On 4 February 2025, the Department of Home Affairs issued a directive, PSPF Direction 001-2025, banning the use of DeepSeek products, applications, and web services within Australian Government entities. This action follows a threat and risk analysis that identified DeepSeek's public services as an unacceptable security risk.

Any projects receiving Commonwealth, State or Territory government funding are banned from using DeepSeek. We ask that all applicable staff please remove any instances of DeepSeek products, applications and web services from their systems and devices.

The broader Macquarie staff community are also advised to exercise extreme caution with external AI solutions on University-owned devices. DeepSeek is a foreign company that developed open-source AI models which are similar to ChatGPT.

Microsoft Copilot Chat

Staff looking to utilise AI tools are encouraged to log into Microsoft Copilot Chat with your University account, and are required to do so for any work that includes employee, student, health or any critical or sensitive information. These services, when accessed via your university account, provide an extra layer of security suitable for general use as it includes Commercial Data Protection.

Copilot Chat is a powerful AI solution running on our infrastructure using one of the latest language learning models (GPT-4o). Copilot Chat adheres to strict privacy standards and ensures that user input and data are well protected.

Learn more about DeepSeek and how it relates to our Privacy Risk Responsibility Approaches for using AI at Macquarie.☐

The golden rule for AI usage at Macquarie

When using publicly available or free tools (and even paid tools), always assume that the conversations are not private, and that the information provided could potentially become public later. It is crucial to avoid sharing any confidential, sensitive or health-related data unless the AI solution is authorised to handle such data.

The AI team is collaborating with procurement and legal counsel to review policy updates and explore offering a secure version of DeepSeek models via Microsoft Azure AI cloud infrastructure. Microsoft has not yet confirmed a release date for our region.

Thank you for supporting Macquarie's data security and compliance standards. For questions about banned DeepSeek versions, AI tools, or security considerations, contact the AI team.

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