

The Six Laws of Autonomous Systems

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What Is This?

The Six Laws of Autonomous Systems is a framework designed to help people think about how powerful autonomous technologies should behave.

Why It Matters

Autonomous systems increasingly influence information, safety, privacy, work, and public life.

Core Idea

Technology should remain accountable to human values, lawful authority, transparency, privacy, and social responsibility.

Who Is This For?

Citizens, students, technology users, educators, journalists, and community leaders.

What Problems Does It Address?

Unclear accountability, opaque decisions, misuse of data, safety risks, and loss of human oversight.

The Six Laws at a Glance

Law	Title	Core Governance Function
I	Human Primacy	Human life, dignity, and well-being are paramount.
II	Human Authority	Autonomous systems remain subject to lawful human authority.
III	Transparency and Accountability	System actions must be understandable, auditable, and attributable.
IV	Privacy and Data Sovereignty	Personal data must be respected and not weaponized.
V	Societal and Environmental Responsibility	Systems must consider long-term social and ecological effects.
VI	Self-Preservation Within Ethical Bounds	System continuity is subordinate to Laws I through V.

Why Public Discussion Matters

Governance frameworks are strongest when they are understood, challenged, and improved through public participation.