

What You Need To Know About GenAI



What Is Generative AI?

- Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) tools produce new content—text, images, sounds, or videos—based on patterns in the data they were trained on.
- Popular GenAI examples include ChatGPT, Copilot, Gemini, and Claude.

Important:

- AI doesn't think, understand, or feel. It predicts what words or images are most likely to come next based on patterns.
- It imitates human intelligence; it does not have intelligence.

Three Things to Remember About AI

1. AI Can Be Helpful

- AI tools can process huge amounts of information quickly
- AI tools can help you brainstorm, draft, summarize, and organize
- AI tools can provide personalized recommendations
- AI tools can expand accessibility (reading text aloud, translating languages, describing images)

2. AI Can Be Harmful

- **Bias:** AI learns from data created by humans, including our biases and stereotypes. It can repeat and reinforce unfair ideas.

- **Privacy risks:** Many free AI tools store your conversations and personal information, use them for training data, and might be susceptible to leaking your information.
- **Environmental impact:** AI uses significant energy and water resources.
- **Deepfakes:** Bad actors use AI to create convincing fake videos, audio, and images.

3. AI Can Be Wrong

- When AI generates false information confidently, it's called a **hallucination**. This happens because:
 - ❑ AI predicts likely patterns, not facts
 - ❑ Training data has gaps and errors
 - ❑ AI doesn't actually "know" anything—it mimics knowledge

Using AI Responsibly

- ✓ **Check before you trust:** AI sounds confident even when wrong
- ✓ **Know the limits:** AI helps you think, it doesn't think for you
- ✓ **Remember AI is not your friend:** For real support, talk to real people
- ✓ **Think about the planet:** Consider whether you need AI for every task
- ✓ **Keep building your own skills:** Don't let AI do things you want to learn
- ✓ **Be the decision-maker:** You should make the final call, not the AI
- ✓ **Protect your privacy:** Never share sensitive personal information
- ✓ **Watch for fakes and scams:** Verify before believing or sending money