

Aalto University

Privacy Notice for a Research Study about Using ChatGPT in information tasks

This privacy notice describes how your personal data will be used in the research study as a participating individual.

1. What is being studied in this research study and the purpose of processing personal data

This research study examines how people adopt, adapt, and incorporate ChatGPT in daily information-searching tasks. To achieve this objective, we will analyze public discussions on the social media platform Reddit. Specifically, we will collect and analyze posts and comments related to ChatGPT usage.

This Privacy Notice is used for informing the usage of personal data for the study (Reddit post and comments analysis) and is accessible to all study participants. This research is funded by Academy of Finland.

2. What personal data is processed in the research study

- Text information from Reddit public discussions, including the research participants' posts and comments in ChatGPT usage-related discussions.
- Findings or notes made by the researcher about the research participants' text content observed in the discussion, might include parts of the original quotes.
- No personally identifiable information will be collected or utilized in the analysis and report, including direct identifiers such as names or locations, as well as non-direct identifiers such as usernames.

Special categories of personal data (sensitive personal data)

Data belonging to special categories of personal data or other specially protected personal data **will not be processed** in the research study.

Note: The research primarily investigates the use of ChatGPT in information-related tasks and does not target data falling under special categories of personal or specially protected data. However, users on the Reddit platform may disclose instances of personal data, including special categories of personal data. For example, a Reddit user might share their experience of utilizing ChatGPT to understand medical diagnoses or aid in diagnosing health issues. Such instances are considered within the scope of ChatGPT's role in enhancing information comprehension and are thus included in the data collection process. However, since the research focuses on information tasks, detailed information regarding special categories will not undergo analysis or reporting. For example, in cases where specific health issues are mentioned, the researcher will substitute them with more generalized terms, such as "health issue," for the purpose of research analysis and reporting.

Personal data is collected from the following sources:

From a data register: Reddit platform

Other: The public discussions from the Reddit platform including posts and comments related to ChatGPT usage.

3. Processing of necessary personal data and removal of the direct identifiers from the data

The research study only processes personal data that is necessary for the purpose and execution of the study. The research data is processed during analysis phase of the research in a manner, that you are not directly identifiable to the researchers. Your direct identifiers, such as your name has been replaced, for example, with a random identifier.

- In case the research participant reveals sensitive personal data and processing of such personal data is not necessary for conducting the research and not a point of interest, such data is deleted in the data analysis phase.
- Regarding potential direct identifiers such as name or location in the text content are removed or blurred, in case such information is not relevant for the research.
- In the reporting phase, should any discussion be included, we will paraphrase it to ensure that original identifiable user information is not traceable, and we will attribute the contribution to "a Reddit user" without disclosing any specific user details.

Identity of the individual research participant will not be disclosed in a scientific publication or other research results to be published.

4. Legal basis for the processing of personal data

- The legal basis is scientific research, a task in the public interest

5. Sharing personal data

Research data containing your personal data is shared with the following parties:

- Personal data processed in the study will not be shared with third parties.

6. International data transfers

- Research data containing personal data will not be transferred outside the European Union/ European Economic Area or to international organizations.

7. Storage and protection of personal data

Protection of manual material: The Reddit data will be collected and stored in digital format such as Excel or Word format, and the material will be stored locally on the project researchers' Aalto computers and accessible to Lindqvist lab members.

Information processed in IT systems: Your personal data is processed and preserved in secure IT systems, which are approved by Aalto University and suitable for personal data. Access to all computers and IT systems are protected by username and strong personal password. Access to IT systems containing personal data is technically restricted in a manner, that only researchers participating in the study and persons necessary for the implementation of the study have access to your personal data.

8. Retention and deletion of personal data

Deletion during and after the study

Research data containing personal data is retained for research data to be used for further scientific research in the same scientific discipline or in other disciplines that support this research study. Research data containing personal data is deleted after five (5) years since the last publication where this research data has been used and exploited.

9. Rights of the research participant

According to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), a data subject has the right to:

- receive information on the processing of their personal data
- right to access the personal data collected and processed
- right to rectification of inaccurate personal data
- request that the processing of personal data be restricted
- object the processing of personal data
- right to erasure of personal data if the conditions of Article 17(1) of the Data Protection Regulation are met and processing is no longer necessary for archiving purposes in the public interest or for scientific research or statistical purposes in accordance with Article 89(1)

If the research purpose does not require, or no longer requires the identification of the data subject, the controller shall not be obliged to obtain further information so that the data or the data subject may be identified only for purposes to able the data subject to exercise his/her rights. If the controller is unable to link the data to a particular data subject, the data subject does not have the right to access or correct the personal data, object the processing, or delete the personal data. However, if the data subject provides additional information that allows their identification from the research data, the rights will not be restricted.

10. Contact details of the controller

The controller of this research study is Aalto University Foundation sr., operating as Aalto University.

Person in charge of the research study

Questions regarding the conduct of the research study may be addressed to the person in charge of the study:

Rongjun Ma, Department of Computer Science, Aalto University

+358 465442767, rongjun.ma@aalto.fi

Data Protection Officer

If the research participant has questions or requests related to data protection or the processing of personal data, the research participant should contact the Data Protection Officer of Aalto University: Anni Tuomela tel. +358 9 47001 (exchange), dpo@aalto.fi .

In this data request service, you can request the exercise of your rights under GDPR from Aalto University as the controller <https://datarequest.aalto.fi/en-US/>.

If a participant of the research study feels that his or her personal data has been processed in violation of data protection legislation, the participant has the right to lodge a complaint with the supervisory authority, the Data Protection Ombudsman's office (read more: <http://www.tietosuoja.fi>).