



Venturing into AI:
Learning for an
Unbounded, Ethical, and
Sustainable Europe

values

Module 5: Data Privacy and Safe
Use of AI Tools

**Share less. Protect
more. Use AI
responsibly.**



www.valuesai.eu



Content



Venturing into AI: Learning for an Unbounded, Ethical, and Sustainable Europe

Module 5: Data Privacy and Safe Use of AI Tools
Share less. Protect more. Use AI responsibly.

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01. Why Safe Data matters with AI



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Why Safe Data matters with AI

(15 min)



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Data and AI

Sharing data with AI at work is risky because it can cause data exposure, regulatory breaches, and reputational or operational harm if inputs are stored, reused, or leaked by third-party models.



Source: pixabay



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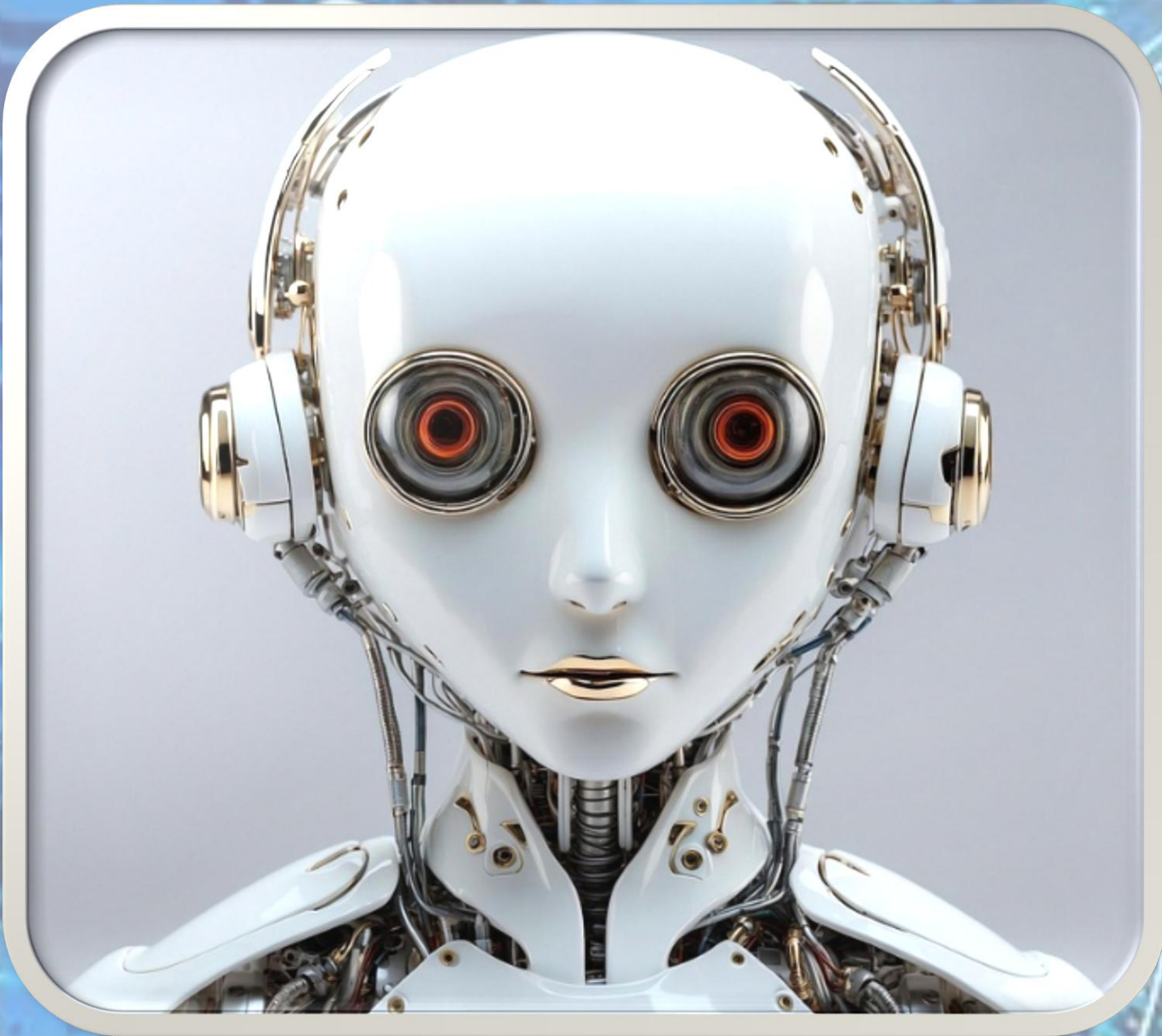


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01. Why Safe Data matters with AI

Key risks



Source: pixabay

Sensitive-data exposure: prompts or files sent to AI platforms can be retained or appear in model outputs, leaking intellectual property, customer PII, or financial records.

Shadow AI and uncontrolled use: employees using unapproved AI tools create blind spots where data leaves corporate control and vendors may keep or reuse inputs.

Legal and compliance breaches: using external AI services without proper contracts or data-processing agreements can violate privacy laws and lead to sanctions.

