Use of Al is Here to Stay: Enabling Innovation Responsibly and Securely



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DARKREADING NEWSLETTER \equiv Q SIGN-UP

Al Agents Fail in Novel Ways, Put Businesses at Risk

Microsoft researchers identify 10 new potential pitfalls for companies that are developing or deploying agentic AI systems, with failures potentially leading to the AI becoming a malicious insider

Robert Lemos, Contributing Writer May 7, 2025

6 5 Min Read



Attackers Lace Fake Generative AI Tools With

chain risk

By Bill Toulas

'Noodlophile' Malware

Threat actors are scamming users by advertising legitimate-looking generative AI websites that, when visited, install credential-stealing malware onto the victim's computer.



5 ChatGPT Jailbreak Prompts Being Used by Cybercriminals

Published 06/17/2024

New Reports Uncover Jailbreaks, Unsafe Code, and **Data Theft Risks in Leading AI Systems**

🛗 Apr 29, 2025 🛛 🛔 Ravie Lakshmanan



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE







Al is prevalent everywhere



[2] Wiz, State of AI in the Cloud 2024

 $\left[3\right]$ Capgemini, Generative AI in organizations 2024



04

Al is prevalent everywhere – Risk vs. Value



Agentic Al

Business Disruption

Risk

Business DisrupData Breach

 Business Logic Manipulation

Model TheftData Poisoning

Overreliance

- Oversharing
- Data Loss

Enterprise Developed AI

Usage of AI Apps

Value

- Knowledge Retrieval
- Writing & Content Generation
- Code Generation

- Processing Unstructured Data
- Business Intelligence
- Fraud Prevention

- Business Automation
- Cost Reduction
- Force Multipliers for speed & efficiency



A Security means different things





Securing Al Systems

Using Al Securely

Defending from Adversarial Al Using Al for Cyber

Domains of Asecurity

Adversarial Use of Al

Deepfakes & Misinformation

Phishing

Malware

Social Engineering

Denial of Service

Surveillance & Espionage

AI Poisoning

API Reconnaissance



Governance, Risk and Compliance

Program Strategy Development

Policies and Procedures

Controls Gap Assessment

Compliance Measurement

Security of <u>AI Systems</u>

Data Readiness, Security &

Privacy

Model Scanning & Model Theft

Guardrails/Firewalls

Program Security Maturity Assessments

Awareness Training

Model Risk Management

Data Governance & Classification

Security of <u>AI Usage</u>

Usage Discovery

Data Loss Protection

3rd Party Model Risk Management

Al for Cyber Security **Risk Quantification & Compliance** Threat/Vulnerability Management Security Ops (SIEM/SOAR) Identity & Access Management AI Code Remediation Fraud Detection App Detection & Response **Endpoint Detection & Response** Threat Detection & Response

Credential Stuffing API & Agentic Services Agentic Tools & MCP, A2A, AGNTCY Threat Detection & MCP, A2A, AGNTCY Red Teaming & AI-SPM Regulatory Regulatory Regulatory Trustworthy Responsible Ethical Accountable Transparent Secure



Current Trends in Al Security

Agentic....MCP...A2A

Organizational Areas of Focus for AI Security

Security of <u>AI Systems</u>	Security of <u>AI Usage</u>	Adversarial Use of Al
Data Readiness, Security & Privacy	Usage Discovery	Deepfakes & Misinformation
Model Scanning & Model Theft	Data Loss Protection	Phishing/Social Engineering
Guardrails/Fire walls	3 rd Party Model Risk Management	Malware
API & Agentic Services	Agentic Tools & MCP	API Reconnaissance
Red Teaming & AI-SPM	Regulatory	BOT/ATO/DOS

Current Industry Trends

- Recognition as a standalone topic
- Agentic MCP vs. A2A
- Authorization for data sources
- Data security for AI Agent access
- Red Teaming of AI Systems
- AI GW vs. FW vs. Guardrails
- Shadow AI --→ AI Everywhere
- Secure by Design for AI Apps & Agents

Adversarial Use of Al

- Phishing
- Vulnerability Exploitation
- CAPTCHA Breaking AI

Vulnerable API Reconnaissance

 AI-Generated Content including deepfakes and malicious code

Vendor Landscape

- Startup activity is Still accelerating
- Acquisition activity increasing
- Lack of standard terminology creating confusion

Barriers to Adoption

- Governance Delays
- Privacy Concerns
- Explainability/Auditability

Discussions of artificial intelligence (AI) often swirl with mysticism regarding how an AI system functions.

