

# United States: Ban House staff from using Microsoft's AI Copilot

The US House of Representatives bill banned employees from using Microsoft Copilot. The reason given is concerns about privacy and data security.



## Broader U.S. Government AI regulatory efforts

Administrative Director of the House of Representatives Catherine Szpindor

"The Microsoft Copilot application has been deemed a risk to users by the Office of Cybersecurity due to the potential leak of White House data to cloud storage not approved by the White House."

The US House of Representatives has issued a strict ban on employees using the AI Copilot chatbot. This is the latest example of the federal government trying to navigate its internal use of AI while also trying to develop regulations for this growing technology.

Copilot is Microsoft's AI-based assistant, built on leading technology from OpenAI, creators of ChatGPT.

Microsoft has released free and paid versions of the software for consumers as well as many paid options for businesses.

Microsoft's Copilot works as a standalone chatbot for Websites and mobile devices, and paid versions can also work directly within Office applications like Word, Excel, Outlook, and PowerPoint.

Previously, in June last year, the US House of Representatives also limited the use of ChatGPT to the paid version for employees, absolutely prohibiting the use of the free version.

These actions underscore a broader effort by the U.S. federal government to balance the internal adoption of AI technologies with the development of appropriate regulations for the sector.

The ban also reflects broader concerns, similar to those in the corporate sector, where there is concern about the use of consumer-grade AI tools due to potential problems about data privacy.

Many businesses are eyeing or purchasing business versions that come with a guarantee that the data will not be used to train AI models in the future.

### **Microsoft's response to Copilot chatbot security concerns**

Before announcing the blocking and disabling of the Copilot chatbot on all devices operated by the White House, Microsoft expressed its intention to introduce a set of AI tools designed specifically for government use. These will comply with strict federal data security and standards.

Additionally, Microsoft recently launched Copilot for Security, a solution designed to empower people and solve cybercrime challenges. With it, Microsoft is bringing the power of AI to the backyards of IT and security professionals.

With the rapid development of artificial intelligence, most governments are trying to legislate and find ways to "live peacefully" with AI. But this is also a process that takes a lot of time and testing. Therefore, it is understandable that Microsoft's AI is banned.

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