

A2.1 Information Asset Owner Register

The World Bank recognizes that information is a critical asset and that accountability for its protection and proper use must be clearly assigned. The Information Asset Owner Register establishes the framework for identifying and managing Information Asset Ownership within the Bank. An "Information Asset" is defined broadly to include not only IT systems and applications but also significant datasets, databases, intellectual property (such as economic models or research), and business processes that are critically dependent on information.

The concept of an **Information Asset Owner (IAO)**, sometimes referred to as a **Data Owner**, is central to this framework. The IAO is typically a senior individual from the business or functional unit that is primarily responsible for the creation, use, or management of the information asset. While **IT departments** (System Owners or **Data Custodians**) are responsible for the technical infrastructure and day-to-day operation of systems that store or process information, the IAO retains ultimate business accountability for the information asset itself. This distinction is vital: IT manages the "pipes" and "containers," while the business IAO owns the "water" that flows through them and is stored within.

Responsibilities of an Information Asset Owner at WDB include:

- Ensuring the information asset is accurately identified, described, and registered.
- Assigning an appropriate classification to the information asset in accordance with the WDB Information Classification Policy (detailed in Section A.5), considering its sensitivity, criticality, and any legal or regulatory requirements.
- Defining and approving access controls, usage rules, and handling procedures for the information asset, based on its classification and business requirements.
- Collaborating with the CISO's office and relevant IT departments to ensure that appropriate security measures are implemented and maintained for the asset.
- Periodically reviewing and reassessing the risks associated with the information asset and ensuring that mitigation measures are adequate.
- Ensuring that the information asset complies with applicable WDB policies, including data retention and disposal requirements.
- Approving significant changes to the information asset or the systems that process it.

The Information Asset Owner Register itself is a formal record. The template for this register draws from established practices and includes fields designed to capture essential metadata about each asset and its ownership.

Key Table: Information Asset Owner Register

The following table provides a sample structure and fictitious entries for the WDB Information Asset Owner Register.

Asset ID	Asset Name	Asset Description	Information Asset Owner (Role & Dept)	Key Users/Departments	Data Classification (as per A.5)	Business Criticality	Retention Period
IA001	Client Financial Data Repository	Central database holding financial statements, transaction histories of borrowing member entities.	Head of Client Financial Analysis (Operations)	Lending Operations, Risk Management	L3 - Restricted	High	Loan Term + 10 Years
IA002	Global Economic Forecast Models	Proprietary econometric models and underlying datasets used for global and regional forecasts.	Chief Economist (Economic Research)	Research Dept, Policy Advisory Group	L2 - Confidential	High	Permanent (Models), 20 Years (Data)
IA003	Human Resources Employee Database	Contains Personally Identifiable Information (PII), payroll data, performance reviews for WDB staff.	Head of Human Resources (HR)	HR, Payroll, Senior Management	L3 - Restricted	High	Employment Duration + 7 Years
IA004	Treasury Management System	Integrated system managing WDB's liquidity, investments, debt issuance, and funding operations.	Treasurer (Finance)	Treasury Department	L3 - Restricted	Critical	Transaction Record + 10 Years
IA005	Public Website Content	All information published on the WDB's official external website (www.worldbank.sim) .	Head of Communications (Communications)	Communications, Public Affairs	L1 - Public	Medium	As per content lifecycle policy
IA006	SWIFT Interface System	System and processes for connecting to and transacting over the SWIFT network.	Head of Payment Operations (Operations)	Payment Operations, Treasury	L3 - Restricted	Critical	Transaction Record + 10 Years
IA007	Internal Audit Reports Database	Repository of all internal audit reports, findings, and management responses.	Chief Internal Auditor (Internal Audit)	Internal Audit, Board Audit Committee	L3 - Restricted	High	Permanent