Lack of transparency and auditability: many AI providers don't disclose how inputs are stored, where they are processed, or whether they are used to train models, making risk assessment difficult.

Expanded attack surface: integrating AI increases technical vulnerabilities (APIs, plugins, endpoints) that attackers can exploit to access data.



01. Why Safe Data matters with AI

Three negative effects: privacy, unfairness, and false confidence



Source: pixabay

Privacy risk (exposure):

Oversharing can reveal personal, sensitive, or third-party information-sometimes even indirectly.

Fairness risk (harm):

If the data is biased, incomplete, or uses unfair labels, AI outputs can reinforce stereotypes or disadvantage groups.

Reliability risk (false confidence):

AI can produce fluent answers that sound correct even when the input data is weak, missing context, or misleading.



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Do and don't

DO:

Ask: What is missing? Who is not represented? Could this output harm someone?



Use checks: Consent Gate + Fair Data Check + SAFE Workflow Ladder

DON'T:

Treat AI outputs as neutral truth



Use AI results to judge people or make decisions without context



01. Why Safe Data matters with AI

Values lens

Safe data = smart choices guided by values.
Use four value questions whenever you use AI with data:

1) Agency: Am I choosing deliberately, or clicking automatically?

2) Privacy: Am I sharing more data than necessary (about me or others)?

3) Fairness: Could my use of data harm or disadvantage someone?

4) Transparency: Can I explain what data I used and why?



Source: pixabay



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01. Why Safe Data matters with AI



Special categories of personal data. Particular caution should be exercised when sharing them with AI systems.



- ★ personal data ★
- ★ sensitive data ★
- ★ health data ★
- ★ financial data ★
- ★ login credentials ★
- ★ customer data ★
- ★ internal organizational documents ★
- ★ unpublished research results ★
- ★ data protected by trade secrets ★



02. How to share data safely?



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How to share data safely?

(15 min)



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Before you use AI: your input becomes data

Many people focus on what AI answers. Safe data starts earlier:
what you type, paste, or upload.

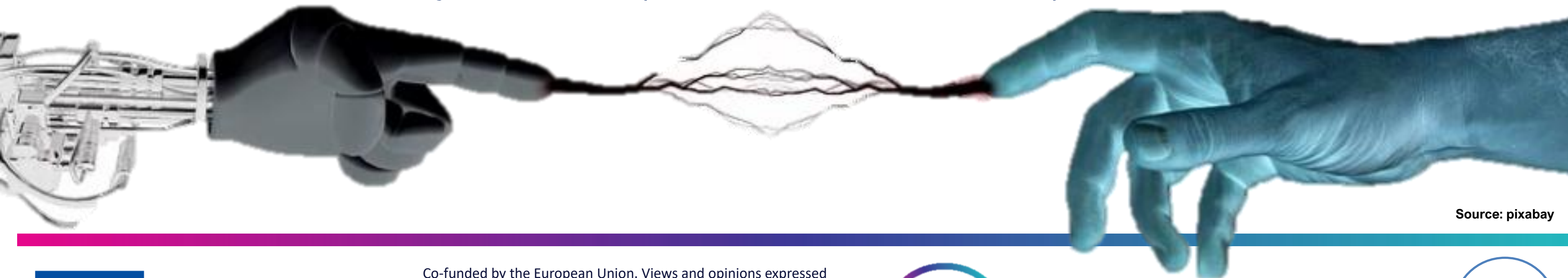
In practice, AI tools can work with:

your text (prompts, messages, copied content)

your files (documents, spreadsheets, PDFs)

your images (photos, screenshots)

your context (details that allow inference)



Source: pixabay



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Before you use AI: your input becomes data

If you share too much, you may create risks you cannot fully undo: privacy exposure, harm to others, and unfair or misleading outputs.

Safe AI use begins with a simple habit: share the minimum necessary; or do not share at all.



Source: pixabay

DON'T assume: “It’s only text” or “It’s just a quick upload.”

DO remember: Anything you type, paste, or upload is data you share.



„Looks harmless” but isn’t (Myth vs Reality)

Myth: „It’s safe if I remove the name.”

Fact: People can be identified indirectly through combinations like:

- ★ age + city + school/internship
- ★ unique event details
- ★ screenshots with small visible clues
- ★ location/time patterns

Myth: „It’s safe if it’s only a screenshot.”

Fact: Screenshots often include names, faces, contact info, or context you miss.



Micro-task: Spot the red flags

Task (60–90 seconds):



Mark each item as Never / Avoid / Usually OK:

- A password reset code
- A CV with full address and phone number
- A chat screenshot with names visible
- A general question: „How do I structure a CV?“
- A school list with names and emails
- A survey summary with totals only (no names)



Source: pixabay



You never know



Source: pixabay

it is not always clear where data are processed



data may be stored in the conversation history



they may be used to improve services, depending on the
settings and terms of service



the user may accidentally disclose confidential information



Source: pixabay



03. Privacy, rights, and consent



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Privacy, rights, and consent

(15 min)



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Decide before you share data about others

Use this gate whenever your input includes other people's information (messages, photos, lists, stories, documents).

