

Securing Global Goods

Data privacy and security for digital health open-source tools

digital
square

Digital health tools enable quick access to patient records for more coordinated and efficient patient care by providing integrated and actionable data across the healthcare continuum. This digital health approach allows countries to better track vaccination rates and disease outbreaks; enables health workers, doctors, clinicians, or pharmacists to access patients' complete health history; and supports more patients to receive the best possible care.

However, there are also unique challenges to ensuring digital tools are used in a manner that maintains data privacy and security. Both are crucial as cyberattacks can significantly threaten digital health systems by causing disruptions in the supply chain of life-saving medicines and impacting patient care. With digital transformation ongoing in health systems around the world, [PATH is committed](#) to the design and operationalization of data privacy. Preserving digital health solutions and ecosystems that are safe, secure, and aligned with national policies is paramount in combating cybercrime.

How Digital Square helps secure digital health

To help achieve security preparedness, Digital Square is sharing expertise and targeted knowledge exchange on cybersecurity with innovators, country governments, and implementers as well as donors, public health actors, and network partners across the globe. We are currently conducting security assessments, documentation, and data protection in Kenya, Uganda, and Vietnam. In addition, plans are underway for expansion to other resource-constrained settings where the need for strong cybersecurity measures is increasingly apparent.



For our global goods partners, Digital Square offers a series of webinars that provide participants with practical and actionable information on data privacy and cybersecurity. The webinars also provide best practices for open-source security management and useful resources to advance our partners' cybersecurity journeys.

Digital Square security webinars

- *Fundamentals of data privacy and security for [global goods](#)*: This session lays the foundation for ensuring secure open-source software. It provides the basics of data privacy, security, secure development deployment, security management practices, and practical approaches to engage different stakeholders on security.
- *Data privacy and security guidelines for digital health [decision-makers](#)*: This session is aimed at donors, country governments, and other decision-makers shaping the privacy and security policy of organizations. It delves into organizational health and resilience to cyberattacks, from understanding cybersecurity threats, embedding security into organization structure, growing relevant skill sets, developing a positive cybersecurity organizational culture, risk management, and collaborating across digital health systems users.



- *Data privacy and security for **developers** designing and creating digital health systems:* This session explores the security implications of modern code development and deployment practices in health systems. Digital Square’s cybersecurity expert guides developers into producing clean and maintainable code.
- *Data privacy and security guidelines for digital health system **implementers**:* This session aims to help organizations manage their cybersecurity risks with an easy-to-follow ten-step process. Adopting this process reduces the likelihood of cyberattacks and minimizes the impact on the health system when incidents occur.



[Sign up here](#) to receive notifications for upcoming webinars.

About Digital Square:

Digital Square at PATH is a thriving digital health marketplace—or ‘square’—where supply and demand come together to accelerate health equity through the development, adoption, scale, and delivery of digital health innovations. The initiative does this by aligning investors and government bodies around a shared digital health vision based on country needs and priorities, working with regional and country bodies to strengthen national-level digital health governance to support country digital transformation as well as promoting the development, adoption, and reuse of digital global goods for health.

Digital Square partners with innovators to increase the availability, adaptability, and maturity of high-quality software, service, and content options for countries. Digital Square supports the global digital health community—including country governments—in understanding, aligning, and applying best practices for data privacy and cybersecurity.

PATH is a global nonprofit dedicated to achieving health equity. With more than 40 years of experience forging multisector partnerships, and with expertise in science, economics, technology, advocacy, and dozens of other specialties, PATH develops and scales up innovative solutions to the world’s most pressing health challenges. PATH provides consultations, hosts webinars, and conducts trainings to share advice and guidance on data privacy and cybersecurity best practices.

