

Model Card

model-card · policy instrument · concept

Source: <https://policywindow.org/wiki/model-card>

Generated 2026-07-09T20:39:02 UTC

Summary

A standardized disclosure document accompanying an AI model that describes its intended use, training data, evaluation results, limitations, and known failure modes.

At a glance

Used by

9 instrument(s)

Primary source

Mitchell et al. (2019), 'Model Cards for Model Reporting,' FAccT '19

Related concepts

frontier-tier, systemic-risk, red-team-evaluation

Details

Model cards originated in Mitchell et al. (2019) 'Model Cards for Model Reporting' (FAccT). The pattern was adopted by Hugging Face Hub (default model template), Google PAIR, and Microsoft Responsible AI. EU AI Act Art. 53 codifies model-card-style disclosures for general-purpose AI models — providers must document training-data summary, capabilities, limitations, intended use, and evaluation methodology. NIST AI RMF cites model cards as a transparency mechanism under GOVERN 1.4 (which references Mitchell et al.); model-card-style measurement documentation otherwise maps to the MEASURE 2.x subcategories (iter-436 correction: the prior 'Govern 1.3, Map 5.1' citation was wrong — those subcategories cover risk-tolerance and impact-assessment, not model cards, per the NIST AI RMF Playbook). ISO/IEC 23894 (AI risk management) endorses analogous documentation.

Distinguish from: (a) 'system card' — wraps a model card with deployment-context information (OpenAI uses this term for GPT-4 family); (b) 'data sheet' — Gebru et al. 2018, focuses on training datasets rather than models; (c) 'fact sheet' — IBM's term for similar disclosure. Model cards remain voluntary in most jurisdictions; the EU AIA Art. 53 disclosure is the first binding equivalent.

How to cite this article

APA

Policy Window. (n.d.). Model Card [Wiki article — Concept]. <https://policywindow.org/wiki/model-card>

CHICAGO

Policy Window. n.d.. "Model Card." Wiki article (Concept). <https://policywindow.org/wiki/model-card>.

HARVARD

Policy Window (n.d.) 'Model Card', Wiki article — Concept, available at: <https://policywindow.org/wiki/model-card>.

OSCOLA

Policy Window, 'Model Card' (Wiki article — Concept, n.d.) <<https://policywindow.org/wiki/model-card>> accessed [date].

BIBTEX

```
@misc{policywindow-model-card,  
  title = {Model Card},  
  author = {Policy Window},  
  year = {n.d.},  
  howpublished = {model-card - policy instrument},  
  url = {https://policywindow.org/wiki/model-card},  
  note = {Primary source: https://arxiv.org/abs/1810.03993}  
}
```