DATE: May 1, 2024
TO: All NARA
SUBJECT: May 6: ChatGPT Blocked for NARA Usage

NARA will block access to commercial ChatGPT on NARANet and on NARA-issued laptops, tablets, desktop computers, and mobile phones beginning **May 6, 2024**. NARA is taking this action to protect our data from security threats associated with use of ChatGPT. Several other federal agencies have already taken similar measures.

In [NARA Notice 2024-015](#), we warned NARA users about the risks of using NARA data in public generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, such as ChatGPT. ChatGPT, in particular, actively incorporates information that is input by its users into other responses, with no limitations. Like other federal agencies, NARA has determined that ChatGPT's unrestricted approach to reusing input data poses an unacceptable risk to NARA data security.

Various media reports indicate there is a growing amount of personally identifiable information and corporate proprietary information showing up in ChatGPT and other AI services. Employees who want to use AI to help them in their jobs often don't realize that these types of AI services keep your input data for further training of the AI. If sensitive, non-public NARA data is entered into ChatGPT, our data will become part of the living data set without the ability to have it removed or purged.

NARA understands the benefits of using AI tools to help you with work products. To ensure the responsible use of these tools, we are exploring the use of other AI solutions, such as Microsoft Copilot and Google Gemini, which provide services similar to ChatGPT, but in a more controlled environment. These tools differ from ChatGPT because they protect data input by federal agencies placing it in a private repository that is not shared with others.

We will provide additional updates on AI options for NARA. Thank you for your support and understanding as we make this change to keep NARA's data secure.

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