![Cisco logo]

The Cisco Responsible AI Framework

Security by Design / Human Rights by Design / Privacy by Design for personal data and consequential decisions

At Cisco, we appreciate that Artificial Intelligence (AI) can be leveraged to power an inclusive future for all. We also recognize that by applying this technology, we have a responsibility to mitigate potential harm. That is why we have developed a Responsible AI Framework based on six principles of Transparency, Fairness, Accountability, Privacy, Security and Reliability.

We translate these principles into controls that can be applied to model creation and the selection of training data with Security by Design, Privacy by Design, and Human Rights by Design processes embedded throughout the model's lifecycle and its application in products, services, and enterprise operations.

The Responsible AI Framework

Guidance and Oversight	• Establishes a Responsible AI Committee of senior executives across Cisco business units, sales, privacy, security, human rights, legal, government affairs, human resources, and other functions. • Advises Cisco on responsible AI practices and oversees Responsible AI Framework adoption. • Reviews sensitive or high-risk uses of AI proposed by our business units and incident reports of bias or discrimination.
Controls	• Embeds security, privacy, and human rights processes into AI design as part of the existing Cisco Secure Development Lifecycle. • Assesses AI functions for models and data directly involved in decisions that could have adverse legal or human rights impact. • Applies controls to reduce risk of AI harm by focusing on areas like unintended bias mitigation, model monitoring, fairness, and transparency.
Incident Management	• Leverages security, data breach, and privacy incident response system to manage reported AI incidents involving bias and discrimination. • Assigns and reports incidents to the Responsible AI Incident Response Team to analyze and engage relevant team for resolution. • Tracks and reports AI incidents to governance board and reports findings and remediation steps to the original submitter or a broader group of stakeholders, customers, employees, and partners.
Industry Leadership	• Embeds Responsible AI as a focus area for incubation of new technology across Cisco. • Engages with industry innovation providers focused on delivering Responsible AI. • Participates proactively in industry forums to advance Responsible AI, including the Centre for Information Policy Leadership, Equal AI, and the Business Roundtable on Human Rights and AI.
External Engagement	• Works with governments to understand global perspectives on AI's benefits and risks. • Monitors, tracks, and influences AI-related legislation, emerging policy, and regulations. • Partners with and sponsors cutting-edge research institutions, exploring the intersection of ethics and AI from technical, organizational, social, and design perspectives.

Cisco is committed to continuing internal focus and collaboration with our external partners and stakeholders to improve our collective understanding of the societal and human rights impact of AI. We work to continuously improve our framework to support fair, explainable, and transparent results of the AI systems we develop and use.

Learn more about our approach to Responsible AI at the Cisco Trust Center.