# White House unveils new AI regulations for national security and intelligence agencies



**White House Unveils New AI Regulations for National Security and Intelligence Agencies**

In a significant policy announcement on Thursday, the White House introduced a new set of guidelines aimed at regulating the use of artificial intelligence by United States national security and intelligence agencies. These regulations strive to balance the substantial potential benefits of AI with the significant risks associated with its misuse, especially within critical government functions.

The new policy framework has been designed to allow national security agencies to leverage the most advanced AI technologies, while implementing measures to prevent their exploitation in harmful ways. This comes against a backdrop of rapidly evolving advancements in artificial intelligence, which have sparked wide-spread optimism about their transformative potential across various sectors, including military, national security, and espionage. However, concerns have also risen regarding possible negative applications, such as mass surveillance, cyberattacks, and the use of lethal autonomous devices.

Under the new rules, certain AI applications will be strictly prohibited. Notably, any AI systems that infringe upon constitutionally protected civil rights or those that could potentially automate the deployment of nuclear weapons will not be permitted. The guidelines are a direct response to an executive order from President Joe Biden, issued last year, directing federal agencies to establish frameworks for the ethical use of AI.

Biden administration officials, briefing journalists anonymously under the White House’s briefing conditions, indicated that the guidelines aim not only to promote responsible AI usage but also to stimulate further AI development. There is a competitive edge to this; the administration believes these policies are crucial in maintaining the US’s technological edge over global rivals such as China, who are also significantly investing in AI capabilities.

The safety of the nation's computer chip supply chain is another focal point of the policy. Intelligence agencies are tasked with prioritising efforts to shield American industries from potential foreign espionage. This is increasingly vital as AI systems become more integrated and reliant on sophisticated semiconductor technology, which is crucial to modern computing and data processing.

Lethal autonomous drones, capable of independently executing targeted operations, remain a pivotal concern regarding the militarisation of AI. Last year, the US championed a declaration advocating for international collaboration in establishing standards for these autonomous drones, underscoring an urgent need for comprehensive, globally accepted protocols.

The newly announced rules are expected to play a crucial role in ensuring that AI is not just a tool of power, but also a mechanism that adheres to American values and legal standards. The administration's initiative reflects an understanding of the rapidly shifting landscape of AI technology and its potential implications for national security, safeguarding both technological advancements and ethical foundations.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2024/10/24/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-outlines-coordinated-approach-to-harness-power-of-ai-for-u-s-national-security/> - Corroborates the introduction of the new National Security Memorandum on AI, its focus on ensuring the U.S. leads in safe, secure, and trustworthy AI development, and its directives on AI governance and risk management.
* <https://ww2.aip.org/fyi/biden-sets-priorities-for-applications-of-ai-to-national-security> - Supports the details of the NSM, including the need to balance AI benefits with risks, the prohibition of certain AI applications, and the emphasis on responsible AI usage.
* <https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2024/10/24/white-house-ai-nation-security-memo/> - Provides context on the White House's order for the Pentagon and intel agencies to increase AI use, highlighting the importance of AI in national security and the need for safeguards.
* <https://www.csis.org/analysis/biden-administrations-national-security-memorandum-ai-explained> - Explains the historical precedent and the comprehensive nature of the NSM, including its focus on counterintelligence, AI safety, and governance frameworks.
* <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/press-briefings/2024/10/24/background-press-call-on-the-u-s-approach-to-harnessing-the-power-of-ai-for-u-s-national-security/> - Details the context and objectives behind the NSM, including maintaining a competitive edge over rivals like China and ensuring AI aligns with American values and legal standards.
* <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2024/10/24/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-outlines-coordinated-approach-to-harness-power-of-ai-for-u-s-national-security/> - Corroborates the measures to protect the nation's computer chip supply chain and prevent foreign espionage, highlighting the importance of semiconductor technology.
* <https://ww2.aip.org/fyi/biden-sets-priorities-for-applications-of-ai-to-national-security> - Supports the concern about lethal autonomous drones and the need for international collaboration in establishing standards for these devices.
* <https://www.csis.org/analysis/biden-administrations-national-security-memorandum-ai-explained> - Details the framework for AI governance and risk management, including the prohibition of AI systems that infringe on civil rights or automate nuclear weapon deployment.
* <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2024/10/24/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-outlines-coordinated-approach-to-harness-power-of-ai-for-u-s-national-security/> - Explains the role of the AI Safety Institute and the National AI Research Resource in ensuring the safe and trustworthy development of AI.
* <https://ww2.aip.org/fyi/biden-sets-priorities-for-applications-of-ai-to-national-security> - Corroborates the administration's efforts to streamline visa processing for highly skilled AI researchers and the importance of attracting global talent.
* <https://www.csis.org/analysis/biden-administrations-national-security-memorandum-ai-explained> - Provides additional context on the NSM's directives for federal agencies to reform their human capital, acquisition, and contracting practices to better integrate AI into national security missions.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/ap-joe-biden-white-house-washington-china-b2634848.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data