

Dominic Delmolino:	The Exploring AI in Government podcast is brought to you by Accenture Federal Services and produced by Government Executive Media Group's Studio 2G. Accenture Federal Services combines the power of artificial intelligence, automation, and advanced analytics with deep client, industry, and technology expertise to help agencies reimagine how they achieve their mission, serve citizens, and manage their organization. Learn what applied intelligence can do for your agency at Accenture-dot-com-backslash-federal-AI .
	[Intro Music]
Delmolino:	Hello and welcome to another edition of Exploring AI in Government, a podcast series dedicated to interviewing leading global minds in the artificial intelligence ecosystem and getting at the insights that drive adoption across key industries and the federal government. I'm your host, Dominic Delmolino, Chief Technology Officer for Accenture Federal Services and I am here today with our guest analyst, Kathleen Walch — AI and Machine Learning expert, and Managing Partner at Cognilytica.
Kathleen Walch:	From improving citizen services to solving some of the biggest challenges agencies currently face, automation and AI promise to deliver tangible benefits to government agencies and the people they serve and usher in a new era of innovation. However, enterprise adoption also requires new thinking and changes in how we work. During this series we will travel across government to talk to the leaders and practitioners that are making it happen.
Delmolino:	Our first episode looks at the state of AI from a federal perspective and we couldn't have a better guest to kick off our series than Representative Will Hurd, a member of Congress representing the San Antonio area. I've had the opportunity to talk with Congressman Will Hurd on several technology topics in the past, and I'm looking forward to hearing his point of view on artificial intelligence. In particular, how it can benefit citizens while helping the US maintain a leadership role around advanced technologies.
Walch:	Yes, I'm excited to get the perspective of someone from Congress who has deep technology experience and leadership on the topic. As AI continues to become more widely adopted, there are many policy issues Congress will need to address. I'm looking forward to hearing his thoughts on this.
Delmolino:	Representative Hurd is a long time champion of IT modernization in

	<p>government and a leading voice on national security matters dating back to his tenure in the CIA. Along with Congresswoman Robin Kelly, he authored one of the first in-depth looks at AI in government and has been a leading advocate on a number of fronts. Congressman, why don't you go ahead and introduce yourself to our listeners.</p>
<p>Cong. Will Hurd:</p>	<p>Sure, well, thanks for having me on and thanks for focusing on such an important issue. I'm Will Hurd, I'm on my third term in Congress. I represent a good part of the state of Texas from San Antonio to El Paso. 29 counties, two time zones, 820 miles of the border. It, my district is larger than 26 states, roughly the size of Georgia. My degree is in computer science. I think I'm only one of eight members of Congress -- that's the 435 people in the house, 100 in the Senate -- that have a technical degree. And I spent, uh, almost a decade as an undercover officer in the CIA, so I was the dude in the back alleys at four o'clock in the morning collecting intelligence. And I was in the private sector when I got out of the, the CIA., and helped start a cybersecurity company. So we basically broken into banks, stole their money, showed them how we did it. And it was, um, pretty amazing seeing the threats of the private sector has to deal with, from, from especially from nation states. And so that's why from those experiences, since I've been in Congress, being able to focus on, topics like IT procurement. Um, you know, the way we purchase goods and services, um, impact the size and scope of the federal government and make sure that we're providing digital-facing services, but also talking about emerging technology as well.</p>
<p>Walch:</p>	<p>Great and thanks for that introduction. and I know that you have been quoted saying is that the only thing you agree with Vladimir Putin on is his statement that whoever masters AI is going to master the world. So can you elaborate on that and what you might think it takes to master AI?</p>
<p>Cong. Hurd:</p>	<p>Sure, um well right now about right now about 18 countries have national strategies for artificial intelligence. Um, we don't have one. Um, we should have a national strategy on AI that make sure that we focus on, um, a regulatory environment that doesn't stifle innovation, that we are creating a skilled workforce, uh, prepared to, to thrive in an, in an AI economy. And then how do we foster, uh, norms and best practices, um, to protect, you know, American national and economic security.</p> <p>This is indeed a race. And while we know the Russians are moving forward on this, uh, our real competitor is China. And you know, everybody talked about how in the end of 2018, China surpassed the US for the first time in total government, private sector spending on R and D. But their cost of R and D is significantly less than ours. So they probably passed us in man and woman hours of research a number, of</p>