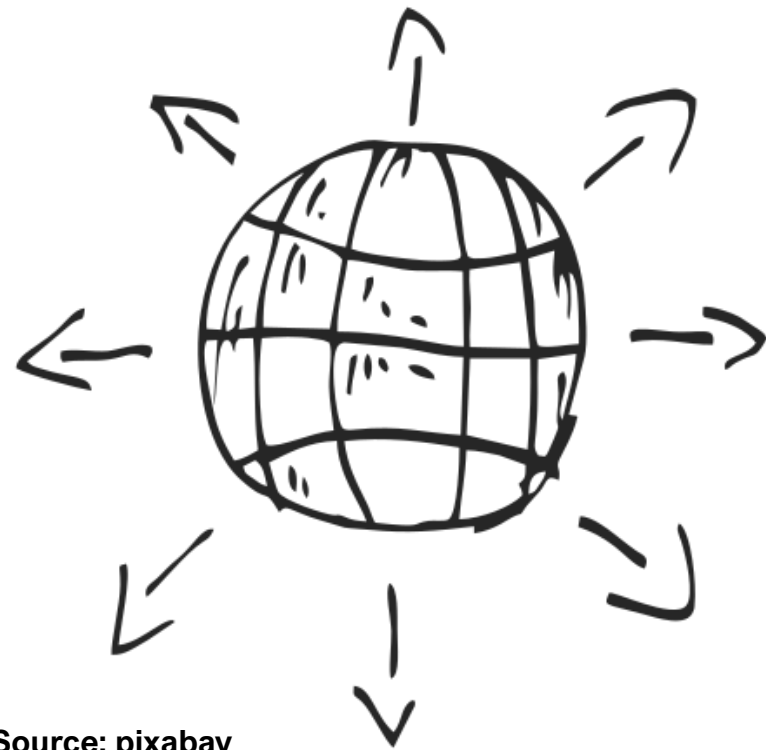
Ask 3 questions:

- ★ Right/permission: Do I have permission (or a clear right) to use this data with AI?
- ★ Risk: Could this identify, embarrass, or harm someone now or later?
- ★ Safer alternative: Can I achieve the goal with less data (or no personal data)?

Rule:

If you answer No / Not sure to any question → do not upload the data. Choose a safer workflow (e.g., ask a general question without private details).

“Not sure” counts as a warning sign.



Source: pixabay



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03. Privacy, rights, and consent

Consent and other people's data: what responsible use looks like.

Privacy and rights are not only technical issues-this is about respect and preventing harm.

DON'T (high risk):

Paste someone else's private messages into AI „for advice.”
Upload group lists with names/emails to „organise” them.
Share personal stories about others without asking.

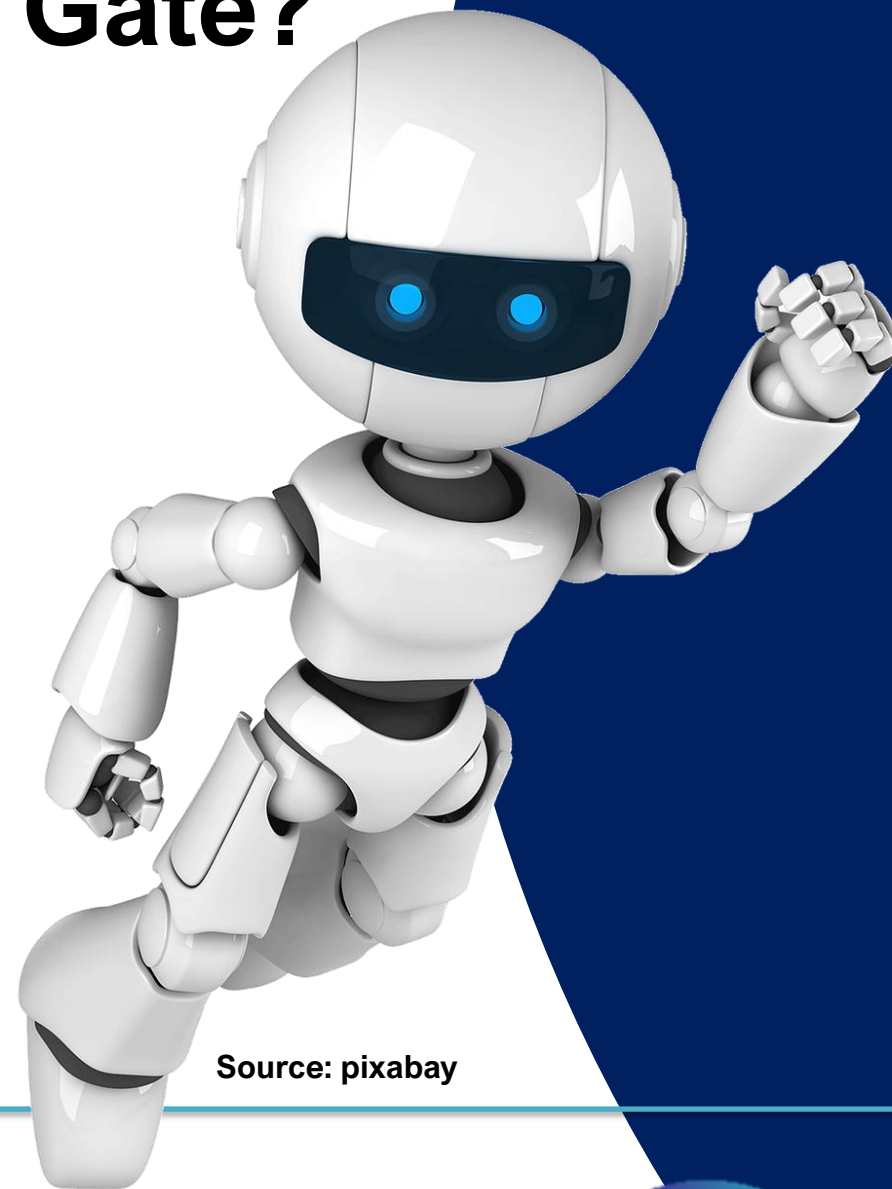
DO (safer alternatives):

