



# AI Security & Governance for Credit Unions

Managing Shadow AI, Embedded AI & Agentic AI Risks



# Introductions



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# Today's Agenda

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## AI Threat Landscape

Shadow AI, Embedded AI, Agentic AI

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## Credit Union Risk Profile

Why you're high-value targets

03

## Regulatory Expectations

NCUA, NIST, FFIEC

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## Building Governance

Teams, policies, technical controls

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## Vendor & Third-Party AI

Due diligence for AI-enabled solutions

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## Roadmap

30-day quick wins and 12-month plan



# The Three AI Risk Categories You Must Address

## Shadow AI

*Unauthorized use of consumer AI tools*

- ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini
- Copilot in browsers
- AI writing assistants
- Image generators
- Personal accounts on work devices

**Risk:** Data leakage to training sets, no audit trail, compliance violations

## Embedded AI

*AI built into vendor solutions*

- Loan origination/underwriting
- Fraud detection systems
- Security tools (SIEM, EDR)
- Member service chatbots
- Collections optimization
- Marketing/segmentation

**Risk:** Fair lending liability, model opacity, silent updates, vendor lock-in

## Agentic AI

*AI that takes autonomous action*

- Auto-decisioning loans
- Automated remediation
- Multi-step workflows
- AI coding assistants
- Autonomous customer service
- Security orchestration

**Risk:** Cascading errors, no human review, accountability gaps, speed outpaces oversight

# What is Shadow AI?

Shadow AI refers to the use of AI tools and services **without** IT department knowledge or oversight—**bypassing** security controls and governance.

## Common Examples:

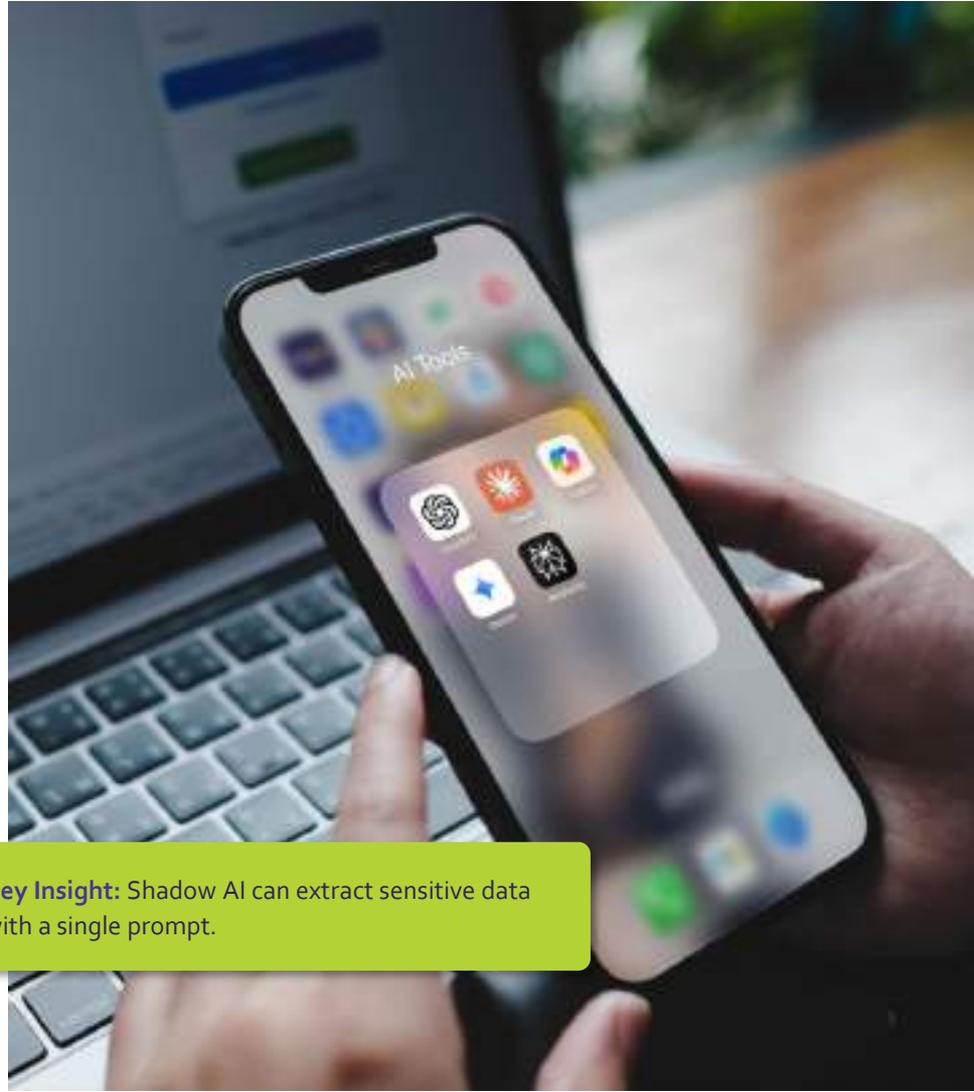
- ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini via personal accounts
- Browser-based AI extensions
- Mobile AI apps on personal devices
- Copying member data into AI prompts

