# Understanding the seven key risks of artificial intelligence and how to manage them



Artificial intelligence (AI) has become deeply woven into everyday applications, affecting decisions and reshaping how work and creativity evolve. However, alongside the benefits, AI introduces several significant risks that warrant careful consideration and management. A comprehensive analysis published on JD Supra by legal technologist Ralph Losey identifies seven cardinal dangers associated with AI, outlining both the challenges and practical steps for mitigation.

These seven key risks include bias and inaccuracies, privacy concerns, loss of human judgment, deepfakes and manipulation, loss of human control, employment disruption, and existential and long-term threats posed by future advanced AI systems such as Artificial General Intelligence (AGI).

1. Bias and Inaccuracies AI systems reflect the qualities of their training data; therefore, biased or flawed data can lead to reinforcement of harmful stereotypes or misinformation. Notable examples include facial recognition technologies showing racial biases leading to wrongful accusations, and employment algorithms sometimes perpetuating gender discrimination by excluding female candidates for certain roles. To manage this risk, individuals are encouraged to critically cross-verify AI outputs and consult multiple data sources. Societal efforts should focus on advocating for transparency, fairness, and ethical oversight in AI algorithms alongside ensuring diverse data representation.

2. Privacy Concerns AI’s effective functioning often demands extensive data collection, raising serious privacy issues. Personal data may be collected and used without explicit consent, as seen in controversies surrounding smart assistants and social media algorithms. This leads to regulatory scrutiny and public mistrust. To mitigate privacy risks, users are advised to carefully manage data-sharing permissions and privacy settings. At the societal level, there is a call for robust data protection laws and transparent platform policies governing AI use.

3. Loss of Human Judgment Reliance on AI in critical decision-making can diminish human expertise and critical thinking skills. For instance, medical practitioners overly dependent on AI diagnostics might overlook crucial symptoms, while in judicial contexts, automated tools could undermine nuanced human judgment. Individuals should maintain active engagement when interpreting AI outputs and regard AI as a supportive tool rather than a replacement. Education systems are encouraged to emphasise critical thinking, independent analysis, and AI literacy to strengthen human judgment alongside technological aids.

4. Deepfakes and Manipulation Generative AI can fabricate highly convincing but false content, from falsified political statements to misinformation campaigns, which threaten truth and societal trust. Such manipulation can harm reputations, escalate political tensions, and erode confidence in media and institutions. Users can protect themselves by developing media literacy skills to detect manipulated content, while societal responses include establishing clear frameworks and tools for identifying and managing disinformation.

5. Loss of Human Control The automation of sensitive decisions in healthcare, finance, and military applications risks reducing essential human oversight, potentially leading to unintended consequences. Autonomous military drones or algorithm-driven financial markets have illustrated these dangers. Individuals should insist on transparent oversight mechanisms where AI systems inform critical decisions. Legally, frameworks demanding human accountability and control over high-stakes AI are advocated.

6. Employment Disruption AI-driven automation threatens to displace workers in diverse sectors, including transportation, retail, and professional services, potentially exacerbating income inequality and social tensions. Individuals are encouraged to develop adaptable skills through lifelong learning and training. Societies should promote proactive workforce retraining programmes and develop economic strategies to manage transition impacts.

7. Existential and Long-term Risks The emergence of AGI poses speculative but profound risks, including the possibility of AI systems acting against human interests. Prominent voices in technology and ethics emphasise the need for rigorous research to ensure AI alignment with beneficial human values. Staying informed on AI developments and supporting ethical research are crucial individual actions. Societal engagement with policymakers is necessary to enforce stringent safety and ethical standards in future AI progress.

In his exploration, Ralph Losey draws a notable comparison between these seven AI dangers and the seven cardinal sins traditionally identified in Christian thought—pride, greed, sloth, envy, wrath, gluttony, and lust—casting the risks as modern reflectors of enduring human failings embedded within the technology.

Addressing fear of AI, Losey highlights the importance of education and practice, emphasising that skilled, responsible use outperforms fearful avoidance. He illustrates how professionals in creative, legal, healthcare, and business fields can harness AI tools such as ChatGPT, DALL·E, and Google Gemini to enhance productivity, creativity, and problem-solving, provided users apply critical judgement and verify AI outputs. For beginners, he advises starting with simple, low-risk tasks and gradually increasing familiarity with AI’s capabilities and limitations to build proficiency.

Losey’s concluding message stresses that while concerns about AI are justified, the path forward is through knowledge, engagement, and education. AI is described metaphorically as a powerful tool akin to a high-speed buzzsaw—dangerous if misused but invaluable in skilled hands. He encourages individuals to learn, practise, and participate actively in shaping AI’s role to keep it human-centred and aligned with societal values.

The analysis underscores that the greatest risks from AI do not arise from the machines themselves but from the human conditions and impulses they reflect and magnify. Therefore, widespread AI literacy and critical oversight are fundamental to managing the technology’s developments responsibly in the years ahead.

The JD Supra report concludes with a call for readiness and proactive involvement, posing the existential question: Are individuals prepared to take control of AI before it takes control of them?

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

## Bibliography

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