

It's Not Rogue Superintelligence. It's Everything **Wrapped Around the Models.**

Five real failure modes in operational AI — from silent drift to the accountability hide-and-seek.

SWIPE →

Five Things That Actually Keep Me Up

01 AI that fails quietly

02 Magic AI on top of a data mess

03 Hallucinations in government

04 Autonomous loops with no off switch

01

AI That Fails Quietly

Models drift. Sensors miscalibrate. The dashboards stay green while the pipes do not. The AI is behaving as designed — the governance is not.

02

Magic AI on a Data Mess

Ten agencies. Twenty legacy systems. Hundreds of spreadsheets. Zero shared data model. It's not AI holding you back — it's basic data hygiene.

03

Hallucinations in a consumer app are mildly annoying. In government, they're the difference between a wrong answer and a wrong benefit decision, a wrong fine, or a wrong operational action.



It is that people assume ‘the system must be right’ because it has an official logo on the interface.

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Hide-and-Seek vs. What Helps

THE ACCOUNTABILITY DODGE

“The vendor follows the contract.”

“The system only recommends.”

“We have a committee.”

WHAT ACTUALLY HELPS

Clean, owned data pipelines

Named accountability per system

A tested, boring rollback procedure

Autonomous Loops With **No Off Switch.**

Someone says: “for now it's just decision support, the human is still in the loop.” Six months later, humans are too busy to challenge every recommendation, the system is accurate most of the time, and nobody updates the risk classification. Congratulations — it has quietly moved from decision support to de facto autonomy.

The Accountability Hide-and-Seek

“Everyone is involved.
Nobody is responsible.”

The full list of five failure modes and what genuinely helps:
terencekok.com/blog/what-keeps-you-awake-night-ai

The Gap Is Fixable. It Just Needs Less Hype, More Unglamorous Work.

Clean data. Named accountability. A tested rollback plan. None of it is futuristic.



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