CISA's AI-Enabled Vulnerability Detection Pilot — Testing Whether AI Tools Actually Improve Federal Cyber Threat Hunting

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · United States of America

Quality score: 67/100

Evidence strength: Quasi-experimental

Summary

In a 2023–24 operational pilot ordered under a presidential AI directive, CISA compared AI/LLM-based vulnerability-detection tools against its existing methods on real federal networks — and reported the gains were often negligible, not a clear win for AI.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured public value	1/3
Transparency, fairness & accountability	3/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	2/3
Scalability beyond pilot	1/3
Governance, capability & sustainability	3/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-09-02

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) — accessed 2026-09-02

CISA – Pilot for Artificial Intelligence Enabled Vulnerability Detection — accessed 2026-09-02

Alston & Bird – CISA Releases Findings from its AI Pilot Program on Detecting Critical Vulnerabilities — accessed 2026-09-02

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