# Privacy-first infrastructure key to unlocking UK’s AI potential



As artificial intelligence reshapes global industries, the challenge of preserving privacy without hindering performance is becoming central to AI infrastructure design. The future of innovation depends on building systems that meet strict data governance standards while enabling the speed and scale modern enterprises require. Gartner projects that by 2027, 60 percent of organisations will fail to realise the full value of their AI investments due to fragmented data governance.

Success in AI transformation demands infrastructure where privacy is not bolted on, but built in from the start. This means enabling data sovereignty, ensuring sensitive information stays within specified legal or geographic boundaries, while supporting distributed AI workflows essential to delivering business outcomes. Rather than compromising between control and capability, privacy-first designs let enterprises scale globally and innovate securely.

Leaders in the field argue that privacy must extend beyond basic encryption. It requires granular controls over data location, movement and access, built into the physical and digital layers of infrastructure. Victor Arnaud, Managing Director at Equinix Brazil, said privacy-enabling platforms should “set the standard at the data centre level,” allowing trust to be embedded in the very foundations of AI architecture.

Block offers a working model of this approach. Its CTO, Dhanji R. Prasanna, said the company decouples data processing from storage to protect sensitive information while pushing the boundaries of open, collaborative AI development. This proves that privacy and innovation are not mutually exclusive.

Equally important is the intelligent management of AI workloads across distributed environments. John Maddison, Chief Product and Corporate Marketing Officer at F5, stressed that scaling AI depends on “a secure, interconnected ecosystem” to route traffic privately and securely. This ensures fast, protected data exchange between processing nodes, maintaining both performance and compliance.

Composite AI, identified by Gartner as a key trend, reinforces the importance of governance. Combining multiple AI techniques for smarter automation, it relies on decision intelligence and integrated governance frameworks to be deployed responsibly.

Svetlana Sicular, VP Analyst at Gartner, called for AI-specific governance to be embedded within corporate structures to build trust, transparency and inclusion. Gartner’s Data & Analytics Summit also examined how generative AI will reshape control mechanisms and redefine organisational accountability.

Emerging tools are beginning to meet these challenges. DataGalaxy’s governance platform aligns data and AI strategies with business objectives, enhancing reusability, trust and oversight across large-scale deployments. Andy Davis of DataX Connect summed up the direction of travel: embedding privacy “inside the data centre” enables secure AI innovation at scale. Infrastructure that includes encrypted networks, secure colocation and distributed data centre ecosystems gives organisations the tools to innovate confidently and remain compliant.

The release of Equinix Indicator Volume 3 offers detailed guidance on deploying privacy-enabled architectures through distributed infrastructure and partner ecosystems. It supports the UK’s ambition to lead in responsible AI development.

Privacy without compromise is more than a technical goal—it is a strategic advantage. By investing in privacy-first infrastructure now, UK organisations can meet both the demands of AI transformation and the highest standards of data governance, setting the pace for global innovation.

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## Bibliography

1. <https://blog.equinix.com/blog/2025/09/24/privacy-without-compromise-building-secure-ai-infrastructure-that-performs/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.gartner.com/en/newsroom/press-releases/2024-09-25-gartner-identifies-composite-ai-and-supply-chain-data-governance-as-highest-impact-supply-chain-planning-technology-trends> - Gartner has identified composite AI and supply chain data governance as the highest impact technology trends for supply chain planning leaders. Composite AI, which combines various AI techniques to enhance learning efficiency, is expected to drive the optimization and automation of many planning activities at scale. Supply chain data governance is considered foundational for digital transformation, ensuring data quality by formalizing the framework in which supply chain data is identified, defined, controlled, and accessed. Gartner recommends that supply chain planning leaders develop transformation roadmaps that prioritize delivering on advanced decision intelligence and automated decision-making.
3. <https://www.gartner.com/en/conferences/na/data-analytics-us/sessions/detail/3717425-AI-Governance-Design-an-Effective-AI-Governance-Operating-Model> - This session at the Gartner Data & Analytics Summit 2026 focuses on implementing an effective AI governance operating model. It emphasizes mapping governance pillars to key AI components and differentiating AI capabilities. The model aims to connect with other governance bodies and extend existing governance models to include AI-specific considerations such as trust, transparency, and diversity. The session is led by Svetlana Sicular, VP Analyst at Gartner.
4. <https://www.gartner.com/en/conferences/na/data-analytics-us/sessions/detail/3717281-AI-for-Data-Governance-The-Technology--Operational-Impacts-of-Generative-AI> - This session at the Gartner Data & Analytics Summit 2026 explores how generative AI will impact data and analytics governance and management tools. It provides an overview of how key data and analytics markets are incorporating generative AI capabilities and how these will change the nature of data and analytics governance. The session is led by Stephen Kennedy, Director Analyst at Gartner.
5. <https://www.gartner.com/en/conferences/na/data-analytics-us/sessions/detail/3780177-Roundtable-Overcoming-AI-Governance-Challenges-in-the-Public-Sector-Repeat> - This roundtable at the Gartner Data & Analytics Summit 2026 addresses the challenges of implementing AI governance in the public sector. It focuses on practices to overcome these challenges and achieve success in AI governance, with specific attention to public sector aspects including data, regulations, and workforce. The session is led by Donna Medeiros, Senior Director Analyst at Gartner.
6. <https://www.datagalaxy.com/en/blog/datagalaxy-launches-first-ever-value-governance-platform/> - DataGalaxy has launched its next-generation data and AI value governance platform at the Gartner Data & Analytics Summit 2025 in London. This innovative solution redefines enterprise data governance in the era of AI transformation. The platform connects strategy, product management, governance, and business impact monitoring into one seamless experience, empowering teams to drive data and AI strategy aligned to business objectives, direct governance and trust across the entire data and AI asset landscape, and design valuable, reusable data and AI products at scale.
7. <https://www.gartner.com/en/webinar/729419> - This complimentary Gartner IT webinar, 'The Gartner 2025 Playbook for Executive AI Governance Strategy,' discusses how to evolve AI governance to support AI progress in areas such as strategy, investment, risks, value, performance, and resources. The webinar emphasizes the criticality, scalability, and democratization of AI, requiring governance to balance AI’s value with the new risks it poses. It covers the need for an operating model, policies, controls, and enabling technologies to design, implement, and adjust AI governance, ensuring compliant, ethical, trustworthy, and responsible AI.