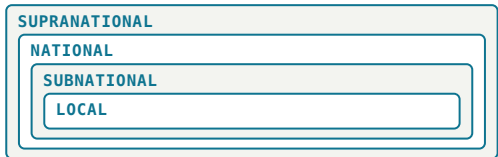


HOW AN INSTRUMENT REACHES A PARTY

Made at one level of jurisdiction, in force by stages, and binding the role a statute names, which is one of the six parties.

JURISDICTION



Instrument

One statute, regulation, directive or binding guidance document, carried with its citation, status and date.

Proposed > Enacted > In force

WHOM IT BINDS

Provider EU AI Act

MAKER

Importer, distributor EU AI Act

DISTRIBUTOR

Deployer EU AI Act, US state acts

OPERATOR

Competent authority every regime

OVERSEER

Data subject privacy law

USER

Rightsholder copyright law

COUNTERPARTY

1 LAW HOW LAW IS PUT TOGETHER

Instrument One statute, regulation, directive or binding guidance document, carried with its citation, status and date.

Jurisdiction A body of law together with the authorities and courts that apply it. A cloud region is not one.

In force The status of a duty that binds today. Enacted means it is coming; proposed means it may never arrive.

Binding law or framework Binding law states what is required, of whom and where. A framework states what good looks like and binds by adoption.

Regulation or directive In the EU a regulation applies directly in every member state; a directive is transposed into each state's own law.

Extraterritorial reach How far a law binds parties outside its territory, by the market a system is sold in and where its output is used.

Territorial hook The fact a law reaches through, such as a person's residence, an operator's establishment or a site's location.

Private right of action A statutory right of a private party to sue for a breach of the instrument, beside enforcement by a public body.

2 SOFTWARE THE LAW THAT ALREADY BOUND SOFTWARE

Personal data Any information relating to an identified or identifiable person, location, identifiers and inferences included.

Impact assessment A written assessment of a processing operation's risks to the people whose data it uses, made before high-risk processing.

Automated decision-making A decision about a person made by a system without meaningful human involvement, with legal or similar effects.

Authorized access The line computer-misuse law draws between lawful and unlawful access to another party's system.

robots.txt A file at a site's root stating which paths crawlers may fetch. A published standard, not a law; an opt-out in the EU.

Text and data mining Automated analysis of text or data, model training included. Lawful without a licence only under an exception.

Age assurance Establishing that a user is above or below an age, by declaration, estimation or verification.

3 SOFTWARE LAW WHOM THE STATUTES BIND

The statute's word, its meaning, and the party it usually is.

MAKER makes it DISTRIBUTOR distributes it OPERATOR runs it OVERSEER oversees it USER uses it COUNTERPARTY it talks to

Provider EU AI Act Develops an AI system or model and places it on the market under its own name.

MAKER

Developer US state AI acts The US state acts' word for the party that builds the system; the provider's counterpart.

MAKER

Manufacturer EU Cyber Resilience Act The party responsible for a product with digital elements, software included, placed on the EU market.

MAKER

Importer, distributor EU AI Act The parties that bring a system into a market or make it available there, with narrower duties than a provider.

DISTRIBUTOR

Deployer EU AI Act, US state acts Uses an AI system under its own authority.

OPERATOR

Controller privacy law Decides why and how personal data is processed, and carries most of the privacy duties.

OPERATOR

Processor privacy law Processes personal data on a controller's instructions, with its own narrower duties.

OPERATOR

Data subject privacy law The person the personal data is about, and the holder of the rights over it.

USER

Affected person decision law The person a system's decision or output reaches, whether or not they use it.

USER

Rightsholder copyright law The owner of rights in content a system reads, reuses or trains on.

COUNTERPARTY

Competent authority every regime The government body empowered to enforce an instrument in a jurisdiction.

OVERSEER

4 AI WHAT THE AI LAWS ASK

-  **Tell the person it is a machine**
-  **Mark what the machine made**
-  **Tier by risk, with a prohibited top**
-  **Keep a person able to intervene**
-  **Keep records, and be able to explain**
-  **Assign duties by role along a chain**
-  **Reach by market and by output**
-  **Commence in stages, and change in flight**

High-risk AI system The EU AI Act's class for AI used in listed areas such as hiring, credit, education and policing. The heaviest duties.

