

RESOURCE

DPO vs Vanta/Drata

Why compliance automation and a DPO solve different problems, and why you may need both

	Outsourced DPO	Vanta / Drata
What it does	Privacy compliance: GDPR, DPO appointment, DPIAs, breach management, regulator engagement, enterprise questionnaires	Security certification: SOC 2, ISO 27001, HIPAA evidence collection, continuous monitoring
Legal role	Named DPO notified to the supervisory authority where required. Formal GDPR accountability.	No legal role. Software tool.
Handles	DSARs, vendor DPAs, privacy policies, breach response, regulator liaison, deal support	Evidence collection, control monitoring, audit prep, security questionnaire automation
Does NOT handle	SOC 2 / ISO certification, security control monitoring	GDPR compliance, DPO appointment, regulator engagement, DPIAs, breach notification
Cost	EUR 500 to 5,000+/month	Quote-based

Do I need a DPO, or is Vanta/Drata enough?

Under GDPR, a DPO is required if your core activities involve large-scale processing of special-category data or regular and systematic monitoring at scale. Where a DPO is required, it must be a natural person (or a service provided by individuals), not a software tool. Many enterprise buyers expect a named DPO even when it is not legally required.

Many Series A+ companies benefit from both:

- Vanta or Drata for SOC 2 / ISO 27001 certification
- An outsourced DPO for GDPR compliance, privacy program management, and enterprise deal support

Different budget lines solving different problems. They complement each other.

Ready to talk? Book a free scoping call: engagecompliance.co/contact

Engage Compliance: senior-led outsourced DPO for tech companies. DPO and privacy lead across 100+ organizations including Amazon, Coinbase, Robinhood, and Medtronic (prior experience, not endorsements).

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