

PIONR – An AI Evaluation Framework for Utah

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The Prosperity, Integrity and Innovation, Openness, Natural Resource Stewardship, and Respect for Culture and Values (PIONR) Framework serves as a draft set of guidelines for evaluating artificial intelligence (AI) enabled tools, aligning with Utah’s commitment to responsible AI innovation. It provides a structured approach to assessing AI technologies across key dimensions that mirror the focus areas of the Utah [Office of Artificial Intelligence Policy](#) (OAIP): fostering economic growth, ensuring ethical AI use and public safety, promoting transparency and stakeholder engagement, and addressing the evolving regulatory landscape.

The PIONR Framework’s guiding questions facilitate evidence-based assessments, enabling the OAIP to proactively address potential risks and challenges associated with AI. The OAIP could then use the framework as the foundation for a more comprehensive evaluation process, including a detailed questionnaire or rating system that would score solutions on a standardized scale for each PIONR dimension (e.g., from 1 to 5). This approach would enable the OAIP to make qualitative and quantitative comparisons of different AI proposals side by side, ensuring a holistic and consistent review process. Implementing the PIONR Framework would allow the OAIP to further its mission to uphold community values while establishing Utah as a national leader in responsible AI governance.

Additionally, the PIONR Framework could be used in iterative evaluations, with companies revisiting and updating their submissions as their technologies evolve and regulations shift. This flexibility would ensure that the framework models how government-AI partnerships can adapt to ongoing developments in AI innovation and regulations.

The PIONR Framework assesses the strengths of AI technologies across 5 categories: Prosperity, Integrity and Innovation, Openness, Natural Resource Stewardship, and Respect for Culture and Values.

P - PROSPERITY

- ▶ **Return on Investment (ROI) Projections:** What is the estimated ROI of your AI solution, using financial models and assumptions from early pilot results? (e.g., private investment growth, AI-related export increases, productivity gains, cost reductions, and tax revenue growth).
- ▶ **Estimated Number of Jobs Created or Supported:** What are your projections for the number of jobs your AI solution could create or support, based on industry standards or comparable technology impacts?

I - INTEGRITY AND INNOVATION

- ▶ **Internal Ethical Guidelines for AI Use:** What are your company's internal ethical guidelines and principles of development, design, and use of AI?
- ▶ **Compliance Rate:** How does your AI solution estimate compliance with other regulatory standards?
- ▶ **Social Impact Benefit:** What problems does your AI solution address, and how effectively does your solution address them? Do you have a social impact plan?
- ▶ **Longevity Score:** How do you see your solution transforming as trends develop? Where do you think the solution is heading?
- ▶ **Adaptability:** How are you preparing for future AI regulations?
- ▶ **Human in the Loop:** Are there tools to review, change, or block the output of the AI before any final action is taken by the model?

O - OPENNESS

- ▶ **Clear Customer Disclosure:** How do you disclose to consumers that your solution is a generative AI system?
- ▶ **Clear and Open Practices:** How transparent is your AI technology in its operations, including documentation of data sources and decisionmaking processes?
- ▶ **Data Security:** How is information collected and protected, reflecting respect for individual privacy, and what measures are in place to prevent data breaches? Provide data security rating and incident response details, if applicable.
- ▶ **Legal Standards:** Does your AI solution comply with data protection laws and regulations relevant to your industry, and how do you ensure legal compliance? Present compliance rates and regulatory audit summaries.
- ▶ **Strong Governance and Oversight:** What governance structures are in place to oversee AI use, and how regularly are your ethical practices reviewed? Present governance framework evaluation and audit outcomes.

N - NATURAL RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

- ▶ **Resource Consumption:** How does your AI solution contribute to energy and natural resource consumption? Provide resource usage efficiency metrics and sustainability certification details, if available.
- ▶ **Promote Sustainable Practices:** How does your AI solution promote sustainable practice, and how are you minimizing the solution's environmental impact? Present sustainability scores and life-cycle impact assessments, if available.

R - RESPECT FOR CULTURE AND VALUES

- ▶ **Culture and Values:** Does the AI application align with Utah's [cultural values](#)?
- ▶ **Engagement with Communities:** How are local communities involved in or affected by the AI development process?
- ▶ **Children and Families:** How does your solution affect or protect children and families?
- ▶ **Universal Access:** How does your AI solution ensure accessibility?
- ▶ **Mitigating Biases:** How does your AI solution account for current or potential bias problems?
- ▶ **Fairness and Opportunity:** What are the demographics of users/customers of this tool? What measures are taken to promote fairness and opportunity for people outside of that demographic?



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