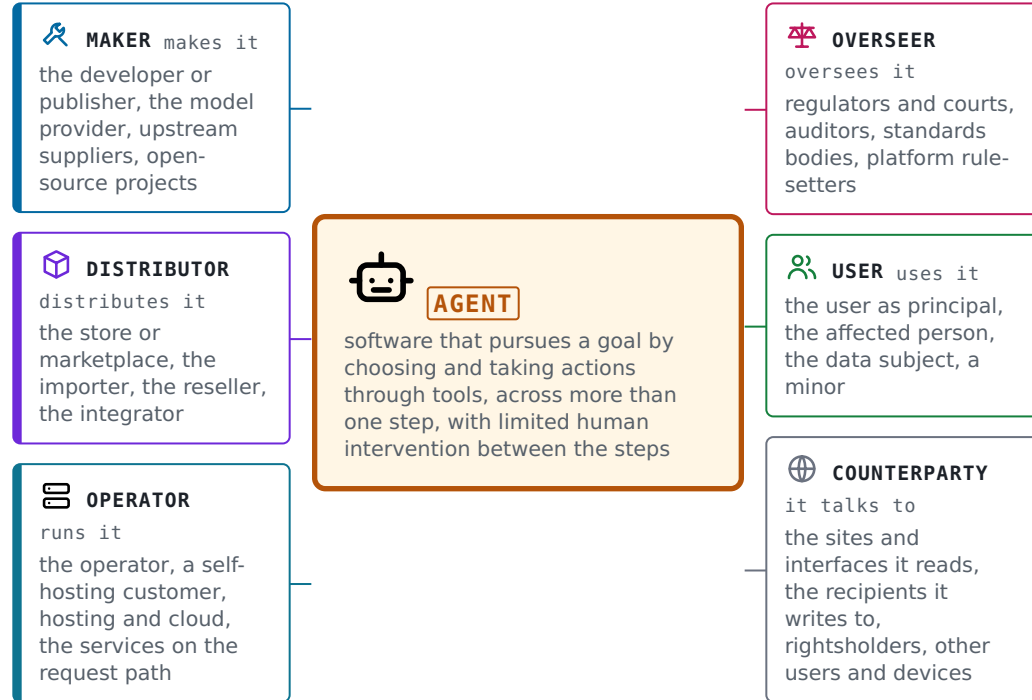
Prohibited practice A use an AI act bans outright, the top tier of a risk-tiered law.

General-purpose AI A model that can serve many different tasks, such as a large language model. Its provider owes duties of its own.

Human oversight A duty to keep a person able to understand, intervene in and stop a system, and a person's right to a human review.

WHO THE LAW REACHES THROUGH

Six parties stand around any software; an agent acts on most of them at once.



5 AGENTS

THE WORDS FOR AGENTIC SYSTEMS

Agent Software that pursues a goal by choosing and taking actions through tools, across more than one step.

Harness The software control layer between a model and the outside world. It runs the loop, connects tools, keeps state, records.

Delegation Granting an agent authority to act on behalf of a person, an organisation or a system, within a stated scope.

Attestation A claim about who or what something is, or about what happened, made in a form others can verify.

Human in the loop, on the loop In the loop, a person must act before the agent proceeds. On the loop, a person watches and may act.

Kill switch A control that lets a person halt an agent at once, whatever it is doing.

Autonomy level How much an agent may do without a person approving it, from suggesting an action to taking it alone.

AI bill of materials An inventory of the models, datasets, tools, libraries and services a system is built from, and where each came from.

MCP Model Context Protocol, the open standard agents use to discover and call external tools.

6 INCIDENTS WHEN SOMETHING GOES WRONG: THE CLOCKS

Breach and incident An incident compromises a system's confidentiality, integrity or availability. A breach is the subset that exposes personal data.

Reporting clock A deadline a statute starts when an incident or a breach is detected or known, to a regulator or to the people affected.

Rung One deadline on a staged ladder. Security clocks mostly run an early warning, then a notification, then a final report.

Without undue delay A reporting standard stated in words rather than hours or days. Many instruments use one.

Legal information, not legal advice. The sheet names the law as written and dated and applies it to no system. UnGovr is an Associate Member of the Linux Foundation, the Agentic AI Foundation and the Open Secure AI Alliance; none of the three reviews or endorses it.

© 2026 UnGovr, publishing as LexLint · CC BY 4.0: share and adapt it, with credit to LexLint (UnGovr) and a link to lexlint.org/cheatsheet · Logos and wordmarks belong to their owners.