

Shadow AI: SECURING your invisible footprint

Provider
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The AI You Didn't Know You Were Using

Artificial intelligence is already embedded in your business, whether you realize it or not. From email filters to chatbots and contract review tools, all seamlessly integrating into workflows, analyzing data, and shaping decisions behind the scenes.

It is no longer straightforward to map and keep track of the full extent of the businesses' AI footprint. This potentially leaves security blind spots that could expose the organization to compliance risks, data integrity issues and cyber threats.

This document explores hidden AI capabilities in products, the cybersecurity risks these may represent, and the steps that can be taken to balance productivity and business enablement with exposure.

Key Business Risk Factors

Unlike traditional systems, AI tools don't simply follow well-defined workflows. This makes them both a powerful asset and a unique security challenge.

In the context of the current threat landscape, the following risks may be relevant:

- Exposure of Sensitive Information including customer data and intellectual property. Al tools process large datasets, and carry a risk of unintentional disclosure. Machine learning models may store and recall sensitive details, leading to compliance risks under GDPR and CCPA.
- Dependence on Third-Party AI Systems for critical business functions introduces risks of operational disruption, data security concerns, and compliance challenges. Service outages or policy changes by AI providers can impact business continuity, while reliance on external systems limits control over data handling and algorithmic transparency.
- Influence on Decision Making through supply chain attacks or provider breaches can be exploited to compromise business operations and data security. Attackers may introduce bias into AI models, which is exacerbated by the lack of transparency in AI models, potentially leading to misinformation and further compliance risks.

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What you get?

It is essential to understand the risks by actively monitoring how AI is utilized within the organization, identifying who controls it, and assessing the data it accesses.

Deliverables that will help secure your footprint:

- Inventory of your AI tools and touchpoints, from obvious to hidden
- Risk assessment of identified AI tools
- Guidebook for employees regarding AI tools

As more AI tools integrate into business operations, having a structured approach to manage existing capabilities and plan for future advancements will determine how well your business embraces the competitive benefits these tools offer. A well-defined strategy ensures that AI adoption enhances productivity while mitigating potential risks.



Keep Your Finger on the Pulse

Recognize the growing impact of AI and proactively establish a strategy to manage current and future AI capabilities within your organization.

Don't wait until adoption becomes a necessity.



Enhance User Awareness

Beyond traditional cybersecurity measures like phishing training, empower users with knowledge about the risks of unvetted online AI tools.

Don't restrict AI usage without providing viable alternatives.



Map and Assess AI Tools

Identify tools currently in use and incorporate them into your supply chain register. Conduct risk assessments where necessary to evaluate potential security and compliance risks.

Don't overlook Shadow AI without conducting checks.



Maintain Control Over Data

Implement enterprise-grade AI tools and guide employees toward secure, approved productivity solutions to ensure data integrity and compliance.

Don't allow uncontrolled AI tool usage; rather, establish clear policies.

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Recommended Solutions

Our range of services is designed to support your business goals with a focus on security, efficiency, and growth. We offer tailored cybersecurity solutions to protect your critical assets and provide consulting to ensure your technology aligns with your strategic objectives.



STRATEGY & Compliance - We help businesses adopt compliance frameworks through maturity assessments, gap analyses, and provide advice to set out a cyber defence strategy. Our expert guidance supports leadership teams in making informed decisions to strengthen security and achieve compliance. Partner with us to safeguard your operations and build trust with stakeholders.



PENETRATION Testing - Penetration Testing is a methodical and controlled simulation of cyber attacks on web and mobile apps, SaaS platforms, IoT devices, and both traditional and cloud infrastructure. It aims to identify and exploit weaknesses and vulnerabilities, and provide an understanding of risks to your business.



CYBER Skillup - Training & mentoring equips organizations with the knowledge to identify, prevent, and respond to cyber threats, reducing the risk of breaches. A culture of security awareness among employees helps to reduce human error, which is a leading cause of breaches. By recognizing malicious patterns early, teams can act proactively to mitigate threats before they cause significant harm.



DEVOPS Validation - The service integrates cybersecurity into your sprints, transforming your DevOps into a powerhouse that delivers faster, higher-quality results with robust security. It equips product managers with tools like on-demand defect validation and real-world cyber-attack insights to balance speed, quality, and budget effectively. With built-in security and a trusted partner, your product remains secure without slowing down development momentum.

We're committed to helping you strengthen security, streamline operations, and achieve effective digital transformation to support sustainable success.

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We are **45 CYBER LABS**, a Finnish cybersecurity company driven by innovation, integrity, and the relentless pursuit of digital safety. What started as a casual chat between friends has grown into a dedicated team committed to protecting your business in an ever-changing digital landscape.

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