### RED FLAGS TO WATCH

- Unusual clipboard activity
- Traffic to AI domains
- AI-characteristic phrasing
- Unapproved browser extensions

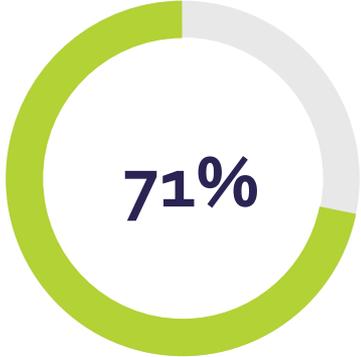


**Key Insight:** Shadow AI can extract sensitive data with a single prompt.



# The Shadow AI Problem

Your employees are using AI - whether you know it or not



of office workers use AI without IT approval

Source: 2025 Research



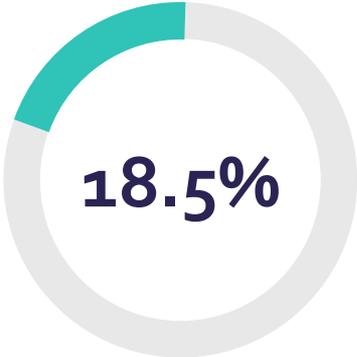
of employees are shadow AI users; 46% would refuse to stop if banned

Source: Software AG 2024 (6,000 workers)



share sensitive work info with AI without employer knowledge

Source: CybSafe/NCA 2024 (7,000 respondents)



are aware of their company's AI policy

Source: 2025 Survey (12,000 workers)



# Embedded AI: The AI You Already Have



## The Liability Problem

When a vendor's AI makes a discriminatory lending decision, YOU own the fair lending liability.  
*"The vendor's model did it" is not a defense under ECOA or fair lending laws*

## Where AI is Already Embedded in Your Stack:



### Lending & Credit

Underwriting, pricing, risk scoring, adverse action



### Collections

Skip tracing, payment propensity, contact optimization



### Member Service

Chatbots, IVR, knowledge search, next-best-action



### Security Tools

SIEM, EDR, UEBA, threat intelligence, SOC automation



### Fraud & BSA/AML

Transaction monitoring, behavioral analytics, SAR filing



### Marketing

Segmentation, targeting, personalization, offers

## Hidden Risks:

- **Silent model updates** – Vendor changes behavior without notice
- **Model drift** – Accuracy degrades over time
- **Black box** – Can't explain decisions to examiners
- **Training data** – May include biased historical data



# Agentic AI: The Emerging Frontier of Risk

## What Makes AI "Agentic"?

Unlike traditional AI that provides recommendations, agentic AI takes autonomous action without human approval.

