



The 3 Core Principles

of Ethical AI Deployment for Government
and Law Enforcement

Introduction

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Our world is urbanizing at a rapid pace. According to [a report from the United Nations](#), 68% of the world's population will live in cities by 2050. As local government leaders look out on a changing landscape, artificial intelligence will help them build safer and smarter cities. But what can state and local entities do to ensure the foundations of these solutions are equitable?

That was the topic of discussion of *Thinking Ahead: AI and Machine Learning Innovations in Law Enforcement and Government Agencies*, a webcast presented by Red Hat and hosted by James Hanson, GovExec group publisher of government and technology markets. During the webcast, Hanson spoke with leaders from across the government and private sector ecosystem to learn more about how agencies can build reliable AI models.

Check out the three key takeaways from this discussion below.

Core Principles:



Create a Baseline
Code of Ethics



Know Your Data
and Your People



Collaborate with
Organizations across
the Public and
Private Sector

1. Create a Baseline Code of Ethics

Principle 1

We are living in an algorithmic renaissance — cities and states across the country are slowly coming online thanks to big data and machine learning. But as state and local governments start using AI/ML to tackle complex problems like gun violence or traffic congestion, they need to be aware of the dangers of implicit bias.

“There’s certainly been a lot of well-publicized examples [of] whether it’s facial recognition algorithms not recognizing black men [or] whether medical diagnostic applications are skewing toward a certain segment of [the] population versus another,” said Taka Ariga, chief data scientist and director of the Innovation Lab at the Government Accountability Office.

To account for potential biases at the system level, agencies should establish a baseline code of ethics for all AI/ML models. By doing so, public sector organizations manufacture governance at the system level, which according to [GAO’s AI accountability framework](#) is a vital step to ensuring trustworthy AI.

“Having a well-governed framework to make sure that what is inherently governmental stays within the government is important,” Ariga stated. “Otherwise, we run into a situation where without a clear path flow . . . we may end up creating either intended or unintended consequences down the road that are much more difficult to clean up.”



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TAKA ARIGA

Chief Data Scientist and Director of the Innovation Lab
Government Accountability Office

2. Know Your Data and Your People

Indeed, accounting for bias at the systemic level is crucial if these tools serve all constituents. But what about bias found in data sets? Whether it is implicit or explicit, these distortions within the data are all too common.

Principle 2

According to GAO, tackling data bias can be accomplished by ensuring “quality, reliability, and representativeness of data sources and processing.” In simpler terms, the data fed into AI/ML models should have transparency from start to finish.

“In the AI accountability framework, we use concepts like representativeness as well as appropriateness,” Ariga stated. “So, this is where not only looking at data from a completeness perspective but also making sure that we are scrutinizing the data sets [for] implicit or explicit bias so that they’re identified and remediated before we jump into the development of these machine-learning algorithms.”

For agencies looking to weed out explicit bias, the AI accountability framework recommends proactively identifying areas of potential prejudice or inequity for oversight. But what about implicit biases?

The solution is simple — know your people, and know your data to weed out unintentional prejudice, said Brian Buzzell, law enforcement solution advisor for Red Hat.

“Understanding the makeup of the different folks that will be contributing [and] along with understanding the types of data that you may be using [can help] shore up unintentional bias that may be happening in those algorithms,” he said.



3. Collaborate with Organizations across the Public and Private Sector

Noticing bias within data sets and frameworks is highly important if law enforcement agencies or state and local governments want to build transparent and equitable solutions. However, there seems to be a gap between theory and practice.

“What we saw [at the GAO] was a bit of a disconnect between all of the principles floating out there around ethical and accountable AI, versus the practical implementation of those ideals,” Ariga said.

Principle 3

But what if agencies lack the know-how or the personnel to build equitable solutions?

The answer is simple — collaborate. Agencies are not alone in this AI/ML revolution. Organizations across the public and private sectors are willing and ready to help state and local agencies devise and implement secure, reliable and impartial AI solutions.

“Red Hat is looking at the enforcement of standards,” Buzzell stated. “Whether it’s zero trust aspects involved with the new executive order to guarantee that any data that you’re using is highly secure.”

And by collaborating with the government and industry organizations, agencies can ultimately build safer and smarter cities.

“I see a convergence happening, where, as we start to branch out and leverage these [AI] capabilities, that partnerships at the state and local level [the sharing of data will] become all the more important,” Buzzell said.



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Contact Red Hat to learn more about building secure and reliable AI models.

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