OpenAI tweaks its fine print, removes explicit ban on 'military and warfare' use

Katyanna Quach   Mon 15 Jan 2024 // 00:58 UTC

AI IN BRIEF OpenAI has changed the policies covering use of its models and removed "disallowed usages" of its models including "the generation of malware", "military and warfare" applications, "multi-level marketing", "plagiarism", "astroturfing", and more.

Does that mean users can now use ChatGPT for those previously-banned reasons? Not quite. Instead, some of the language has been condensed and folded into its four universal policies describing broader rules, such as: "Don't use our service to harm yourself or others", or "Don't repurpose or distribute output from our services to harm others."

"We aimed to create a set of universal principles that are both easy to remember and apply, especially as our tools are now globally used by everyday users who can now also build GPTs," OpenAI spokesperson Niko Felix told *The Intercept*. "A principle like 'Don't harm others' is broad yet easily grasped and relevant in numerous contexts. Additionally, we specifically cited weapons and injury to others as clear examples."

Interestingly, Felix declined to confirm whether all military use was considered harmful but did reiterate that violent applications, such as developing weapons, injuring others, or destroying property, or anything else illicit are not allowed.