



# Safeguarding data security

## Introduction:

You will understand the emerging threats to the data security of our country, and the importance of safeguarding the data security in today's digital world.

## Learning Objectives:

### Content

To explore and develop understanding of the following:

- the emerging threats to the data security of our country;
- the importance of safeguarding data security in today's digital world; and
- our responsibility for safeguarding data security and how students can raise their schoolmates' awareness of data security at school.

### Language

To develop English language knowledge and skills, e.g.

- the use of reporting verbs to introduce words/ideas of others.

## Main Tasks:

- Viewing the video **"Big Data Footprints"** to understand the emerging threats to data security
- Participating in a group discussion about the issue of data security in China
- Making an individual presentation relating to the issue of data security

## Part 1 – Warm-up Activities

- i. Before exploring the topic, write down in the box below what springs to your mind when it comes to data security.

You may refer to the webpage on “Major Fields of National Security” ([https://www.nsed.gov.hk/national\\_security/index.php?l=en&a=national\\_security\\_main\\_focus](https://www.nsed.gov.hk/national_security/index.php?l=en&a=national_security_main_focus)) for some ideas.



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- ii. Watch the following video from *The China Current* and answer the questions that follow.

### **Big Data Footprints**



<https://chinacurrent.com/story/21072/big-data-footprints>

1. Explain why WeChat is considered a 'lead player' in the market.

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2. According to the video, how are the data generated by Apps like WeChat used to influence users' behaviour?

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3. What change did the pandemic bring to the Chinese economy?

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4. Cite an example from the video to show that businesses use data to predict what users might purchase and other important trends.

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5. What is the 'vicious cycle' regarding the use of data?

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## **Part 2 – Group Interaction**

Situation: Your class is working on a project on national security. Your group is going to discuss the issue of safeguarding data security. Read the article and conduct a discussion of 10-15 minutes in groups of 3-4. Provide evidence and support your arguments by quoting from the video in Part 1 and the article below.

### **Ministry urges vigilance on data security**

By Yang Zekun | China Daily

The Ministry of State Security has called for heightened vigilance against persistent and covert risks to data security, as well as the strengthening of the protection of crucial information infrastructure and early detection of data security risks.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, the ministry cautioned that problems and risks, such as unclear ownership, unauthorised access and disorderly transactions, have emerged in data collection, storage, transmission and usage. Illicit activities such as data leaks, trafficking and misuse have increased, posing challenges to data security.

The statement emphasised the close links between data security, national security and public interests. It also cautioned that foreign intelligence agencies are often detected as being behind cyberattacks targeting China.

The ministry noted that in recent years, it has become more evident that some overseas organisations attempted to gain access to China's important data. However, Chinese national security agencies have promptly responded to crack down on these illegal and criminal activities in accordance with the law, effectively safeguarding data security and preventing further damage.

China has been a prominent victim of cyberattacks, with hackers and criminal groups frequently targeting its critical information infrastructure and key industries. The statement underlined that such intrusions endanger not only personal privacy and trade secrets, but also national data security.

According to a report by China Internet Network Information Center, as of December 2022, the number of Internet users in China had reached 1.067 billion.

(Adapted from: <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202308/17/WS64dd4e7da31035260b81c8ae.html>)

### Discussion Topic:

Your group is going to discuss the issue of safeguarding data security. You may want to talk about:

- the importance of data security to China
- what China has done to safeguard data security
- how we can help safeguard data security
- what the school can do to raise students' awareness of data security
- anything else you think is important

### Notes

### **Part 3 – Individual Response**

In this part, each of the group members will take turn to **give a short speech of about one minute** on one of the following questions. Provide evidence and support your argument by quoting from the video in Part 1 and the article in Part 2.

1. What are some internal and external threats to our country's data security?
2. The rising mobile Internet usage is a potential threat to our country's data security. What are your views on this claim?
3. Wearable smart devices, commonly known as wearables, have become popular over the last ten years. Smartwatches like Apple Watch can collect health-tracking data for the users and allow them to review it later. Would you be concerned about data security if you wore a wearable smart device?

## Indirect Quoting

Quoting is one way to borrow others' words and ideas to provide evidence and support your argument. In an indirect quote, the writer's words are presented in another way without quotation marks. A change in the tense or sentence structure may be needed.



**Reporting verbs** are used to introduce words/ideas of others and sometimes show the attitude of the speaker/writer. For example:

- In the video, the journalist **highlighted** the emerging threats to data security.
- According to the article, the Ministry of State Security **recommended** strengthening the protection of crucial information infrastructure and early detection of data security risks.

The following table provides a list of common reporting verbs:

Functions	Examples
agreeing	admit, agree, accept, acknowledge, recognise, support
advising	advise, propose, recommend, suggest, urge
arguing and persuading	advocate, argue, caution, convince, prove
believing	assert, assume, believe, claim, insist, maintain
concluding	conclude, infer
disagreeing and questioning	challenge, debate, deny, disagree, doubt, oppose, question, refute, reject
discussing	comment, discuss, explore
emphasising	accentuate, emphasise, highlight, stress, warn
evaluating and examining	analyse, assess, compare, contrast, evaluate, examine, investigate
explaining and presenting	clarify, define, describe, explain, illustrate, mention, point out, present, remark, reveal, state

To learn more about the common features and skills in the academic use of English, visit the ***e-Learning Platform on Academic Use of English***:

<https://www.edb.gov.hk/attachment/en/curriculum-development/kla/eng-edu/Academic-Eng/e-platform/>

