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THE FIFTH PARAMETER | Zaj 010 | Ua Raws Cai Tsis Yog Tib Yam Nkag Siab

Heather Grizzle · Lub Xya Hli 12, 2026

A signing avatar can pass every procurement check and still be incomprehensible to Deaf viewers. Why conformance is not comprehension.

Cov Ntsiab Lus

1. Qhov kev ntsuam xyuas qhia dab tsi
2. Qhov tsis muaj yog ib qho tsim khoom
3. Ib qho kev xav tau tseem ceeb zoo li cas
4. Txoj kev

A procurement officer evaluating a signing avatar system has instruments for nearly everything except the thing that matters. There are established questions for encryption at rest and in transit, for data residency, for subprocessor disclosure, for uptime guarantees, for indemnification, for conflict minerals. There is a Voluntary Product Accessibility Template, and the vendor will supply one. There is a Section 508 checklist, and the vendor will satisfy it. At the end of this process the file is complete, the scoring rubric is filled, the award is defensible on audit, and no one at any point has asked whether a Deaf person watching the system's output understands what it is saying.

Qhov no tsis yog qhov kev saib tsis xyuas ntawm cov neeg yuav khoom, uas feem ntau ua hauj lwm ncaj ncees thiab ua hauj lwm nyob rau hauv cov cuab yeej lawv tau txais. Nws yog ib qho ntawm cov cuab yeej ntawd. Cov ntaub ntawv ua raws cai txog kev nkag mus tau tsuas qhia meej tias muaj lwm txoj kev sib txuas lus. Nws tsis qhia meej tias txoj kev sib txuas lus ntawd nqa lub ntsiab lus. Ib daim VPAT tuaj yeem sau raws qhov tseeb tias muaj cov ntaub ntawv signed nrog cov ntaub ntawv hais lus, thiab qhov sau ntawd yuav muaj tseeb, tab sis nws yuav tsis qhia lub tsev haujlwm ib yam

dab tsi txog seb qhov signing ntawd puas nkag siab tau rau cov pej xeem uas nws muaj los pab. Daim ntawv ntawd muaj ib kab rau seb lwm txoj kev ntawd puas raug muab. Nws tsis muaj kab rau seb nws puas ua tau hauj lwm.

Qhov tshwm sim yog ib qho hloov pauv tsis nrov. Qhov twg muaj cuab yeej, qhov tsis muaj pov thawj yuav raug suav tias yog qhov tsis txaus thiab raug qhia tawm. Qhov twg tsis muaj cuab yeej, qhov tsis muaj pov thawj yuav raug suav tias tsis muaj dab tsi li. Cov lus nug hais txog lus tsis raug teb tsis zoo; nws tsis raug nug li, thiab qhov tsis raug nug ntawd tsis tshuav qhov cim rau hauv cov ntaub ntawv. Kev nyob twj ywm ces raug nyeem tom qab ntawd tias yog kev txaus siab, vim tias ib qho kev ntsuam xyuas ua tiav uas tsis muaj lus qhia phem zoo ib yam li ib qho kev ntsuam xyuas ua tiav uas qhov lus qhia phem tsis muaj peev xwm sau tau.

Yam kev soj ntsuam qhia tawm

Novara Consulting Group tam sim no tau ua kev ntsuam xyuas raws txheej txheem rau xya tus tuam txhab muag khoom AI lus taw tes raws li SLAT Framework: Kara Technologies, SignAvatar, ChatSign, Silence Speaks, Sign-Speak, Signvrse, thiab GoSign.AI. Cov khoom no tsis sib npaug. Lawv muaj kev sib txawv nyob hauv architecture, hauv kev txawj ntse loj, hauv kev ua hauj lwm nrog rau cov zej zog Deaf, thiab hauv lawv txoj kev hais lus tseeb. Ib txhia muaj kev tswj hwm zoo dua li lwm tus. Ntau tus ntiav cov neeg ua hauj lwm Deaf, thiab ob peb tus muaj tus tswv Deaf lossis Certified Deaf Interpreters nyob hauv txheej txheem tsim khoom, uas yog qhov txawv tiag tiag thiab raug muab qhab nia raws li ib qho. Tsis muaj ib qho twg mus rau qib High Trust.

The binding constraint was the same in every case, and it was not any of the things a procurement file would have caught. In no instance was there independent validation of signed output with Deaf users: no comprehension testing conducted by a party without a commercial interest in the result, reported with its failure conditions intact, across the range of dialect, age, register, and language fluency that any public deployment will actually encounter. Vendors publish accuracy figures. Accuracy figures are generated by the vendor, against the vendor's reference data, on the vendor's terms, and they measure the distance between an output and a target rather than the distance between an output and understanding. The two are not the same quantity and no amount of the first substitutes for the second.

A related pattern recurs across the snapshots. The marketing surface consistently outruns the stated technical maturity, and the divergence is visible in the vendors′ own documentation if one reads it against itself. Deployment-speed claims appear without the conditions under which they were achieved. Systems that in fact operate along two distinct paths, one heavily human-mediated and one substantially automated, are described publicly in language that collapses the distinction. This is unremarkable behavior for a company raising capital. It is disqualifying as an evidentiary basis for a public contract, and the reason it survives contact with procurement is that nothing in the process is designed to test it.

Daim ntawv muaj ib kab rau seb puas muaj kev xaiv tau qhia rau lawv. Nws tsis muaj kab twg rau seb qhov ntawd puas ua tau haujlwm.