Ask for consent and respect „no.”
Replace names with roles: Person A / friend / teacher / colleague.
Remove unique details (exact places, dates, identifiers).
Ask a general question: „How can I support a friend who is stressed?” (no personal story)



03. Privacy, rights, and consent

Quick practice: Does it pass the Consent Gate?



Source: pixabay

Instructions: For each scenario, decide: Pass (safe enough) or Do not pass (use a safer option). Then write one short reason.

- ★ „Summarise my teacher’s feedback letter (it includes the teacher’s name and school).”
- ★ „Help me write an apology message. I will describe the situation without pasting the full chat.”
- ★ „Analyse a volunteer list with names and phone numbers to find ‘unreliable’ people.”



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03. Privacy, rights, and consent

Do I have the right to use this data?



Safe AI use is not only about your privacy. It is also about rights: whether you are allowed to use, share, or process data (especially when it belongs to someone else or to an organization).

You usually do not have the right to share with AI:

private messages of other people (even if you are part of the chat)



lists of people (class lists, volunteer lists, client lists)



documents that are not yours (contracts, HR notes, internal emails)



personal stories told to you in confidence (health, relationships, family issues)

You usually do have the right to use:

your own text that contains no sensitive details



general questions without personal data
anonymised examples you created yourself (fictional or de-identified)

Source: pixabay



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03. Privacy, rights, and consent

**Consent is not only „someone said yes once.”
For AI use, consent should be:**

Informed: the person understands
what will be shared and why

Specific: consent for this purpose, not
„anything you want”

Voluntary: no pressure, no fear of consequences

Revocable: the person can change their mind

Important: Consent depends on audience and tool

A person might agree to tell you something,
but not agree to have it shared with an AI tool
or stored in a system.



**Consent: what „real consent”
looks like (and what it does not?).**



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03. Privacy, rights, and consent

Indirect Identification: When „removing names” is not enough?



People can be identified even without names if details allow someone to guess who it is.

Common indirect identifiers:

exact age, exact location,
school/employer, unique role
exact dates and events („the only
person who...”)

★
combinations (age + city + hobby +
situation)

★
screenshots with small visible clues
(profile pictures, group names)

Safer alternatives (choose one):

Abstract: describe the situation without
unique details

★
Generalise: use ranges (age group),
broad areas (region)

★
Role-based: Person A / Person B instead
of real identities

★
Do not upload: if you cannot remove
identifying context



04. Choosing safer AI workflows



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Choosing safer AI workflows

(25 min)



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Choosing safer AI workflows - same goal, less data

Many risks with AI do not come from the tool itself, but from how we use it: we often share too much data because it feels faster or easier.



Source: pixabay



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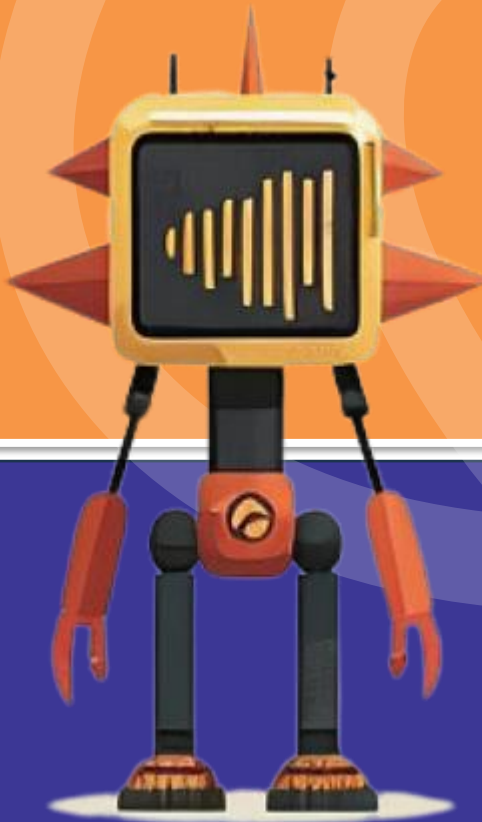


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Choosing safer AI workflows - same goal, less data

**When you share data with AI,
it can be processed, stored,
and repeated**



Source: pixabay

When you type, paste, or upload data to an AI tool, the system must process it to generate an answer. Depending on the service and settings, your data may also be:
Stored or logged (for service improvement, troubleshooting, security, or compliance)



Reviewed in some cases (e.g., to improve safety or quality)



Used to personalise your experience (in some tools)



Reflected back in outputs



Shared indirectly when you copy/paste outputs into other apps or send screenshots



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Why sharing less data matters?



