Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Africa: Opportunities, Obstacles and Ethical Considerations

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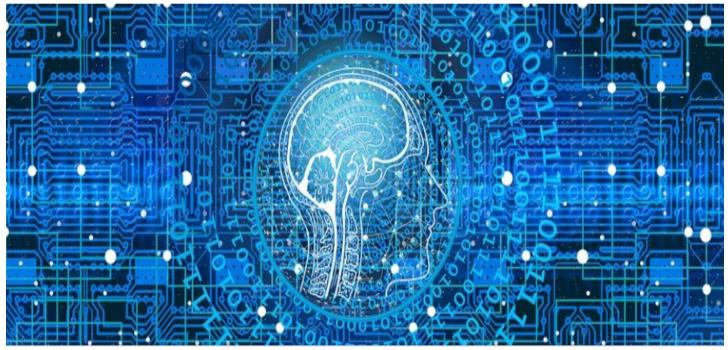
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AI in Africa

What is AI?

AI in Africa

Development

➢ Nascent technology; emerging ecosystem
➢ AI Developers primarily use open source algorithms and training algorithms using 'non – local' datasets (data divide)
➢ Primarily consumers not developers of AI technology – data exporters not importers

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Opportunities

➢ Provide solutions for lacking infrastructure, insufficient labor, limited access
➢ Main sector of development:
  ➢ Agriculture
  ➢ Health
  ➢ Education
  ➢ Fintech

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Obstacles

➢ Lack of digital infrastructure
➢ Limited financial resource
➢Small labor pool
➢Issues of equity in access

AI in Africa

Governance Structures

➢ No specific laws governing AI source code

➢ Example - Kenyan National ICT Policy 2019, government agencies encouraged to utilize open source code rather than propriety code; all software and their source code commissioned by government agencies must be made publicly available for use by any

AI in Africa

Ethical Consideration

Address issues of,
- Access
- Equity
- Privacy
- Knowledge asymmetries