Summarizing DoD Software Acquisition Documents with Large Language Models

April 10, 2024—Can ChatGPT summarize regulations for defense software acquisition professionals? Yes, with human preparation and review, according to the new SEI Blog post Applying Large Language Models to DoD Software Acquisition: An Initial Experiment.

“Summarization is particularly helpful in DoD acquisitions, due to the large volume of regulatory documents and the need for a range of stakeholders to review and comprehend key aspects of those documents, especially as those documents evolve over time,” write Doug Schmidt of Vanderbilt University and John Robert of the SEI. They describe their five-step experiment to determine the extent to which ChatGPT-4 could rapidly and accurately summarize a DoD software-acquisition document.

While the system’s output was meaningful, the authors detail seven key lessons and observations for their experiment and anyone seeking to use LLMs in high-stakes applications.
SEI News

International Conference on Conceptual Modeling ER 2024 Opens Call for Papers
The long-running event is accepting submissions on how artificial intelligence and machine learning are revolutionizing conceptual modeling.

SEI Event to Collaborate on Approaches to Improve Software Security
Registration and a call for presentations are open for Secure Software by Design, a two-day, in-person SEI event on August 6 and 7.

See more news »

Latest Blogs

The Latest Work from the SEI: an OpenAI Collaboration, Generative AI, and Zero Trust
Doug Schmidt highlights the latest work from the SEI in the areas of generative AI, zero trust, large language models, and quantum computing.

Applying Large Language Models to DoD Software Acquisition: An Initial Experiment
Doug Schmidt and John Robert illustrate an LLM's document summarization for software acquisition and discuss the lessons learned.

See more blogs »

Latest Podcasts

Developing and Using a Software Bill of Materials Framework
Michael Bandor and Carol Woody discuss a software bill of materials
(SBOM) framework to promote the use of SBOMs and establish a more comprehensive set of practices and processes.

The Importance of Diversity in Software Engineering: Suzanne Miller
Suzanne Miller, a principal researcher in the SEI's Software Solutions Division, discusses her career path, the value of mentorship, and the importance of diversity in software engineering.

See more podcasts »

---

Latest Videos

Ask Us Anything: Supply Chain Risk Management
Brett Tucker and Matthew Butkovic answer your enterprise risk management questions to help your organization achieve operational resilience in the cyber supply chain.

The Future of Software Engineering and Acquisition with Generative AI
SEI researchers explore the future of software engineering and acquisition using generative AI technologies.

---

Latest Publications

Zero Trust Industry Days 2024 Scenario: Secluded Semiconductors, Inc.
This scenario will guide discussions of solutions, submitted to Zero Trust Industry Days, to the challenges of implementing zero trust.

Considerations for Evaluating Large Language Models for Cybersecurity Tasks
In this paper, researchers from the SEI and OpenAI explore the opportunities and risks associated with using large language models (LLMs) for cybersecurity tasks.

See more publications »
**Upcoming Events**

**Zero Trust Industry Days 2024**, May 14-15
The SEI hosts the Zero Trust Industry Days request-for-information exercise to collect information from those who develop solutions for implementing a zero trust architecture.

**Secure Software by Design**, August 6-7
Collaborate on improving software security with two on-site days of panel discussions and presentations plus two optional on-site days of training.

**International Conference on Conceptual Modeling (ER 2024)**, October 28-31
The SEI will host the main international forum for discussing the state of the art, emerging issues, and future challenges in research and practice on conceptual modeling.

[See more events »](#)

**Upcoming Appearances**

**RSA Conference 2024**, May 6-9
Hear the SEI's Lauren McIlvenny, Greg Touhill, Randy Trzeciak, Brett Tucker, Jeffrey Mellon, and Clarence Worrell at the premier event for the cybersecurity community.

[See more opportunities to engage with us »](#)

**Upcoming Training**

**Insider Threat Program Manager: Implementation and Operation**
July 23-25 (SEI Live Online)

**Cybersecurity Oversight for the Business Executive**
July 30-31 (SEI Live Online)
Employment Opportunities

Senior Program Development Lead
Senior Research Scientist - Adversarial Machine Learning
Data Scientist - Technical Program Manager

All current opportunities »