	<p>years ago. And so we, we need to make sure, uh, that, you know, liberal democracies that are defining how artificial intelligence is going to be used and the ethics around this.</p>
Delmolino:	<p>So Congressman, is the federal government's current strategy for artificial intelligence bold enough? And what steps can Congress take to ensure continued US leadership in artificial intelligence?</p>
Cong. Hurd:	<p>The federal government is really, is focusing on this from the executive branch to the legislative branch. And think the way you articulated this is, is it bold enough? Can we be even even bolder? And I think that is where I would want to push in making sure the US is the lead on the development of advanced technologies for decades to come and we need to make sure that the private sector, the public sector, the academia, um, are all working together to making sure, you know, we are focused on enabling technologies that R and D is, is prioritized and that the government continues to be a champion for AI.</p> <p>Um, so look, it's an exciting time. A lot of times people are worried about this is going to displace jobs. I think a quarter of the American workforce in the next 20 years are currently in jobs where 70% of their job can be automated. You know, I think where that, where we're going to go is, um, it's going to be AI-assisted jobs. Toyota manufacturing is in my district and seeing how some of the tools that they're already using and some of the machines that are already helping their employees continue to do their job, they're still employing thousands of people, but people are able to do the job faster. They're able to do their job with less impact, um, to um, their knees if they're having to lift heavy objects. Um, it's, it's important.</p>
Delmolino:	<p>So Congressman you mentioned some impressive statistics about the impact of AI on the job market and how many jobs are having, risk of having some automation impact, of how those jobs are performed. Do we think the benefits there outweigh the concerns? And are we doing enough to train and educate the workforce of the future that is going to have AI as a coworker?</p>
Cong. Hurd:	<p>The only way we get to a point where this isn't a concern is if we train the future workforce. Our teachers have to prepare our kids for jobs that don't exist today. And that starts with exposing our kids to coding. Um, I, you know, I dunno, I don't care what career you're going to have in the next decade. There's going to be some part of it touched by artificial intelligence. And so having a, uh, an understanding of coding is kind of the, the basic building blocks. But then we're going to have to make sure that we're able to train current folks in the workforce on how to deal with this. And then also making sure that the development of this</p>

	<p>tool is done in a way that's, that's easy for someone to use. And you don't have to understand what layered neural networks are. There is going to be an impact on our workforce, and I think we're going to be able to make better decisions when we have these tools, but we need to make sure that the current workforce in the future workforce are prepared for this eventuality and that we are thriving, and AI, in an AI world and we can, we should be prepared for that now so that people aren't scared.</p>
<p>Walch:</p>	<p>Yeah those are great points and I always like to say that AI is not a job killer, but it's a job category killer. And so, the jobs of today may not be the jobs of tomorrow. And we all need to, as a society, need to embrace that and make sure that we are moving our youth in the right direction. So privacy and security loom large over AI, can you speak to some of the current ethics landscape for AI and what we need to do to make sure we are using AI in an ethical way going forward?</p>
<p>Cong. Hurd:</p>	<p>So how does AI work? Right? AI works by...you you have these algorithms, right? It's just a computer program, um, that, that reacts in humanlike ways. And how does that happen? It happens by training it with a ton of data. So, , how do you ensure that, you know, those, those, those that that data is getting to a place where it can be useful in, in health data is is a perfect example. A lot of people do not want their information to be used by someone because it could potentially be used against them. Um, however, if you're able to anonymize that information, um, you're going to be able to track, um, public diseases, you're going to be able to do virtualized research, um, that is going to lead to, um, to developments, you know, in, in medicines and how to keep people safe. So, so the opportunity is there, but we have to make sure that we're not using somebody's information in a way that they don't want it to be used.</p> <p>Ultimately, the information that we produce, I believe it's that individual who's producing it and they should make, it should be clear on how, and they're going to use that information, how it's ultimately I'm going to be protected. And, and these are some of the debates that we're having now. If my information gets stolen, when will I get notified? How will I get notified? And what is the ramifications of someone stealing my information or, um, allowing it to be stolen? And that leads into a conversation of a national breach standard. Right now the states decide how you're notified if the information is getting stolen. Um, what is the, what happens if somebody, you know, um, allows your information gets stolen. And so I think there's 47 different sets of laws that are having to be navigated right now. Having a national law is something that I think, um, most folks are starting to lean to. And I think that is the basis of having a broader conversation on privacy.</p>

