

Life as a DPO in Silicon Valley  
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**Abstract:**

As Data Protection Officer for Google, I'm privileged to work on privacy in a large multinational company where user trust and privacy are the number one internal priority. But, that's not a typical career journey. In this talk we follow a hypothetical journey of a start-up company, and what it means to work on privacy - and be a DPO - in that dynamic environment as the company grows. What should be top of mind? And when? Our hypothetical company is successful, and we eventually discuss how I approach my role as DPO and Privacy Governance Lead at Google.

**Bio:**

Emil Ochotta started life in Canada and after various twists and turns has wound up living in Silicon Valley. In one stop, he obtained a Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA. His professional journey was similarly circuitous touching on analog circuit design, software for computer design, internet ad serving, and finally privacy. Along the way he's published 17 peer-reviewed publications, been granted 11 patents, and become a Certified Information Privacy Professional by the International Association of Privacy Professionals. Emil is currently global lead for Privacy Governance at Alphabet and Google's DPO (Data Protection Officer). His role includes a broad set of responsibilities notably the detailed review of all Google product launches from a privacy perspective. Previously at Google, Emil spent 7 years as "Lead for Ads Privacy & Identity", where he had engineering responsibility for a variety of projects such as GDPR compliance. His focus is on building user trust in Google's products by establishing principles, policies, processes and infrastructure that enable principled use of user data.