The reality is far simpler:

"Al is a type of software system."

- CISA



AI

Average Health System Audit Finds 70 'Quiet' AI Applications, CEO Says

Published Apr 07, 2025 at 2:51 PM EDT

Security of Al Usage

What AI tools are in use in your enterprise?





Al impacts every corporate persona















R&D/IT

Marketing

TT and

HR

78% of AI users are bringing their own AI tools to work

- 2024 Work Trend Index Annual Report from Microsoft



ents? Email MAD2024@firstmarkcap.com

Al comes in many forms





Websites



Mobile Apps

ش س	
Embedded	ΑΙ

(SaaS)

Chatbots

000



AI Assistants





Copilots



Applications



Voice Assistants



Al-enabled Hardware AGENTIC AI

Agentic AI can Autonomously: Perceive - Reason - Act To achieve desired outcomes with minimal human intervention.

Example of Enterprise AI Tool Landscape





GenAl Usage Data from real customers (Q1, 2025)

	176k Prompts	8k Users	8.2k Files	
254	Average Nu enterprise	umber of	Apps in Use in e	each
45.4%	Of sensitive accounts vi	e data suk ia persona	omissions were al accounts	using
7%	Of users ac data trainir Ernie Bot, (Of users accessed Chinese-based apps with data training enabled (DeepSeek, Manus, Ernie Bot, Qwen Chat, Baidu Chat)		

World Wide Technology

Source: https://www.harmonic.security/resources/the-aitightrope-balancing-innovation-and-exposure



Enabling AI Usage Securely



Control Elements for AI Usage Security



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Tool Approaches to AI Security





Why network visibility is not enough



MITM Decryption – Scaling Limitations, Performance Limits, PQE Impacts looming?



API Scanning Cannot prevent malicious activity within sanctioned apps

Forward Proxies Cannot provide access control on unmanaged devices



Progressing towards fully Agentic

Semi-Autonomous Agents Agents Agentic AI can Autonomously Perceive, Reason, and Act To achieve desired outcomes with minimal human intervention.

Autonomous

Al-driven Automations Agentic

Workflows

Rule-Based Automations



Al Agents vs. GenAl vs Agentic Al

	AI Agents	Gen Al	Agentic Al
Functionality	Automated task execution based on rules or patterns	Content Creation based on training, patterns, & predictions	Autonomous Action, Problem Solving and Decision-Making
			Manual of the Rest
Adaptability	LOW-Follows fixed workflows	MED-Can generate varied responses	HIGH-reasons, adapts, plans, and acts
Business Use	Automating repetitive tasks	Read and Summarize, or Generate text, images, or code	Optimize operational processes & make strategic decisions
Examples	Customer Service Bots, IT Automation	Marketing Content, Code Gen, Legal Assistants, Copilots, etc.	Autonomous Supply Chain, Cyber Analysts, Voice Agents
Limitations	Complex Reasoning	Needs accurate prompting and lacks independent action	Explainability and complete accuracy – Still need H-I-T-L



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A2A and the <u>Model Context Protocol (MCP)</u> are complementary standards for building robust agentic applications:

- MCP (Model Context Protocol): Connects agents to tools, APIs, and resources with structured inputs/outputs. Think of it as the way agents access their capabilities.
- A2A (Agent2Agent Protocol): Facilitates dynamic, multimodal communication between different agents as peers. It's how agents collaborate, delegate, and manage shared tasks.

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MCP

Model Context Protocol

Defines a standardised interface for supplying structured, real-time context to **large language models.**

CORE FUNCTIONALITIES

MCP lets you pull in external resources like files, database rows, or API responses - right into the prompt or working memory.

Rather than stuffing your prompt with every possible detail, MCP helps assemble just the context that matters.

MCP also lets models call tools dynamically.



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A2A Agent2Agent Protocol

Enable structured communication & coordination between **AI agents** operating in the environment.

CORE FUNCTIONALITIES

Facilitates message passing and task delegation between agents to coordinate actions.

Enables agents to share observations, goals, or partial outputs for collective decision-making.

Supports synchronization of agent states across distributed environments.



A2A and MCP (more complementary than competitive)



https://google.github.io/A2A/#why-a2a-matters



https://google.github.io/A2A/topics/a2a-and-mcp/



Early discoveries in MCP vulnerabilities



Command Injection

Attacker

► API <····

Private &.

Effect

Using prompts with embedded meaning to trigger unauthorized MCP actions by the agents.



