



Legal Watch

NPC ADVISORY NO. 2026-01



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SUMMARY

The NPC released a comprehensive guidelines on “data scraping” (“Guidelines”), which involves automated or manual extraction of publicly available personal data from online resources.¹ These personal data, include text, images, audio and video recordings, and user profiles, from websites, applications, or other online sources.² NPC clarifies that while such data may be accessible without restriction, its collection and processing remain subject to Data Privacy Act of 2012 (DPA) and related issuances.

The advisory emphasizes that public availability of personal data does not equate to unrestricted use or implied consent beyond its original purpose. Personal Information Controllers (PICs) must establish a lawful basis for processing under Sections 12 or 13 of the DPA. Particularly, PICs should inform data subjects of scraping activities, implement privacy notices, and ensure that only adequate, suitable, necessary and relevant data are collected.

The NPC also imposes stricter obligations for large-scale scraping, or the extracting substantial volumes of publicly available personal data at a frequency that exceeds routine or small-batch operations, characterized by sustained patterns of extensive HTTP requests across vast numbers of webpages.³

To fully assess any potential issues on data processing, PICs must adopt technical, organizational, and physical security measures in their Privacy Impact Assessments (PIAs) to prevent unauthorized scraping practices such as bypassing website protections or engaging in deceptive methods in obtaining unauthorized data. Non-compliance may result in civil, criminal, or administrative liability.⁴

* Agency Name

National Privacy Commission
(NPC)

* Issuance Title

Guidelines on Data Scraping of
Publicly Available Personal
Data

* Issuance Date

13 April 2026

* Link

https://privacy.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/SGD_A_1.pdf





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ACTIONABLE ADVICE

Clients should reassess any data scraping activities and ensure that these are anchored on a valid lawful basis under the DPA, with a clearly defined and legitimate purpose. Processing should be limited to data that is adequate, relevant, and necessary, and supported by appropriate privacy notices informing data subjects of such activities.

Clients are advised to conduct a PIA and implement appropriate technical, organizational, and physical security measures. Where third parties are involved, agreements should clearly regulate permissible activities and prohibit unauthorized scraping. Clients should also adopt monitoring and retention policies to ensure compliance and accountability while minimizing legal and reputational risks.

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1 - Section 2 (A), NPC Advisory No. 2026-01.

2 - Id.

3 - Section 2 (C), NPC Advisory No. 2026-01.

4 - Section 4, NPC Advisory No. 2026-01.

