

The AI Paste Audit

Know what you are giving away before you hit enter.

THE PLAY (ONE LINE)

Write down every place your team pastes unreleased work into a public AI tool, check what each tool's policy actually allows, and move the sensitive lanes onto a tool that keeps your data to itself.

Why this matters

"And you have to appreciate that when you put your ideas into an LLM, if it's a public LLM, then technically you're disclosing your invention."

- Richard Gearhart, Gearhart Law

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court situations he describes
where model use backfired

1

AI tool at his firm cleared
to touch client information

0

privilege on the public chat log
in the case he describes

The 6 steps

- 1 List every paste lane**
Write down where unreleased work actually goes into a public tool: product specs, unfilled invention notes, client detail, contract language, customer lists, source code.
- 2 Read the policy of each tool you already use**
His firm's write-up of one case turned on exactly this: "they looked at the privacy policy of the LLM - it had holes in it large enough to drive a truck through."
- 3 Treat anything unfilled or unreleased as the highest-risk paste**
A public tool is a place your idea has now been described. He names the failure mode plainly: "people don't appreciate that."
- 4 Run the reverse-engineerable question on anything you keep secret**
"If something is reverse engineerable to the public, then it's not really a trade secret anymore." Ask it of the customer list, the process, the back end.
- 5 Give confidential work its own lane**
His firm allows exactly one system near client information: "there isn't any AI system except for Microsoft Copilot that has exposure to our clients' information."
- 6 Assume the log is readable later, and write the rule down**
In the case he describes, "the court said, yep - the opposing side has every right to look at that." Put the rule in writing before anyone needs it.

Your paste-lane baseline: _____ lanes found / lanes moved

☐ Lanes listed

☐ Policies read

☐ Unfiled work flagged

☐ Secrets stress-tested

☐ Confidential lane named

☐ Rule written + shared

Scope note: Richard Gearhart is an attorney describing how the law works, not advising any specific business. This SOP is general information, not legal advice. His own line: "It's better to find somebody that you can trust and get your questions answered."