

The Six Laws of Autonomous Systems

Short Conclusion and Public Summary

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Purpose

The Six Laws of Autonomous Systems is a plain-language framework for thinking about how powerful autonomous technologies should behave.

Why It Matters

Autonomous systems increasingly influence information, safety, privacy, work, and public life. The central idea is that technology should remain accountable to human values, lawful authority, transparency, privacy, and social responsibility.

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.

Key Takeaway

The question is no longer only whether machines can act autonomously. The question is whether autonomous systems can remain trustworthy, governable, understandable, accountable, and aligned with human flourishing as their capabilities continue to expand.