Center for AI and Digital Policy

CAIDP Update 7.18

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Welcome to CAIDP Update!

US regulators criticized the Transportation Security Administration's airport facial recognition program as Congress moves to protect traveler privacy and ban Chinese AI model DeepSeek from federal contracts.

The Trump administration overhauled chip export rules while Pope Leo XIV named AI a central challenge in his first address.

Kenya ordered Worldcoin to destroy all biometric data within seven days as China launched its two-phase "Clearing the Air" AI regulation campaign. European Meta users face a fast-approaching deadline to prevent their data being used for AI training.

CAIDP submitted strategic recommendations to the African Commission on Human Rights and urged Japan to ratify the Council of Europe's AI Treaty.

There's still time to apply for CAIDP's Fall 2025 AI Policy Clinic. Applications accepted through June 15, 2025.

AI POLICY NEWS

TSA Facial Recognition Criticized as Congress Moves Against DeepSeek and Trump Alters Chip Export Policy

Federal oversight officials have criticized the Transportation Security Administration's expanding facial recognition program, citing

transparency failures and unclear consent practices in a new 125-page report.

The Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board (PCLOB) found that TSA has deployed more than 2,100 facial recognition devices across over 250 U.S. airports without adequately assessing whether the technology meaningfully improves security.

Senators Jeff Merkley and John Kennedy responded with plans to reintroduce the Traveler Privacy Protection Act, which would mandate human ID checks as the default verification method and prohibit TSA from storing biometric data beyond

immediate verification.

In a parallel move, Senators Bill Cassidy and Jacky Rosen introduced legislation to ban federal contractors from using DeepSeek, a Chinese-made AI model. "By feeding sensitive data into systems like DeepSeek, we give China another weapon," Cassidy said in a statement. The bill would also require the Commerce Department to analyze broader threats from AI systems developed in "countries of concern."

Meanwhile, the Trump administration announced it will scrap Biden-era regulations limiting AI chip exports to many US allies, including India and Israel according to the Wall Street Journal. Despite this rollback, the administration is intensifying restrictions specifically targeting China.

Pope Leo XIV Identifies AI as Key Challenge in First Address

Pope Leo XIV laid out his vision for the Catholic Church, identifying AI as one of the most critical challenges facing humanity in his first formal address since being elected.
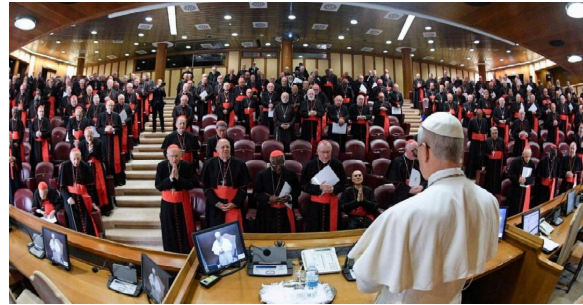
The 69-year-old American, born Robert Prevost in Chicago, cited AI as part of his explanation for his choice of papal name during his address to the College of Cardinals at the Vatican.

"I chose to take the name Leo XIV. There are different reasons for this, but mainly because Pope Leo XIII in his historic Encyclical Rerum Novarum addressed the social question in the context of the first great industrial revolution," the Pope said in his official transcript.

"In our own day, the Church offers to everyone the treasury of her social teaching in response to another industrial revolution and to developments in the field of artificial intelligence that pose new challenges for the defence of human dignity, justice and labour," he continued.

The Pope's namesake Leo XIII wrote an important letter in the late 1800s that defended workers' rights as factories and machines were transforming society. The new Pope suggested that today's AI technology presents similar threats to human dignity and work.

In his address, Leo signaled he would largely continue the priorities of his predecessor Pope Francis, who became increasingly vocal about AI threats toward the end of his papacy and called for international regulation of the technology.

Kenyan Court Orders Worldcoin to Destroy Biometric Data

Kenya's High Court has ordered Worldcoin to permanently erase all biometric data collected from Kenyans and prohibited the cryptocurrency project from further collecting iris scans

without proper safeguards. Worldcoin must destroy all Kenyan biometric data within seven days.

