

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

NIST AI RMF Explained: Govern, Map, Measure, Manage

A working guide to the four functions of the NIST AI Risk Management Framework — GOVERN, MAP, MEASURE and MANAGE — with all 19 categories, the seven trustworthy AI characteristics, and links to the official NIST sources.

IN THIS BRIEF

- Responsible AI Must Become an Operating Practice
- The Four Functions Create a Practical Governance Cycle
- Context Determines What Good Governance Requires
- Trustworthy AI Requires More Than Accuracy
- AI Risk Management Is a Cross-Functional Responsibility

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The AI RMF turns responsible AI principles into risk-management outcomes that organizations can document and evaluate.
- Its four functions are GOVERN, MAP, MEASURE, and MANAGE, with GOVERN operating across the other three.
- The framework is flexible by design. Organizations tailor it to their risks, resources, industry, use cases, and legal obligations.
- Trustworthy AI is multidimensional. Performance, safety, security, transparency, privacy, explainability, and fairness must be considered together.
- Effective AI governance requires technical, legal, business, risk, and stakeholder perspectives rather than ownership by a single team.

WHAT THIS BRIEF COVERS

Responsible AI Must Become an Operating Practice. The AI RMF moves the conversation beyond broad statements about fairness, transparency, and accountability.

The Four Functions Create a Practical Governance Cycle. The AI RMF Core is organized around four functions: GOVERN, MAP, MEASURE, and MANAGE.

Context Determines What Good Governance Requires. The AI RMF is outcome-focused and non-prescriptive.

Trustworthy AI Requires More Than Accuracy. NIST identifies seven characteristics of trustworthy AI systems:

AI Risk Management Is a Cross-Functional Responsibility. AI systems are designed, acquired, deployed, and monitored by people working in different parts of an organization.

What Implementation Can Look Like. The framework is broad, but an organization does not have to solve every AI governance problem at once.

What the NIST AI RMF Means for AI Governance Careers. For professionals entering or advancing in AI governance, the framework offers more than vocabulary.

Read the full guide at ai-governance-jobs.com/grc-careers-insights/nist-ai-rmf-explained/

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