# UK Officials Investigate Microsoft's New AI 'Recall' Feature Amid Privacy Concerns



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UK officials are examining Microsoft's latest AI feature, known as Recall, which takes periodic screenshots of users' screens to create a photographic memory of their activities. Exclusive to Microsoft’s new AI-powered Copilot+ PCs, the tool aims to enhance user experience by making it easier to retrieve past documents, images, and websites.

Privacy experts have raised alarms about the potential misuse of this feature, warning that the data could be exploited by cybercriminals. The Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) is making inquiries into the safeguards Microsoft has implemented to protect user privacy. The ICO expects companies to assess and mitigate risks to users' rights before launching new products.

Microsoft assures that Recall works locally, with screenshots stored and processed on the device, and emphasizes that users have control over what is captured and stored. However, experts like Jake Moore from Eset and Jen Golbeck from the University of Maryland caution that the feature’s potential for abuse remains a significant concern. Despite these worries, some industry analysts like Geoff Blaber from CCS Insight believe the localized data storage and user control mitigate many risks, arguing the feature offers significant utility.

The debate underscores the complexity of balancing technological advancement with privacy and security considerations.