### Examples:

- Auto-decisioning – Approves/denies loans without review
- Security orchestration – Isolates endpoints automatically
- Workflow automation – Multi-step processes across systems
- AI coding tools – Writes and deploys code

### Required Controls:

- Human-in-the-loop for high-risk decisions
- Kill switches – instant halt capability
- Action limits – cap before human review

## Unique Risks:



### Cascading Errors

Chain reactions across systems



### Accountability Gap

Who's responsible?



### Scope Creep

Actions beyond boundaries



### Prompt Injection

Manipulated into harm

Speed outpaces oversight. One bad decision becomes 500 before anyone notices.



# Why Credit Unions Are High-Value Targets

**300x**

more likely to be targeted  
vs. other industries

IBM Security

**\$5.9M**

Average breach cost in  
financial services

## Contributing Factors:

- **Limited Security Resources**

Smaller IT teams, often no dedicated security staff, competing priorities

- **Member Trust = High-Value Data**

Complete financial profiles, SSNs, account access – premium on dark web

- **Heavy Vendor Dependence**

Core processors, fintechs, and service providers all adding AI features

- **Productivity Pressure**

Staff eager to use AI tools to do more with less – with or without approval

## NCUA INCIDENT DATA (Sept 2023 – May 2024)

**892** **73%**

Cyber incidents

Third-party involved



### Member Data at Risk:

SSNs, account numbers, credentials, loan applications, internal procedures



# The Data Exposure Crisis

Corporate data flowing to AI tools at unprecedented rates

# 485%

increase in corporate data sent to AI tools

March 2023 - March 2024 | Cyberhaven Labs

## 46%

experienced internal data leaks  
through GenAI

Cisco 2025

## 22%

of files uploaded contain sensitive  
info

Netskope Q2 2025

## 4.7%

of financial firm employees put  
data in AI

March 2024

# Regulatory Landscape for AI



## NCUA Expectations

- Risk assessment for AI/ML adoption
- Board oversight and reporting
- Vendor due diligence for AI services



## NIST AI RMF

- GOVERN – Establish accountability
- MAP – Identify AI uses
- MEASURE – Assess risks
- MANAGE – Mitigate and monitor



## FFIEC (Emerging)

- Model risk management
- Third-party AI oversight

## Fair Lending Focus

ECOA applies regardless of human or algorithm. Examiners ask:

- How are AI lending models validated?
- What testing for disparate impact?
- Can you explain adverse actions?

## Key Takeaway

Regulators don't need new AI rules. Existing model risk and vendor guidance already applies.

**Examiners ARE asking about AI.**



# NIST AI Risk Management Framework



## GOVERN

Cultivate organizational culture and establish accountability

- Board oversight
- AI ethics principles
- Roles & responsibilities
- Policy framework



## MAP

Identify and understand AI systems in your environment

- AI inventory (all 3 types)
- Use case documentation
- Data flow mapping
- Stakeholder identification



## MEASURE

Assess, analyze, and track AI risks

- Risk assessments
- Bias testing
- Performance metrics
- Compliance validation



## MANAGE

Mitigate, monitor, and respond to risks

- Controls implementation
- Incident response
- Continuous monitoring
- Ongoing improvement

# The Governance Gap

<1/3

have AI governance frameworks

1 in 5

advanced maturity

70%

use GenAI tools

vs

15%

implemented policies

Security Leaders Know It

69%

suspect employees using public GenAI

# Building Your AI Governance Structure

## Cross-Functional Team

- **IT/Security** – Controls
- **Compliance** – Regulatory
- **Risk** – Assessment
- **Legal** – Contracts
- **Business** – Use cases

## Board Oversight

- Define risk appetite
- Quarterly AI reports
- Major use case approval
- Policy sign-off
- Escalation path

## Essential Policies

- Acceptable Use Policy
- Data Classification
- Approved Tools List
- Vendor Criteria
- Incident Response

# Step 1: Build Your Comprehensive AI Inventory

You can't govern what you don't know exists. Your inventory must include ALL three AI categories:

