

Technology, Media & Telecommunications

On the Cutting Edge of AI Governance

Singapore Launches Model AI Governance Framework for Generative AI, Develops Digital Forum of Small States AI Governance Playbook

Introduction

As a regional leader in the field of artificial intelligence ("AI"), Singapore has played an active role in setting the course for the development of AI while managing its associated risks. Singapore has demonstrated its position on the cutting edge of AI governance through its development of pioneering AI frameworks and its leadership in international cooperation efforts to develop harmonised standards.

In particular, generative AI has emerged as a tool of great transformative potential, but also a source of unique challenges, as it reinforces existing AI risks while introducing new risks. In line with this, Singapore has now launched the Model AI Governance Framework for Generative AI ("**MGF-Gen AI**"), which aims to establish a systematic and balanced approach to address generative AI risks while continuing to facilitate innovation. The MGF-Gen AI sets out nine dimensions which are to be looked at in totality in order to foster a trusted AI ecosystem.

The Infocomm Media Development Authority ("**IMDA**") and the AI Verify Foundation had earlier published a draft MGF-Gen AI, seeking views from the international community. For more information, please see our earlier Legal Update on the draft MGF-Gen AI [here](#). After considering and applying the feedback received, the finalised version of the MGF-Gen AI has now been issued.

Singapore will also be working with Rwanda to lead the development of a Digital Forum of Small States ("**FOSS**") AI Governance Playbook ("**Digital FOSS Playbook**"), which seeks to enable small states to harness AI positively. The playbook is expected to be available at the end of 2024.

This Update highlights the key features of the MGF-Gen AI and what parties looking to develop or deploy generative AI solutions should be aware of, as well as the anticipated features of the Digital FOSS Playbook.

MGF-Gen AI

The Model AI Governance Framework for was initially launched in 2019 to lay the groundwork to promote the responsible use of traditional AI. This was later updated in 2020.



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However, the advent of generative AI has reinforced existing AI risks such as bias, misuse, and lack of explainability. It has also introduced new risks such as hallucination, copyright infringement, and value alignment. This has hastened the need for the review of existing governance frameworks.

In January 2024, IMDA and the AI Verify Foundation built upon the work done for traditional AI and proposed the draft MGF-Gen AI, which was the first comprehensive framework for generative AI governance. IMDA has since received feedback from local and international companies, technology MNCs, audit firms, and government agencies. The feedback has been incorporated into the finalised MGF-Gen AI, which is available [here](#).

Key Features

The MGF-Gen AI seeks to strike a balance between protecting users and driving innovation, while also addressing pertinent issues such as accountability, copyright, and misinformation.

The MGF-Gen AI sets out nine dimensions to be looked at in totality:

- Accountability
- Data
- Trusted Development and Deployment
- Incident Reporting
- Testing and Assurance
- Security
- Content Provenance
- Safety and Alignment Research & Development
- AI for Public Good

Dimension	Summary	Highlighted Recommendations
Accountability	Putting in place the right incentive structure for different players in the AI system development life cycle to be responsible to end-users	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allocating upfront responsibility based on level of control• Safety nets for new and unanticipated issues, including concepts around indemnity and insurance• Updating legal frameworks to make them more flexible
Data	Ensuring data quality and addressing potentially contentious training data in a pragmatic way	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Articulating how existing personal data laws apply to generative AI• Balancing copyright with data accessibility

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Dimension	Summary	Highlighted Recommendations
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertaking data quality control measures and expanding the available pool of trusted datasets
Trusted Development and Deployment	Enhancing transparency around baseline safety and hygiene measures based on industry best practices in development, evaluation and disclosure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development – establishing baseline safety practices Disclosure – standardising a calibrated level of disclosure Evaluation – working towards a more comprehensive and systematic approach to safety evaluations while maintaining coherence between baseline and sector-specific requirements
Incident Reporting	Implementing an incident management system for timely notification, remediation and continuous improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vulnerability reporting – incentive to act pre-emptively by allowing reporting channels Incident reporting – developing processes for notification and remediation, harmonising principles with existing reporting regime, and establishing proportionate reporting
Testing and Assurance	Providing external validation and added trust through third-party testing, and developing common AI testing standards for consistency	<p>Fostering development of a third-party testing ecosystem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to test – defining a testing methodology that is reliable and consistent, and specifying the scope of testing to complement internal testing Who to test – identifying the entities to conduct testing so as to ensure independence
Security	Addressing new threat vectors that arise through generative AI models	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adapting "Security-by-Design" Developing new security safeguards such as input filters and digital forensics tools for generative AI
Content Provenance	Transparency about where content comes from as useful signals for end-users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designing policies to enable practical use in the right contexts Working with key parties in the content life cycle Standardising the types of edits to be labelled

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Dimension	Summary	Highlighted Recommendations
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing users with greater understanding of content provenance
Safety and Alignment Research & Development	Accelerating research and development through global cooperation among AI Safety Institutes to improve model alignment with human intention and values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerating research and development in model safety and alignment • Promoting global cooperation in research and development
AI for Public Good	Harnessing AI to benefit the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democratising access to technology • Serving the public in impactful ways • Upskilling of the workforce • Ensuring sustainable growth

Digital FOSS Playbook

Singapore has also announced its role in leading the development of the Digital FOSS Playbook alongside Rwanda. The Digital FOSS Playbook is tailored for small states and will address the challenges associated with the secure design, development, evaluation, and implementation of AI systems in the context of the unique constraints faced by small states.

