

Research Participation Agreement and Informed Consent

ThinkCapital GIAG Initiative — Participant Rights and Protections

Document Reference	Definition
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Issued by	Michael Bragen, Principal, ThinkCapital LLC
Contact	research@thinkcapital.org thinkcapital.org/research-integrity
Applies to	ThinkCapital Government IT/AI Governance (GIAG) Initiative — Streams 1 & 2

Research Participation Agreement and Informed Consent

Purpose of This Document

This document describes the research you have been invited to participate in, explains your rights as a participant, and records ThinkCapital LLC’s binding commitments to you regarding how your information will be used. Please read it in full before agreeing to participate. Participation is entirely voluntary.

About the Research

Research program	ThinkCapital Government IT/AI Governance (GIAG) Initiative
Researcher	Michael Bragen, Principal, ThinkCapital LLC
Research streams	Stream 1: NIST AI Risk Management Framework Implementation in Government Practice Stream 2: Human Oversight Quality in AI-Augmented Government Operations
Purpose	To develop empirical, practitioner-grounded findings on AI governance in government settings, reported in aggregate for the benefit of the field
Method	Semi-structured interview, approximately 30–45 minutes, conducted via video call or telephone
Funding	Self-funded by ThinkCapital LLC. No external sponsor, vendor, or government agency has provided funding or direction for this research.

What Participation Involves

If you agree to participate, you will take part in one recorded or note-based interview of approximately 30–45 minutes. The interview will cover your professional experience with AI governance, risk management frameworks, and human oversight of AI systems in government or government-adjacent settings.

You are not required to answer any question you are not comfortable answering. You may pause or end the interview at any time. You will not be asked to disclose classified information, proprietary client data, or information protected by your agency's or employer's confidentiality obligations.

Your Rights as a Participant

1. You may withdraw your participation at any time, including after the interview has taken place, without providing a reason and without any negative consequence.
2. You may request that your data be deleted at any time prior to publication of aggregate findings. Deletion requests will be honored within 30 days.
3. You will have the opportunity to review and correct any direct quotes attributed to you before they appear in any publication or public communication.
4. You may choose your attribution level (see Section 5 below). Your choice may be changed at any time prior to publication.
5. You will receive a summary of aggregate research findings upon completion of the research program, regardless of your attribution preference.
6. If you are an EU resident or believe EU data protection law applies to your participation, you hold additional rights under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). These are described in full in the accompanying Data Privacy Notice (Document 2).

Attribution Options

You may choose one of three attribution levels. Your selection should be indicated below and may be changed at any time before publication.

Attribution Level	What it means
Attributed	Your name, title, and organization may be associated with your quotes and insights in published findings. A separate Attribution Release (Document 3) is required.
Role / Sector Only	Quotes and insights are attributed only to your role type and sector (e.g., 'Senior IT Executive, Federal Agency'). Your name and organization are not disclosed.
Anonymous	No identifying information — including role type and sector — is associated with your responses. Your data contributes to aggregate findings only.

ThinkCapital's Binding Commitments to You

By conducting this research, ThinkCapital LLC commits to the following:

- Your identifiable responses will not be shared with any third party — including government agencies, vendors, other research participants, or the public — without your explicit written consent.
- Recordings, if made, will be used solely for transcription purposes, stored securely, and deleted within 12 months of the research program's conclusion.
- Aggregate findings will report patterns and themes across the participant pool. No individual's responses will be presented in a way that makes them identifiable without their prior consent.

- ThinkCapital will not sell, license, or otherwise commercially exploit your individual responses or any data that could be traced to you.
- Research findings will not be provided to any vendor, agency, or third party in advance of public release unless that party is also a named research partner disclosed to all participants.
- If ThinkCapital LLC ceases operations, participant data will be securely deleted rather than transferred to any successor or third party.

A Note for Government Employees

Federal, state, and local government employees participating in their professional capacity should confirm that their participation complies with their agency's policies regarding external communications and media engagement. ThinkCapital does not require agency authorization for participation, but participants are responsible for ensuring their own compliance with applicable employment policies. If in doubt, a brief informal check with your agency communications or ethics office is advisable. Many agencies distinguish between participation in academic-style research (generally permitted) and media interviews (often requiring clearance); this research falls in the former category.

Consent

By signing below, you confirm that:

- You have read and understood this document.
- You have had the opportunity to ask questions about the research.
- You agree to participate in the GIAG research interview on the terms described.
- You understand that your participation is voluntary and that you may withdraw at any time.

Participant Name (print)

Title / Role

Organization

Signature

Date

Attribution preference (circle one): Attributed / Role/Sector Only / Anonymous

For ThinkCapital LLC

Michael Bragen, Principal

Signature *Michael Bragen*

Date **March 6, 2026**

Signed copies should be retained by both parties. ThinkCapital will store its copy securely and provide a copy to the participant upon request. Electronic signature (e.g., DocuSign, Adobe Sign, or a scanned signed copy) is acceptable.