Shadow AI Discovery	Embedded AI Discover	Agentic AI Discovery
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Network traffic analysis</li><li>• Browser extension audit</li><li>• Employee surveys</li><li>• CASB/DLP alerts</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vendor questionnaires</li><li>• Contract AI clause review</li><li>• Product documentation</li><li>• Vendor briefings</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Automation workflow review</li><li>• RPA/orchestration platforms</li><li>• Auto-decisioning systems</li><li>• Security automation</li></ul>

## Minimum Inventory Fields:

- System name and vendor
- AI category
- Business owner
- Data inputs/outputs
- Risk tier
- Approval status
- Last review date
- Human-in-the-loop req.

# Technical Controls for AI Risk Mitigation

## Detection

- DNS/Web filtering – Block or alert on AI domains
- DLP rules – Detect sensitive data to AI services
- CASB policies – Monitor cloud AI usage
- Endpoint agents – Track AI application usage
- Browser controls – Manage AI extensions

## Prevention

- Enterprise AI tools – Approved alternatives
- Access controls – Role-based AI permissions
- Data classification – Prevent restricted data uploads
- Network segmentation – Isolate AI systems
- API gateways – Control AI API access

## Agentic AI Controls

- Action limits – Cap transactions before human review
- Kill switches – Instant halt capability
- Audit logging – Every AI action recorded
- Anomaly detection – Alert on unusual patterns
- Rollback capability – Undo AI actions

# Vendor AI Due Diligence

## Contract Must-Haves

- **Model Change Notification** - 30-day advance notice of material AI model changes
- **Audit Rights** - Right to audit AI systems and request model documentation
- **Data Usage Limitations** - Prohibit use of your data to train models for others
- **Liability Allocation** - Clear terms for AI-related errors, fair lending violations
- **Data Deletion upon Termination** – Set deletion timeline and confirmation terms
- **Breach notification timelines**
- **Data Residency** – Limit data transmission, processing, and storage to within United States jurisdiction
- **SLA** – Establish performance metrics

## Add These to Every Vendor Questionnaire:

1. Does your product use **AI, ML, or automated decision-making**?
2. What data is used to **train/operate** the AI models?
3. Is our data used to **train models** shared with **other customers**?
4. How are AI model updates **communicated** and **validated**?
5. Can you explain **model decisions** for **regulatory examination**?
6. What testing for **bias/disparate** impact has been **performed**?
7. Does the AI take **autonomous actions** or only **recommendations**?

# 30-Day Quick Start Plan

Actions you can take starting tomorrow

## Week 1

- Survey staff on current AI use
- Review network logs for AI domains
- List all vendors – flag those with AI
- Brief executive team on AI risks

## Week 2

- Draft acceptable use policy
- Identify oversight team members
- Create AI vendor questionnaire
- Review lending system AI features