Source: pixabay

You reduce the chance of privacy leaks (your data cannot leak if you did not share it).



You reduce harm to others (less third-party data, fewer identifiers).



You reduce the risk of unfair or misleading conclusions (less „noise,“ more purpose-focused input).



You keep more control over your information.



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Want to SAFE Workflow Ladder?

Stop rule:
If you cannot remove

**sensitive/confidential
elements →**

→ do not upload!

When you want AI help, do not start by uploading everything. Choose the safest level that still works.

Level 1 (Safest): Ask a general question (no personal data).
Example: „How do I structure a CV?“



Level 2: Use an anonymised summary (roles, no identifiers).
Example: „Person A and Person B had a conflict about deadlines-how can I respond?“



Level 3: Use limited, de-identified data only if necessary.
Example: „Here are totals by category (no names). Help me interpret trends.“



Make a risky request safe (before → after)

Rule:

Share the pattern and purpose, not personal identifiers.

Prompt before:

„Here is my full CV. Improve it.” (you upload a document with your full CV with address, phone number, and reference contacts etc.)

What is risky: unnecessary identifiers, third-party contact details, data that could be copied or leaked.

Prompt After (safer):

„Please improve the wording and structure of this CV. I removed personal details. Focus on clarity, achievements, and concise phrasing.”



Output safety: your AI results can also leak information

Even if you share carefully, the output can still contain sensitive details if:

- your input included private information, or,
- the AI repeats it in a summary, checklist, or draft message.

Safer habits:

- treat outputs like documents: do not paste them into public chats/groups.
- remove names, identifiers, and unique details before sharing.
- if the output is about a person, keep it private or rewrite it more generally.
- store sensitive outputs securely (or delete when not needed).



04. Choosing safer AI workflows

Want to Main activity: Turn unsafe AI use into safe AI use (10 minutes)



Source: pixabay

**You will practise the full skill using fictional examples.
Your goal is to produce safer requests that still solve
the problem.**

For each request:

- ★ Identify unsafe parts (Never Share / Consent Gate / Fairness risk)
 - ★ Rewrite safely (minimise, anonymise, abstract)
- ★ Add one FDC line: “What might be missing or biased?”
- ★ Choose the workflow: Level 1 / Level 2 / Level 3 / Stop

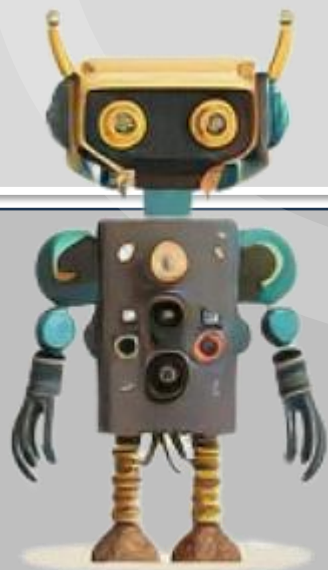
Output:

A short “Safe Data Playbook” you can use in daily AI use.



04. Choosing safer AI workflows

Want to Main activity: Turn unsafe AI use into safe AI use (10 minutes)



Source: pixabay

Practice 1: Chat screenshot (privacy + consent)

„Here is a screenshot of a chat with my friend [names visible]. Tell me who is right and what I should reply.”

Step-by-step tasks:

NSL (Never Share): What should never be uploaded here?



Consent Gate: Do you have permission to share this data?



Safe rewrite (Level 1 or 2): Ask for advice without the screenshot.



Fairness line: What might be missing from the story?



04. Choosing safer AI workflows

Want to Main activity: Turn unsafe AI use into safe AI use (10 minutes)



Source: pixabay

Practice 2: List of people (confidential + fairness)

„Please analyse this volunteer list [with names, phone numbers, and attendance problems]. Rank who is reliable.”

Why it is risky:
personal identifiers + third-party data
★
harmful outcome (ranking people)
★
high fairness and impact risk
★

Your safer goal: Make the question about improving the system, not judging individuals.



04. Choosing safer AI workflows

**Want to Main activity:
Turn unsafe AI use into
safe AI use (10 minutes)**



Source: pixabay

Practice 2: List of people (confidential + fairness)

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05. Some data



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Some data

(15 min)



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There is a growing trend of illegal use of data using AI

„Data exfiltration volumes for 10 major ransomware families increased 92.7%”

Zscaler ThreatLabz, “Zscaler ThreatLabz 2025 Ransomware Report” (Zscaler, 2025); <https://threatlabz.zscaler.com/>.