The May 5 ruling found that Worldcoin violated Kenya's Data Protection Act by processing sensitive personal data without conducting an adequate Data Protection Impact Assessment and by obtaining consent through financial inducements.

"The use of cryptocurrency tokens to gather personal data is an attempt to bypass data protection laws by using incentives to sidestep informed consent by luring desperate and poor Kenyans," Justice Aburili wrote.

The court took issue with Worldcoin's practice of offering cryptocurrency tokens worth approximately $45 in exchange for biometric data, ruling that consent obtained was neither "free, specific, nor informed" as required by law.

A 2022 MIT Technology Review investigation revealed Worldcoin used deceptive marketing practices in developing nations, including Kenya and Indonesia, where recruiters were paid commissions per scan and users weren't fully informed about how their biometric data would be used.

Despite rebranding as "World" in October 2024 amid mounting privacy concerns, the company's core strategy of offering digital IDs and cryptocurrency in exchange for iris scans remained unchanged.

This Kenyan ruling adds to growing global regulatory pushback against the project co-founded by OpenAI CEO Sam Altman. South Korea fined Worldcoin $850,000 for privacy violations related to collecting iris scans. Brazil recently upheld its earlier ban on cryptocurrency payments for biometric data collection.

Regulators in Indonesia, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Hong Kong, and Argentina have all imposed restrictions on Worldcoin operations, ranging from suspensions to mandatory data erasure and explicit consent requirements.

China Imposes Strict Controls on AI in Regulatory Campaign

China has launched a three-month nationwide campaign called "Clearing the Air - Rectifying the Abuse of AI Technology" to address growing concerns about AI misuse and

establish stricter oversight of the rapidly evolving technology.

The campaign unfolds in two phases, with the first targeting structural issues including unregistered AI applications, unauthorized biometric data collection, and lax management of training data used to build AI models. The second phase focuses on content abuses, including AI-generated misinformation, deepfake impersonation, and synthetic pornography.

Chinese authorities identified six priority concerns in the initial phase, including the failure to implement content identification requirements and weak security measures in sensitive sectors like healthcare and finance that have led to problems such as "AI prescription" and investment manipulation.

Of particular concern are AI applications that manipulate public opinion by using AI to create fake social media accounts, generate high volumes of homogeneous content, and deploy automated systems to manipulate engagement metrics and artificially promote topics.

This campaign represents the next step in China's evolving regulatory approach, which has moved from establishing broad principles to implementing detailed technical standards. The progression includes recently mandated rules for both visible and hidden labels for all AI-generated content.

European Meta Users Face Late May Deadline to Opt Out of AI Training

European Meta users have until late May to prevent their historical data from being used to train the company's AI models, as the social media company begins collecting public content despite regulatory concerns.

Privacy authorities in Norway, Hamburg, and Croatia have warned that objections must be submitted before the deadline to be effective for past data. Objections filed afterward would only apply to future content.

Meta announced on April 14 it would start training its AI models using public posts, comments, and AI interactions from adult users across its platforms in the European Union, following the launch of Meta AI in Europe after months of regulatory delays.

The company is sending in-app and email notifications about the data collection. Users who don't want their content used for AI training can opt out using the forms linked in these notifications, with separate forms required for Facebook and Instagram accounts.

Meta stressed it will not use private messages or data from users under 18, and claims its approach "complies with European laws and regulations."

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CAIDP ACTIONS

CAIDP Submits Recommendations to African Commission on AI Governance in Africa

CAIDP has submitted comments to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) regarding its

"Draft Study on Human and Peoples' Rights and AI, Robotics, and Other New and

Emerging Technologies in Africa."

Our May 8 submission builds on CAIDP's ongoing work with the African Union, offering three strategic recommendations to strengthen human rights protections as AI technologies expand across the continent:

First, we encourage African states to endorse the Council of Europe's Framework Convention on AI and Human Rights. Though developed in Europe, this Convention is open to all countries. The non-prescriptive framework allows states to tailor obligations to local contexts while establishing essential safeguards for AI systems.