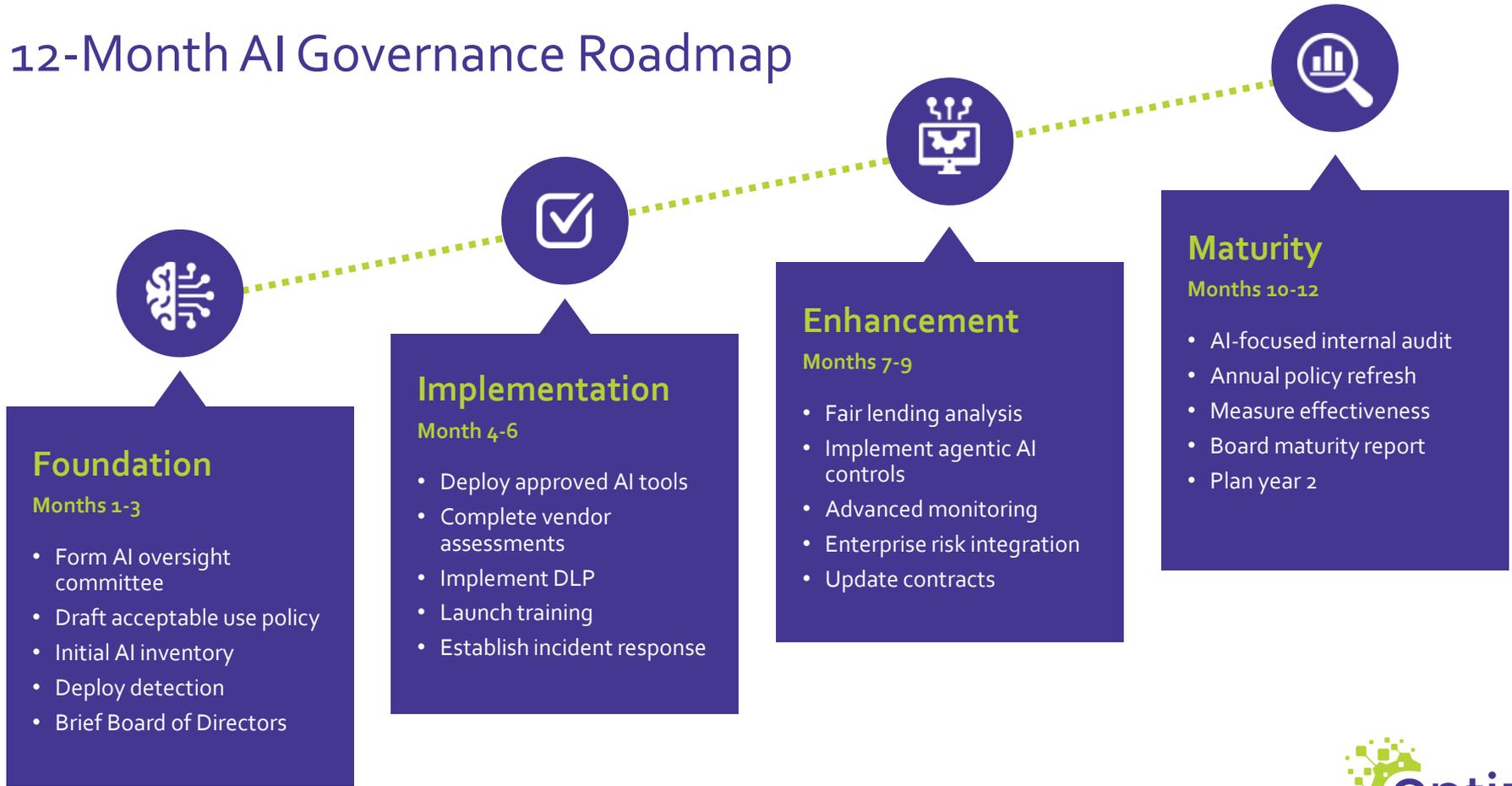
## Week 3

- Enable DLP alerts for AI services
- Evaluate enterprise AI options
- Hold first oversight team meeting
- Inventory agentic/auto-decisioning

## Week 4

- Finalize and publish AI policy
- Send vendor AI questionnaires
- Brief board on findings
- Create 12-month roadmap

# 12-Month AI Governance Roadmap



# Key Takeaways

AI risk is broader than ChatGPT

Your inventory must include shadow AI, embedded vendor AI, and agentic AI systems

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Vendor AI is YOUR liability

Fair lending, compliance, and member harm from vendor AI decisions are your responsibility

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Agentic AI needs special controls

Human-in-the-loop, kill switches, and action limits are essential for autonomous systems

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Regulators are already asking

NCUA examiners expect AI governance. Use NIST AI RMF as your framework

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Start now – don't wait

Your 30-day plan starts tomorrow — you Use the 30-day plan. Prohibition isn't viable; governance is essential



## Resources & Q&A

See handouts for additional resource directory

NCUA:

<https://ncua.gov/ai>

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NIST:

<https://www.nist.gov/itl/ai-risk-management-framework>

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CISA:

<https://www.cisa.gov/ai>

# Thank you

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