



Privacy & Security Insights with **PICCASO**



AI as a Security Ally

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AI as a Security Ally

I'm a big fan of doomsday movies. The far-fetched plot lines, the surreal characters, and the heroes and heroines who ultimately save the day will always entertain me. But what of the coming potential promise of doomsday due to AI? The potential for killer robots, or systems making wrong "decisions", or simply the dangers of bias built-in to AI? I'm afraid I cannot get on-board with this plot line as I fundamentally think AI will enhance our daily lives and provide innovations and opportunities we have not yet fathomed.

With all things cyber-related, the hype around AI is about separating the wheat from the sheath. As exciting as all the initial hype is, the steps to prepare for how to leverage all this amazing technology is to ensure that we are continuing to harness the power of the cloud, and the integrated solutions on offer. The less siloed we are in our security architecture, the more opportunity we have for true holistic views presenting us with the right details that we can action. Although this road to security simplification is long and challenging, it is not new.

Let's capture 3 key points on how AI and cybersecurity comes together:

- **Harnessing the power of the Cloud:** By aggregating the data and signals from devices into as few sources as possible, provides the opportunity for AI to be leveraged as it can quickly and accurately analyse huge amounts of data. By moving to a more integrated approach, and away from siloed solutions, AI can be applied to the data with more success.
- **Enhanced Security Efficacy:** From advanced threat detection and prevention, zero-day malware detection and analysis, and enhanced user authentication and access control, AI powered systems helps in preventing and mitigating cyber-attacks, reducing the response times to threats, leading to a better secured network.
- **Make AI our Ally:** If used creatively, AI can play a very important role in privacy and data protection and adversarial defence. Privacy preservation techniques and AI algorithms that assist in data anonymization, along with AI powered defence tools, can provide you with a robust security posture. This not only protects your privacy and secures your data, but also ensures robustness and integrity of AI system themselves.

The most exciting opportunity AI provides is the multitude of jobs it will deliver. There is such a huge skills shortage in cybersecurity and we cannot fill the void fast enough no matter who many industry-initiatives and university graduates we try and attract. If alert fatigue is one of the biggest aggravations analysts have, and the potential to miss something due to the amount of alerts is real, then surely automating these mundane tasks. This would provide time and energy to enable these people to take on more interesting work and lead to less turn-over.

The time to prepare for the inevitable influx of AI innovations in security is now. The security solutions we will have in 3-5 years time will be ever-more complex; however, with AI it will be simpler and more integrated. Perhaps my love of doomsday movies will pan out after all; however, instead of AI being the enemy it will be the ally.

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About us:

We are a UK based non-for-profit privacy special interest group, led by seasoned volunteers who are senior leaders in privacy and data protection.

The primary aim of PICCASO is to create a community of professionals that share the value of exchanging 'know how', insights, clarity and explanation on specific privacy and data protection topics designed to distinguish between legal requirements, operational implementation, and strategic objectives, with the aim of greater understanding in how to achieve optimal outcomes based on good practice and thought leadership.

The PICCASO community is drawn from across the UK, Europe, and beyond, and from all industry sectors.

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