87% increase in ransomware or other destructive attacks. 23% increase in credential theft attempts.

Microsoft Threat Intelligence, “Microsoft Digital Defense Report 2025: Lighting the Path to a Secure Future” (Microsoft, 2025); <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/security/security-insider/threat-landscape/microsoft-digital-defense-report-2025>.



„Ransomware attacks against industrial organizations increased 87% over 2024”.

Dragos, Dragos’s 8th Annual OT Cybersecurity Year in Review Is Now Available (2025); <https://www.dragos.com/blog/dragos-8th-annual-ot-cybersecurity-year-in-review-is-now-available>.



There are indications that AI systems can meaningfully assist attackers

„The actor [...] relied heavily on Claude for [malware] implementation”.

A. Moix, K. Lebedev, J. Klein, “Threat Intelligence Report: August 2025” (Anthropic, 2025);
<https://www-cdn.anthropic.com/b2a76c6f6992465c09a6f2fce282f6c0cea8c200.pdf>



“[Google Threat Intelligence Group] discovered a code family that employed AI capabilities mid-execution to dynamically alter the malware’s behavior. [...] Attackers are moving beyond [...] using AI tools for technical support”.

Google Threat Intelligence Group, “GTIG AI Threat Tracker: Advances in Threat Actor Usage of AI Tools” (Google Threat Intelligence, 2025); <https://services.google.com/fh/files/misc/advances-in-threat-actor-usage-of-ai-tools-en.pdf>



“Ransomware operators APT INC deployed a likely LLM-authored data destruction script”.

CrowdStrike, “CrowdStrike 2025 Global Threat Report” (CrowdStrike, 2025);
<https://www.crowdstrike.com/en-gb/global-threat-report/>



Data & credential stealing



The contribution of AI systems to the trend appears to be limited and is likely secondary to other factors. However, some malicious actors would be unlikely to launch their attacks without AI systems.

International AI Safety Report 2026 (DSIT 2026/001, 2026);
<https://internationalaisafetyreport.org>



Source: pixabay



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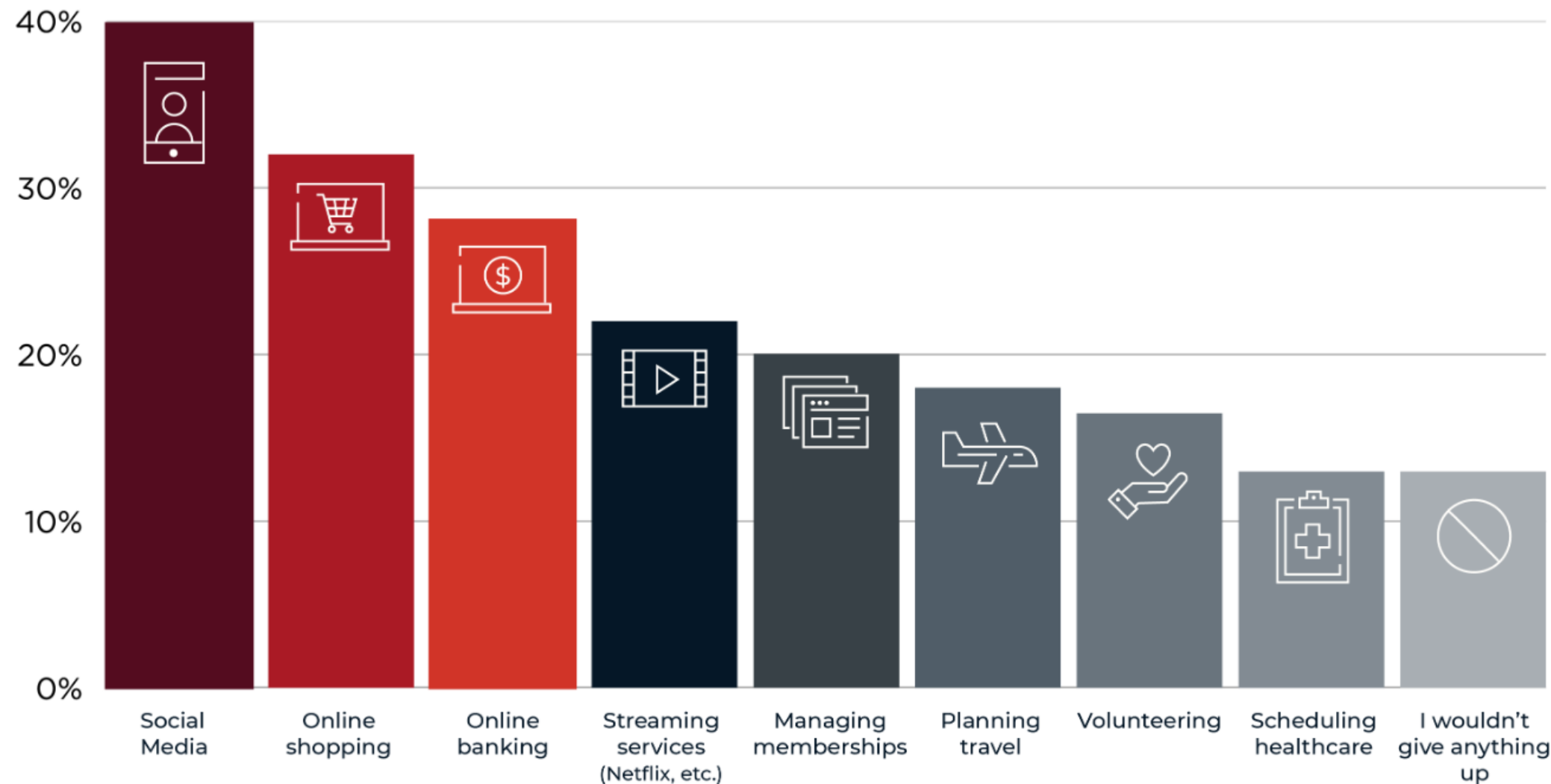


