive Search service will assist companies in applying for the PCP scheme, which is supported by Workforce Singapore (WSG) and SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG). "Combo" roles which include traditional job functions such as Human Resource, Marketing, Information Technology will also be covered under the scheme. Individuals must carry the DPO title in their designation or job description. The PCP will provide funding to companies with salary support and course fees support.

The set-up of the Search Service follows from the results of an annual survey by Straits Interactive of available job positions requiring data protection as part of the job description. The survey found that the number of advertised positions for data privacy expertise in Singapore grew 23% year-on-year in September 2018 as compared to the same period last year.

Key findings of the survey show:

- The number of advertised job positions from major portals increased from 105 positions in September, 2018 compared to 85 positions in 2017 (Growth of 23%);
- Although the percentage of job positions looking for a specific DPOs role had fallen compared to last year (33% of positions in 2019 vs 41% in 2018), companies are hiring more managerial positions compared to junior positions one year ago;
- In terms of vertical industries, data protection positions are being advertised in more verticals (such as business services, manufacturing and transportation) this year as compared to usual traditional/ regulated sectors such as banking & financial services, IT, and health care in 2017;
- Information Technology (39%) and Legal & Compliance (30%) continue to be the main functions hiring data protection related positions. However, there is a noticeable increase in business development positions in 2018;



- There were 25 job positions that relate to cybersecurity compared to 105 positions related to data privacy/protection roles. Hence, demand for data privacy/protection expertise outnumber cybersecurity by about 4-to-1.

"The survey reveals that demand for data protection expertise continues to grow double digits as Singapore continues to enforce and enhance the rules relating to the Personal Data Protection Act. The results suggest that more sectors are hiring staff with data protection as part of their job functions and in higher management positions. We are thus standing firm to our forecast that Singapore will require more than 10,000 data protection professionals within the next three to five years. In fact, we have already trained more than 1,800 DPOs with close to 300 already professionally certified or going through certification," said Kevin Shepherdson, CEO of Straits Interactive.

"As a DPO placement partner under the PCP scheme, JonDavidson is uniquely positioned to help our PMEs be part of this growth story. The data protection sectors in Singapore and the region are growing exponentially as digital adoption increases. We can place PMEs to seize these career opportunities in Singapore and go regional," said Sonny Yuen, Managing Director, JonDavidson Pte Ltd.

"Organisations that are hiring could benefit from the PCP, by upskilling their new hires with data protection competencies on top of their core skills. Moreover, the PCP represents a change opportunity for PMEs who might be considering a career switch."

Comprehensive information about the Professional Conversion Programme can be found at <http://www.wsg.gov.sg/programmes-and-initiatives/professional-conversion-programmes.html>

About the Annual DPO Job Survey

Conducted over a period of a month covering job positions available in September 2018, the job survey looked at all advertised positions across major job portals where companies indicated "data protection" or "data privacy" as either one of the job functions in the job description or is reflected in the job title as a data protection officer. The objective of the survey is to determine the demand for data protection expertise in the region and understand the relevant hiring trends.

About the Professional Conversion Programme

The Professional Conversion Programme (PCP) for Data Protection Officers, supported by Workforce Singapore and SkillsFuture Singapore, provides skills conversion to place and train PMETs in the role of a data protection officer. The PCP will leverage on SMU's existing SkillsFuture Series in Data Analytics, Cybersecurity and Tech-Enabled Services, and will be delivered jointly by SMU and Straits Interactive. The PCP aims to develop a pool of pre-qualified candidates for data protection officer roles. Participants will undergo an initial DPO hands-on training course, before being matched with employers participating in the PCP. This initiative will benefit SMEs by lowering the cost of hiring staff with data protection skills to develop and implement safeguards around processing personal data – the PCP will help SMEs acquire their own data protection expertise. More information can be found at: https://www.pdpc.gov.sg/-/media/Files/PDPC/PDF-Files/Help-for-Organisations/PCP_brochure.pdf



About Straits Interactive

Straits Interactive delivers Compliance-as-a-Service (CAAS) solutions and end-to-end governance platforms that enable trusted businesses, especially in the area of data protection and privacy. Founded in 2013, Straits Interactive delivered the first integrated privacy compliance management platform for local organisations in ASEAN. The company's aim is to help businesses achieve operational compliance and manage risk, through a combination of cloud technology and professional services.

Media Contacts:

Straits Interactive
Angela Schooling
Marketing & Communications Director
Mobile: +65 98222625
Email: angela@straitsinteractive.com

Clearstory
Kelly Horn
Senior Campaign Executive
Mobile: [+353 868875953](tel:+353868875953)
Email: kelly@clearstory.ie