The development of the Digital FOSS Playbook seeks to facilitate collaboration among policymakers in FOSS to establish a trusted AI ecosystem. Singapore, as the convenor of Digital FOSS, will facilitate the consultation of small states on an outline of the playbook during the Digital FOSS Fellowship Programme. This will shape the playbook as a helpful guide for small states and foster an inclusive global discourse on AI.

The playbook is expected to be available in end-2024.

Concluding Words

The MGF-Gen AI represents a forward-thinking piece of guidance to direct the controlled development of generative AI, addressing key policy issues, safeguards and standards, and legislative concerns. While the directions in which generative AI may branch out are difficult to predict, the MGF-Gen AI gives an indication of how such growth may be managed.

Businesses and entities looking to develop generative AI solutions or to deploy such tools in their operations should familiarise themselves with the principles set out in the MGF-Gen AI. While it may not set out any binding obligations, it provides guidance to ensure compliance with standards that may be set out in the future.

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Parties should also look out for further advancements in the development of the Digital FOSS Playbook. For small states like Singapore, it will serve as an instructive guide on the development and deployment of AI in their specific contexts, while also fostering international engagement on harmonising AI governance.

For further queries, please feel free to contact our team below.

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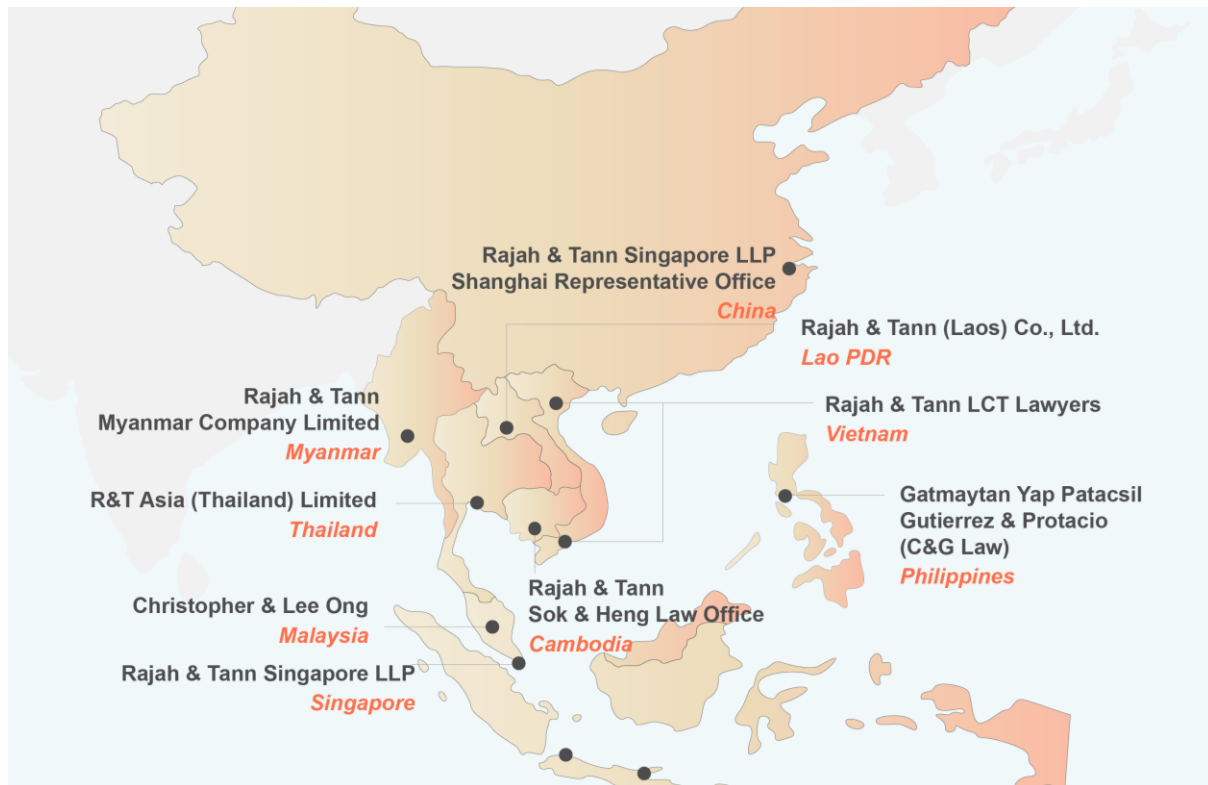
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