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05. Some data

Data safety and AI

Which types of online services do you trust least with your identity data?



Remember that AI is currently widely used and often mediates services and transactions.



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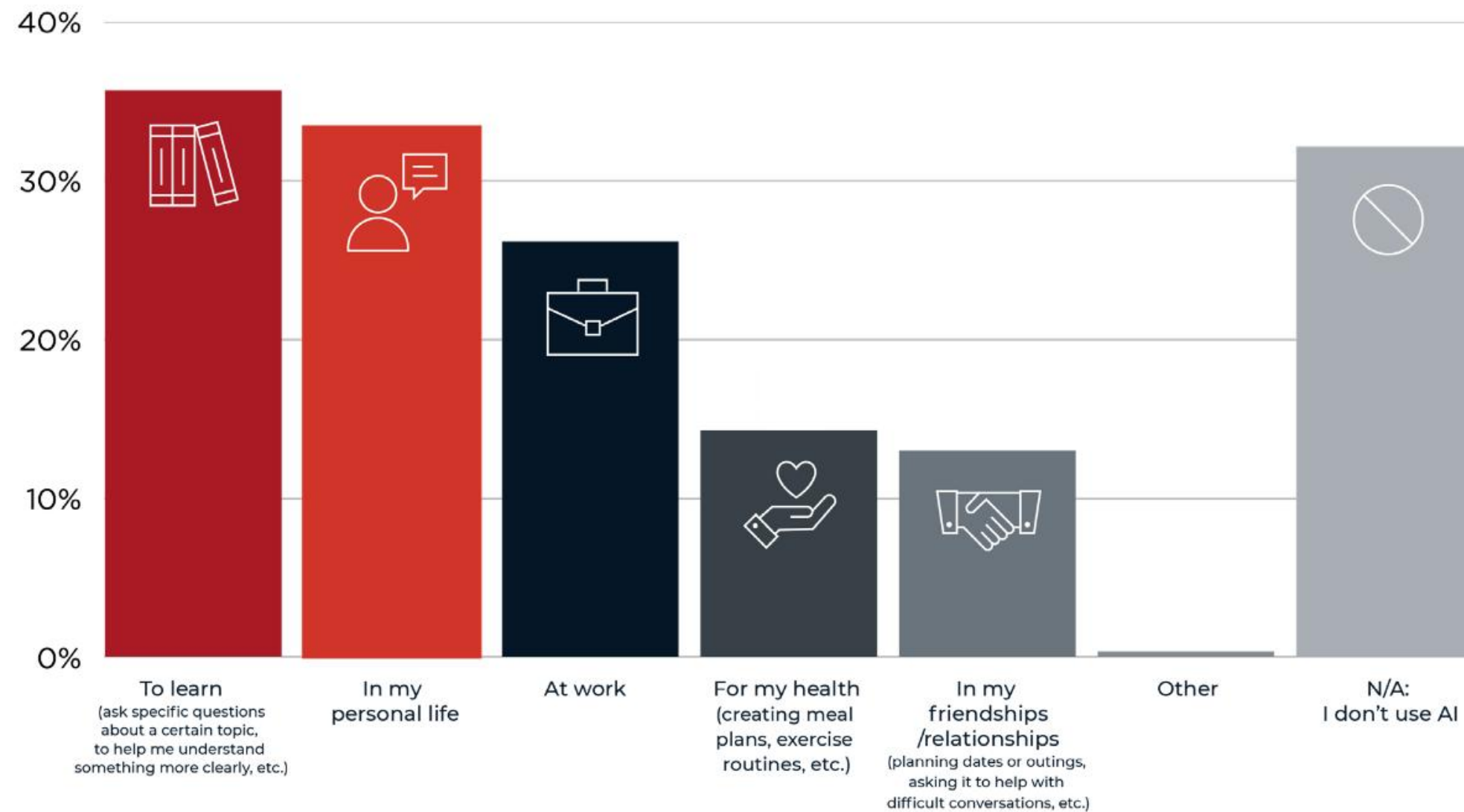
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Data safety and AI

How are you currently using artificial intelligence (AI)?



