

LmunA 2023

Research report

Forum: First General assembly
Issue: Ensuring the protection of personal data and
technology in the Era of Artificial Intelligence
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Arnhem

First General Assembly

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Introduction:

Dear Esteemed Delegates,

It is with great pleasure to welcome you to this year's first general assembly at LmunA 2023, and I'm delighted to be serving as your chair. I look forward to working with you throughout the 3 days we have.

Pol Caceci

Deputy Chair of the First General Assembly

In the modern age, where large amounts of personal information are generated and processed daily, the safety of private data has emerged as a great concern. This concern is further amplified by the prevalence and advancement of AI technologies. AI, while offering transformative capabilities in many fields, also presents new challenges and risks to the privacy and security of individuals' personal data. As AI technology becomes integrated into our lives, it becomes necessary to understand the balance between confidentiality of our privacy, and innovation .

This research report aims to provide an understanding of the issue at hand, including its historical context, consequences it has had and will have and prior/possible solutions. It is meant as a rough guide used alongside independent research so delegates may be prepared for the conference and be able to write resolutions as necessary.

Definitions of key terms

Personal Data: Personal data is any information that relates to an identified or identifiable living individual. Different pieces of information, which collected together can lead to the identification of a particular person, also constitute personal data.

VPN : VPN stands for "Virtual Private Network" and describes the opportunity to establish a protected network connection when using public networks, A VPN hides users IP address by letting the network redirect it through a specially configured remote server run by a VPN host.

Machine Learning: A subset of AI that involves training algorithms to learn from data and improve their performance over time without being explicitly programmed

Anonymization: The process of removing or altering personally identifiable information from data to make it impossible to associate with an individual

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General overview

In the era of rapidly advancing Artificial Intelligence (AI), the protection of personal data and technology has become an imperative global concern. To safeguard against potential threats posed by AI, the United Nations (UN) should consider implementing a multi-faceted approach that encompasses policy frameworks, international cooperation, and technological safeguards.

Major parties involved

AI Policy Exchange

The Artificial Intelligence Policy Exchange is an emerging global multi-stakeholder community, united by a common mission, to foster inclusion and responsibility in AI adoption for the benefit of humanity. AI Policy Exchange was founded in the winter of 2019, as conversations around the benefits and harms from AI adoption started gaining ground in India and other Global South regions, the main mission of this non-profit organization is to help create discourse and to guide AI into a safe and responsible use.

Amnesty Tech

Amnesty Tech, by Amnesty International, is a movement of 10 million coders, data scientists and technologists, who strive to protect the people from big tech companies. They aim to Bolster social movements in an age of surveillance; Challenge the systemic threat to our rights posed by the surveillance-based business model of the big tech companies; Ensure accountability in the design and use of new and frontier technologies; Encourage innovative uses of technology to help support our fundamental rights.

CISA

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency is a pivotal federal agency within the United States Department of Homeland Security. Established in 2018, CISA plays a vital role in safeguarding the nation's critical infrastructure and enhancing cybersecurity across various sectors. Its mission encompasses a wide range of responsibilities, including threat detection and response, cybersecurity awareness and education, and the promotion of resilience in the face of evolving cyber threats.

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Timeline of Key Events:

- 1991: The World Wide Web is introduced to the public.
- 2000: The EU adopts the Data Protection Directive, establishing data protection principles for member states.
- 2012: Deep learning techniques lead to significant breakthroughs in AI, including image and speech recognition.
- 2013: Edward Snowden reveals extensive surveillance programs by U.S. intelligence agencies, sparking a global debate on privacy.
- 2016: The European Union adopts the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which goes into effect in 2018, providing strict rules for data protection and privacy.
- 2017: Facebook's Cambridge Analytica scandal exposes the mishandling of personal data and triggers increased scrutiny of tech companies.
- 2020: The European Commission publishes its AI White Paper, outlining its approach to AI regulation and ethics.
- 2021: The EU proposes the Artificial Intelligence Act, which aims to regulate AI systems and mitigate potential risks.

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Previous attempts to solve the issue:

The European Union's "AI white paper" which identified seven key requirements: technical robustness and safety, human agency and oversight, privacy and data governance, transparency, diversity, non-discrimination and fairness, societal and environmental wellbeing, accountability

UNESCO, a UN agency, published a report on "Steering AI and Advanced ICTs for Knowledge Societies" in 2020. The report includes recommendations for the ethical development and deployment of AI technologies, addressing issues such as privacy, discrimination, and accountability.

Possible solutions:

The UN can establish a framework for global data governance that sets clear guidelines on data usage, access, and ownership. This framework could include the development of standardized international data protection laws and regulations, ensuring that individuals have greater control over their personal data, and that companies and governments are held accountable for their data handling practices. Encouraging nations to align their data protection policies with this framework would create a harmonized global approach to safeguarding personal data from AI-driven abuses. International cooperation is essential in addressing AI-related threats to personal data and technology. The UN can facilitate the sharing of best practices and threat intelligence among member states, enabling countries to collaborate in identifying and mitigating cybersecurity vulnerabilities. Establishing protocols for cross-border law enforcement cooperation to combat cybercrime and AI-driven threats would also be crucial. Encouraging dialogue and information exchange through a dedicated UN agency or task force focused on AI and cybersecurity could foster trust and cooperation among nations. Investing in research and development of AI technologies that prioritize privacy and security should be a priority. The UN can support initiatives that promote ethical AI development, including AI systems that are explainable, accountable, and resistant to bias. Encouraging the private sector, academia, and governments to work together in developing and adopting AI technologies that prioritize security can lead to a safer digital landscape where personal data remains protected from malicious AI applications.

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