Qhov tsis muaj yog ib qho tsim los ntawm hom kev tsim kho

Nws yuav yog ib qho yuam kev, thiab tsis muaj txiaj ntsig, kom nyeem qhov no ua ib qho kev liam tus muag khoom. Cov tuam txhab tsim cov pov thawj uas cov neeg yuav khoom xav tau. Procurement thov SOC 2, yog li SOC 2 thiaj muaj. Procurement thov cov ntawv qhia penetration test, yog li cov ntawv qhia penetration test thiaj muaj. Procurement yeej tsis tau nug ib zaug, hauv txhua yam cuab yeej daim ntawv tshaj tawm no tau nrhiav pom, kom ib lub tuam txhab muag khoom AI lus taw tes qhia tias cov neeg siv Deaf nkag siab tau nws cov output signed nyob rau hauv cov xwm txheej zoo li kev siv tiag tiag. Yog li qhov pov thawj ntawd tsis muaj. Kev lag luam tau muab tam sim li qhov nws raug thov.

This locates the lever on the buyer′s side of the transaction, which is the argument this publication has been making since its founding and which is worth stating without hedging. An RFP is not an administrative document. It is a specification for an evidence base. Whatever the RFP requires, the sector will build; whatever it omits, the sector will not build, not out of bad faith but because unfunded evidence does not get produced. Every requirement an institution declines to write is a study that will never be conducted. Procurement is the mechanism by which an institution′s tolerance for uncertainty becomes the field′s research agenda.

Yam ib qho kev xav tau tseem ceeb zoo li cas

The requirement is not complicated to state, though it is expensive to satisfy, and the expense is the point. Comprehension of signed output should be evaluated with Deaf participants who were not involved in building the system, spanning regional variation, age, and the range of language fluency the deployment will meet in practice, including the users who most need the system to work and are least equipped to compensate for its failures. The evaluation should be conducted by a party with no financial stake in its outcome. It should report where the system fails, under what conditions, and with what consequences for the user, because a system′s failure modes are more informative for a buyer than its aggregate performance and are the first thing omitted from a vendor deck.

> **TSIS TAU UA TIAV THIAB TSIS TAU MUAB SOJ NTSUAM**
>
> Ntawm no yog ob qhov kev pom uas txawv gab. Kev muab ob qho no koom ua ke yog ib qho txov cov neeg muag khoom uas qhia tseeb txog qhov lawv tseem tsis tau txawj ntse thiab pub nqi zoo rau cov uas tsis qhia tseeb.

Thiab cov tsev haujlwm xav tau ib qho kab, ntawm daim ntawv, hauv kev muab qhab nia, rau qhov pov thawj uas tsis tau muaj. Tsis tau ua tiav thiab tsis tau ntsuam xyuas yog ob qho kev pom sib txawv. Kev ua kom ob qho no zoo ib yam ua tsis zoo rau txhua tus: nws rau txim rau cov tuam txhab uas hais ncaj ncees txog lawv qhov kev txawj ntse thiab muab nqi zoo rau cov uas tsis ncaj ncees, thiab nws ua rau lub tsev haujlwm yuav khoom tsis muaj peev xwm sau, hauv kev sau ntawv, cov lus tseeb tshaj plaws uas nws muaj, uas yog tias tsis muaj leej twg tau kuaj xyuas.

Txoj kev xav

Tsis muaj ib qho ntawm no yog ib qho kev sib cav tawm tsam AI lus taw tes, thiab cov nyeem uas nrhiav qhov ntawd yuav tsis pom nws nyob ntawm no. Cov thev naus laus zis tseem yau, ib txhia nws ua tau tiag tiag, thiab ib txhia yuav zoo tsim nyog rau kev siv pej xeem yav tom ntej. Qhov kev thov nqaim thiab nyuaj yuav zam: tam sim no tsis muaj ib qho cuab yeej procurement siv dav tuaj yeem cais tau ib lub kaw lus uas cov neeg Deaf nkag siab tau ntawm ib qho uas lawv nkag siab tsis tau, cov tuam txhab tsis tau raug nug kom muab qhov pov thawj ntawd thiab yog li tsis tau muab, thiab cov

tsev haujlwm tab tom kos npe rau cov daim ntawv cog lus uas cov lus nug tseem ceeb tshaj ntawm kev sib pauv tsis tau sau tseg qhov twg hauv cov ntaub ntawv.

Ib qho thev naus laus zis uas tsis tau nkag mus kuaj xyuas yeej hais tsis tau tias dhau kuaj xyuas lawm. Txog thaum daim ntawv muaj kab rau qhov kev pom ntawd, nws yuav tseem tsis raug sau tseg, thiab cov ntaub ntawv yuav tseem qhia tias txhua yam raug ua raws.

The Fifth Parameter yog ib phau ntawv luam tawm los ntsuam thiab tshuaj xyuas tsis nyob hauv kev tswj hwm txog AI hais lus tes, uas tau luam tawm los ntawm Novara Consulting Group.

> **TIPS**
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> Know something about a sign language AI system that the public should know? Send it to tips@novaracg.com. Every tip is read by me and kept confidential. If you work in the UK, writing to us is not by itself a protected disclosure under the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998, so before you share employer information, check your options with Protect (protect-advice.org.uk), the free whistleblowing advice line.

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Yuav Hais Qhov Chaw Li Cas

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