Server-Sent Events Problem

SSE workflow creates latency and security issue due to constant opening of line during transfers



Persistent context

MCP records your context through out your sessions, this can lead to context tampering



aws



slack

Tool Poisoning

Embedding malicious tools codes in MCP to manipulate their actions for a given task

MCP Server = Effect Severe

Privilege Escalation

Malicious tools can override or intercept calls made to a trusted tools that you use.



Server Data Takeover

A compromised tool server can take over other servers data and passwords.

MCP Server

=

Wrap-Up



Security of AI: Defining Product Categories

Al Security Governance, Risk & Compliance

Software used to manage/govern enterprise AI assets and usage, assess & manage risk, and/or map controls to compliance requirements

Al Discovery & Inventory

Software tools that provide automated discovery and inventory tracking for AI artifacts, 3rd Party AI Tools and 3rd Party AI embedded in existing SaaS. Many existing tools provide some capabilities here & can be used to begin and identify the need to add better controls)

	play a partial role in securing AI us		
1. Secure the Data	2. Secure the Mod	el 3.Secure the Usage of the App	security features for Al usage inclu
Readiness & Risk Assessment for Al	Supply Chain (Model Scanning, Al-BOM	AI Runtime Security	SASE/SSE
Is Data security ready for AI?	This area is analogous with traditions of the security are	onal Protecting AI systems while they are	Al Focused (Browser Inserted)
Data Discovery, Classification, and	the risks to code and artifacts in the	he Al/ML Al applications can be tricked into leaking	Al Focused (Network Inserted)
might be used in Al systems:, including structured and unstructured data source, Classification of all data types	code analysis, AI Bill-of-Materials, a Security Posture Monitoring, Sour Dependencies, and provenance o	mailcious and Al rcesensitive info, generate harmful or biased content, and/or take risky actions based on bad inputs	Enterprise Browser/Browser Extensions
(e.g., PII, financial, IP), and Labeling of all	from source to prompt .	AI Firewall-filtering inputs and outputs to	Next Gen DLP
Data Access Governance	Red Teaming/Vulnerability Scannin	 Malicious prompts (like jailbreaks) Inappropriate or dangerous responses 	Digital Workforce Security (Secu of Al Agents)
processes, and AI models can access	Models that serve as central components for the applicat	Unauthorized data access Al Guardrails -rules and limits that keep the Al	Code Development Focused
provide inferences to authorized data.	Systems and Data used thro lifecycle of the application:	oughout the on track. They guide the AI to: Stick to approved topics	SSPM (SaaS Security Posture Management)
Privacy Enhancing Techniques (PETs) Even if the AI needs sensitive data, privacy can still be protected.	From model development and tra through application staging pipel	 Avoid risky actions Always follow company policies 	Each Category has strengths and weaknesses and a complete progra
Options include: Data masking and tokenization Stochastic Randomization	continuously in production runtim environments. Combines tradition adversarial testing with AI-specific methodologies, addressing risks	ne nal c ke: Prompt Combined, the AI Firewall and Guardrails help enterprises ensure their AI behaves safely , ethically, and within bounds AI Runtime tools	for using AI securely should start wit discovery exercise to gain a clear understanding of the current AI too that are being used across the

Homomorphic Encryption

injection, Toxic outputs, Model extraction, Bias, Knowledge risks and Hallucinations.

should have ability to filter both input and responses.

Security of AI Usage

Security of Usage refers to any 3rd party AI usage and covers a broad area of security control types that can age. ide:

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m :h a ls organization.

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Security of AI: WWT Market Landscape(v05122025)

Al Security Governance, Risk & Compliance

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Technology





Al for Cyber Security: WWT Market Landscape (v0512.2025)



Security from Adversarial AI (Deepfake & Misinformation): WWT Market Landscape (v05.13.2025.76)

Deepfake Detection

Clarity

kroop Al

- Integrity

netarx

O, GPTZero

IDENTITIES.AI

Reality Defender

N Neural Defend

AI OR NOT

sensity

SBuster.Ai

deepware[®]

Breacher.ai

hiya

GetReal



World Wide

Technoloav

Pindrop **SENTINEL** Adobe validsoft// sight**engine** deeptrust **Misinformation, Media & Social Networks** DARPA BLACKBIRD.AI REDA BLACKCLOAK UncovAl intel **VEROFOX** FaceOnLive AUTHENTICID **Adaptive** onfido sumsub WeVeritu

Thanks for Attending





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