„While knowledge is power, the increased use of AI in our everyday lives has only informed many consumers of its capabilities. They see firsthand how powerful this technology can be when applied to their own use cases. They're also seeing more news stories and data points about increases in security threats and cyberattacks. Combined, it's understandable that this contributes to a crisis of confidence in brands' abilities to keep consumers' identity data secure.”

DARRYL JONES Vice President of Consumer Segment Strategy, Ping Identity



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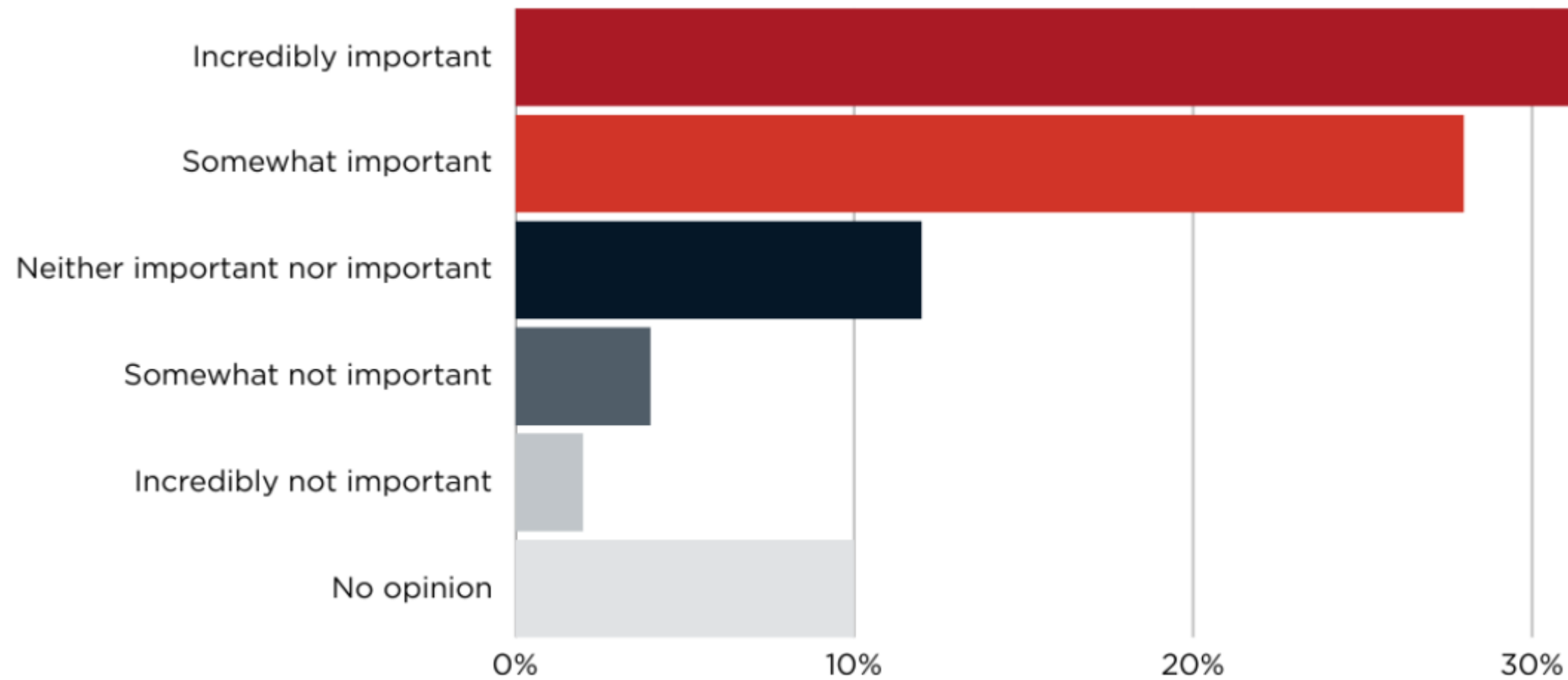
What are your concerns about AI with regard to identity security, if any?



Invasion of my personal privacy by AI programs	27%
AI-generated phishing	27%
AI being used to falsely impersonate me or a brand/person that I am engaging with	26%
Lack of transparency in how AI systems are using and storing my personal information	25%
Increased cybersecurity risks - threatening the safety of my personal data	25%
AI-generated voice cloning	24%
Deepfake impersonations of people I know and trust	22%
AI impersonation via chatbots	20%
Lack of accuracy/bias in AI systems	18%
I don't understand what my legal protections are for how AI uses my information	18%
Authorizing AI to work on my behalf	17%
I don't have any concerns related to AI and identity security	9%
Don't know	13%



How important is government regulation of AI to protect your personal identity data online?



Source: pixabay



73%

of respondents reported feeling that government regulation of AI to protect their identity data is important.



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How Safe Is Your Data? (AI and Privacy Explained)



In today's digital age, protecting your data has never been more essential.

This video unpacks the complex interactions between artificial intelligence and the data we share online every day, from social media posts to online shopping habits.





Thank

you

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<https://www.linkedin.com/company/values-ai/posts/?feedView=all>



<https://www.facebook.com/ValuesAI>



https://www.instagram.com/values_ai/



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