POLAR SECURITY

DSPM Maturity Model 2023

Benchmark Your Data Security Posture in 5 Minutes

Move from reactive firefighting to continuous, data-first security with DSPM.

> "Most organizations don't know what they don't know about their sensitive data. DSPM changes that in minutes."

Why DSPM Maturity Matters Now

In 2023, cloud data sprawl, shadow data, AI-driven data usage, and stringent regulations have made traditional security approaches insufficient. Organizations need a data-first security strategy.

Key Challenges

Shadow Data Explosion

Over 80% of cloud data is unstructured or unknown (shadow data)

Breach Cost Crisis

Average data breach cost exceeds $4.5M, with healthcare and financial services facing significantly higher costs

Compliance Pressure

Requirements (HIPAA, PCI-DSS, GDPR, SOC 2) demand continuous evidence of data control

New Data Flow Risks

Third-party and AI tools are creating new data flow risks that CSPM, DLP, and CASB tools cannot address

DSPM (Data Security Posture Management) answers the critical questions other tools cannot: **Where is our sensitive data? How is it moving? Who can access it? And is your posture compliant right now?**

The DSPM Maturity Model

The DSPM Maturity Model defines four progressive stages of data security posture.

1

Level 1: Reactive

Manual discovery using spreadsheets and ad-hoc scans. No visibility into shadow data. Reactive breach response only. Compliance audits are painful, infrequent, and error-prone.

2

Level 2: Developing

Basic cloud inventory tools in use. Periodic scans for sensitive data. Some access monitoring in place. Still significant blind spots in data flows, third-party access, and unknown datastores.

3

Level 3: Proactive

Automated data discovery and classification across known environments. Continuous monitoring of sensitive data. Real-time visibility into some data flows and access. Risk scoring and basic remediation workflows implemented.

4

Level 4: Optimized

Agentless, continuous DSPM across multi-cloud, SaaS, and data warehouses. Full shadow data control with automated remediation. Advanced anomaly detection, complete data lineage, and third-party risk visibility. Integrated compliance reporting and board-level visibility. Data security is now a strategic business enabler.

Assess Your Current Maturity

Take this quick 10-question self-assessment to benchmark your organization's DSPM maturity. For each question, score yourself on this scale: **Never (0) / Rarely (1) / Sometimes (2) / Often (3) / Always (4).**

1

Complete Data Inventory

Do you have a complete, continuously updated inventory of all sensitive data across your cloud environments?

2

Shadow Data Discovery

Can you automatically discover unknown (shadow) data stores in your cloud accounts without manual effort?

3

Real-Time Data Flow Visibility

Do you have real-time visibility into how sensitive data moves between services, accounts, regions, and third-party tools?

4

Access Visibility

Can you see exactly who (internal users and third parties) has access to sensitive data at any given moment?

5

Anomalous Access Alerts

Do you receive actionable alerts when anomalous access to sensitive data occurs?

Self-Assessment (Continued)

Continue scoring each question: **Never (0) / Rarely (1) / Sometimes (2) / Often (3) / Always (4).**

1

Data Classification Speed

How quickly can your team classify new sensitive data (PII, PHI, PCI data) as it appears?

2

Compliance Reporting

Is data security posture part of your regular compliance reporting and board updates?

3

Automated Remediation

Can you automatically remediate high-risk data exposures (such as public buckets containing sensitive data)?

4

SaaS & Warehouse Visibility

Do you have clear visibility into data stored in SaaS applications and modern data warehouses like Snowflake and Databricks?

5

Agentless & Zero Impact

Is your current data security approach agentless and with zero performance impact on production workloads?

Add up your points across all 10 questions. **Maximum score: 40.** See the next page for your maturity level interpretation.

Scoring & Interpretation

Add up your points (maximum 40) and find your maturity level below.

0–15
Reactive

High risk with significant blind spots and manual processes.

16–25
Developing

Basic visibility exists but major gaps remain in shadow data and continuous monitoring.

26–33
Proactive

Solid foundation is in place, but there is still room to reach full automation and real-time control.

34–40
Optimized

Industry-leading data security posture with continuous, agentless visibility and automated remediation.

Accelerate Your DSPM Maturity with Polar Security

Polar Security is the pioneer of agentless DSPM - purpose-built to give security teams complete, continuous visibility into their cloud data from day one. No agents. No manual effort. No blind spots.

The Four Pillars of Polar DSPM

Automated Data Inventory

Continuously discovers, classifies, and catalogs every datastore —-managed, unmanaged, and shadow data, without human intervention.

Continuous Discovery

Every new datastore is detected the moment it appears. Complete coverage isn't a project milestone - it's the default state.

Anomalous Access Detection

Full visibility into who accesses sensitive data and when - internal users and third parties alike. Alerts come with context, not just noise.

Real-Time Data Flow Monitoring

Track sensitive data movement across services, accounts, and borders continuously. Policy violations are flagged the instant they occur.

Key Benefits

100%	<5min	0
Shadow Data Surfaced	Time to First Insight	Manual Overhead

7 Non-Negotiable DSPM Capabilities

Must-have capabilities checklist for any enterprise-grade DSPM solution:

01

Agentless Deployment

Agentless deployment with read-only access

02

Shadow Data Discovery

Automatic discovery of shadow and unmanaged data stores

03

AI-Powered Classification

AI-powered sensitive data classification (PII, PHI, PCI, IP)

04

Data Flow Mapping

Real-time data flow mapping and lineage

05

Access Visibility

Complete third-party and internal access visibility

06

Anomaly Detection

Anomaly detection and actionable risk alerts

07

Compliance Reporting

Continuous compliance reporting and automated remediation

> Ready to move to **Optimized DSPM maturity?**

Book a Personalized DSPM Maturity Assessment →

Polar Security · The Pioneer of Agentless Data Security Posture Management