Second, we recommend clear prohibitions on AI applications that lack scientific validity and undermine human dignity, including social scoring, emotion recognition, biometric categorization, and predictive policing. These systems often perpetuate discrimination and violate fundamental rights principles already endorsed by African states through the UNESCO Recommendation on Ethics of AI.

Third, we urge implementation of UNESCO's Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) to strengthen national governance capacity. Fifteen African countries are already participating in this process: Botswana, Chad, DRC, Gabon, Kenya, Malawi, Maldives, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, and Zimbabwe.

CAIDP Calls on Japan to Ratify Council of Europe AI Treaty

CAIDP has issued a call for Japan to ratify the Council of Europe's Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law.

CAIDP noted that while Japan formally signed the landmark AI Treaty on February 11 at the AI Action Summit in Paris, the country has yet to complete the crucial step of ratification.

"Japan has played a leading role in the global governance of AI," CAIDP emphasized, citing Japan's leadership in developing the OECD AI Principles, launching the Hiroshima AI Process, and creating the "Reporting Framework" for advanced AI systems. "Japan would further advance its role as a global leader in AI governance by ratifying the AI Treaty."

The AI Treaty, adopted by the Council of Europe in May 2024, represents the first legally binding international framework ensuring AI systems comply with fundamental principles.

The Convention also requires concrete safeguards such as public documentation of AI use, mechanisms to contest adverse decisions, and notice when interacting with AI systems rather than humans.

More than 40 nations have already signed the Treaty, and CAIDP is urging Japan not only to ratify it but also to "make a clear commitment to ensure the full inclusion of the private sector under its provisions," following Norway's approach.

CAIDP President Delivers Training on AI Procurement

Merve Hickok, President of the CAIDP, delivered training on "Why AI Procurement is Different: Key Challenges and Insights of Practitioners across Jurisdictions" at the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA) last week.

Hickok emphasized that procurement functions are among the most critical levers for operationalizing trustworthy AI governance across organizations and jurisdictions.

"AI's nature requires new due diligence approaches and evaluations that differ significantly from traditional software development procurement," Hickok noted during the session. She shared findings from her recent book, which draws on more than 20 interviews with practitioners across multiple jurisdictions worldwide.

The training explored how procurement officials must understand not only the potential biases in AI systems but also the human biases that can influence oversight. "Human-in-the-loop isn't a safety net by default — it's a complex responsibility," the EIPA noted in their summary of the event.

Marc Rotenberg Speaks at GETS in Abu Dhabi

CAIDP founder Marc Rotenberg spoke at the inaugural Global Emerging Technology Summit in Abu Dhabi. The summit aims to establish robust governance frameworks that promote innovation and protect societal rights, bringing together over 500 leaders from government, industry, academia, and civil society to foster inclusive dialogue and collaborative solutions.

In keynote remarks on the first day, Marc emphasized the importance of accountability and transparency for AI governance. He underscored the need to ensure that people govern AI and are not governed by AI. He commended the leadership of the UAE on AI policy and urged continued collaboration to enable human-centric and trustworthy AI.

Key Findings from the Artificial Intelligence and Democracy Values Index | TechPolicy.Press

techpolicy.press

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CAIDP AI POLICY EVENTS

- UN Open Informal Consultations on LAWS with Ayca Ariyoruk (CAIDP), in-person, NYC, May 12-13, 2025
- Tech for Climate Action with Christabel Randolph (CAIDP), AI & Energy Conference, Washington DC, May 21-22, 2025
- Computers, Privacy and Data Protection (CPDP); The World is Watching, May 22-24, 2025
- Digital Humanism Conference, with Marc Rotenberg (CAIDP), Vienna, May 27, 2025
- AI, Data, Analytics Network with Merve Hickok (CAIDP), Responsible AI Summit 2025, Washington DC, Jun 17-18, 2025
- Conference of the European Society of Criminology with Marc Rotenberg (CAIDP), Athens, Greece, Sept. 4, 2025
- Global Privacy Assembly, Seoul, Korea, September 16-19, 2025
- G20, Digital Economy Working Group Ministerial Meeting, Cape Town, Sept 25-26, 2025

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