



THE RISK NOBODY LOGGED

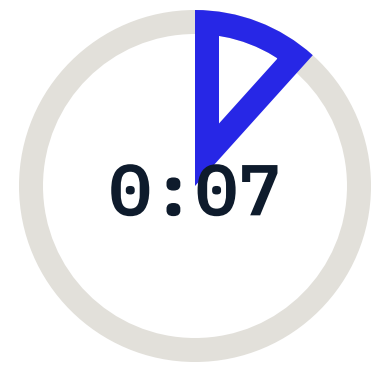
Shadow AI.

/ˈʃæd.oʊ eɪ aɪ/ noun

AI tools that employees use for work without formal review or approval — free chatbots, browser extensions, meeting note-takers, coding assistants.

Your employees are already using it. The question is what they're pasting into it.

ONE IDEA • 60 SECONDS • EVERY WEEK

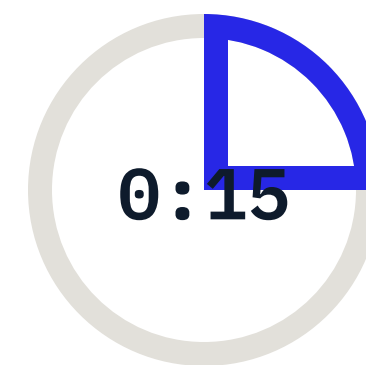


THE REALITY

**This isn't coming.
It's already in
your building.**

Employees sign up with work emails. Install browser extensions that quietly retain every page they visit. Paste customer data into free tools.

None of it appears in a procurement system.



THE NUMBERS

VERIZON DBIR 2026

858,440

AI-upload policy violations
analyzed

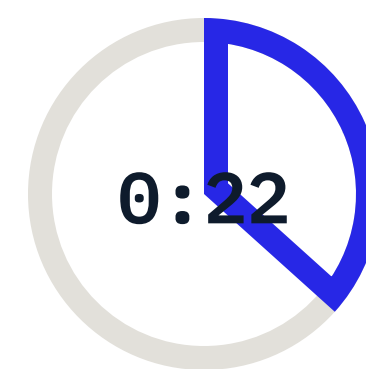
#1

data type uploaded: source
code, by a wide margin

15%+

of users have unauthorized AI
browser extensions

Separately, other industry surveys report roughly one in four employees have entered confidential company information into public AI tools.

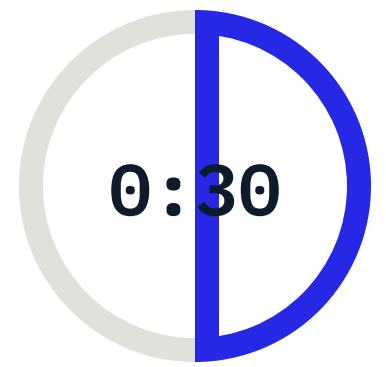


WHY BANS FAIL

A ban doesn't remove the risk. It hides it.

Where AI is banned, usage often continues on personal phones and accounts — far harder to monitor or govern.

**You didn't remove the risk.
You removed the logs.**



WHAT IT COSTS

DATA

Source code, contracts and customer records leaving your perimeter.

LEGAL

Under GDPR, fines can reach up to 4% of global annual turnover.

PERSISTENCE

Once data is retained beyond your control, removing its influence may be impossible.



WHAT WORKS INSTEAD

1 SEE IT

Audit what's actually in use before writing any policy.

2 REPLACE IT

Provide a sanctioned tool that's genuinely better — not just approved.

3 DRAW LINES

Name what may never be pasted: PII, source code, contracts, financials.

4 MAKE IT EASY

If the safe path is slower, people will route around it.



START MONDAY

ASK IT

Which AI domains show up in our network logs?

ASK A TEAM LEAD

Which tool do you actually use, and why that one?

ASK LEGAL

Has anyone reviewed where this data ends up?



TIME 'S UP

Shadow AI isn't a discipline problem. It's a product gap.

People reach for these tools because they work.
Make the safe path the fastest one.

Save this for your next risk review.

Where does your company stand? Free 6-area AI maturity scan —
link in the comments.