Walch:	Yeah those are all great use cases and examples, and it brings up the question about responsible and ethical use of AI. So what role should Congress or regulatory agencies play in ensuring the responsible, ethical use of AI?
Cong. Hurd:	<p>You know, doing things like having further hearings and having experts that have been dealing with this to have these kinds of conversations. That is, that is, incredibly important. Um, I think one of the areas that most people think of first is military applications of AI and making sure that is being done in an ethical way. I think are there shared norms within the international community? Um, so that means it needs to be diplomatic efforts, um, to work with our, our, um, allies, uh, to make sure we're, we're drafting an international regime because this is something that's going to touch everybody.</p> <p>Um, and, and, and knowing what are those areas that we should be concerned with? Should someone be allowed to get, um, you know, leave prison early because of an algorithm? Should someone be sentenced to prison based on the results of, of an algorithm? Can you decide how that algorithm made that decision? And if you're letting an algorithm or an AI device make a decision, can that decision be auditable so that we know why the decision was made the way it was, it was made?</p> <p>Um, so, so these are some of the questions and I don't know what the answers are, but congress can be, you know, in our oversight role, bringing in folks from academia, industry, um, to talk through these, these issues. And that's what we do. When we did our series on artificial intelligence, we had one panel talking about the ethics of AI and what those should be and what does that mean? Um, and so I think that that's a role that Congress can be playing now by using our convening powers to bring people together to talk about these, to talk about these issues.</p>
Delmolino:	So Congressman, in addition to your current role in government, you mentioned you have a significant technology background, including a degree in computer science from Texas A&M. If you could offer a single piece of advice to government and IT leaders at the agency level looking to pursue AI, what would that be?
Cong. Hurd:	AI is a tool to make your job easier. And, and, and let me give an example. As a former CIA officer, you have a name of a guy who's getting ready to do something bad, right? Can I do a multilingual search for every, through every database that the government has on that? And let's say that person, um, is, from Yemen, right? That person's name, his authoritative name is written in Arabic. And so even though I can't read Arabic, can I be able to do a search in Arabic, of an Arabic

	<p>name in order to try to find information about that person that may or may not be doing something bad. Right? This is, you know, the, the technology for this exists right now and we should be using this at all levels of our government to improve the, the flow of information to make sure that we're protecting our homeland and this, these are the tools that are out there.</p> <p>And again, you don't need to be able to explain how artificial intelligence works in order for you to take advantage of it. And I always use the example is, does everybody know how a combustion engine works? Um, probably not. But you know how you know, you know that your car can get you from point A to point B. And so this is where we need to get to, to, to AI. Don't be afraid. A lot of people don't know what it is, be willing to ask questions. Um, but it's a tool that if used right, can actually help us make better decisions.</p>
Walch:	Thank you so much for joining us today Congressman. Uh, this was a very informative podcast. For listeners out there that want to follow you and want to learn more about your work how can they engage with you?
Cong. Hurd:	I'm Hurd-on-the-Hill, H-U-R-D on the hill. That's on YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, um, and, and that's my website as well. You can go to our website and sign up. We try to put out, um, you know, what we're doing on this particular topic. Uh, but H-U-R-D on the hill.
Walch:	Alright great thank you for sharing that.
Delmolino:	Thank you so much Congressman.
Cong. Hurd:	I appreciate y'all taking the time to talk about a, an important issue that I love talking about
Delmolino:	<p>Congressman Hurd certainly provide a sense of the complex issues surrounding AI that legislators are grappling with. But what are agencies thinking about? Many federal agencies are at the forefront of how entire industries take advantage of AI.</p> <p>Consider healthcare. According to a recent report from Accenture, "when combined, key clinical health AI applications can potentially create \$150 billion in annual savings for the United States healthcare economy by 2026."</p> <p>This puts the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the</p>

	<p>spotlight. To speak more about how the federal government is tapping AI to improve care and drive cost benefits is our next guest Dr. Mona Siddiqui, chief data officer at the US Department of Health and Human Services, HHS. She brings a unique background to her role as a practicing physician, data scientist and management engineering trained individual.</p>
Walch:	<p>I've had the opportunity to talk to and interview Mona in the past and am always excited to discuss with her the topic of data as she's one of the most thoughtful leaders in government.</p>
Delmolino:	<p>Within HHS, she's leading an enterprise data strategy to integrate diverse components across the agency with other public and private sector resources to improve healthcare outcomes. Mona, you want to give us a little more about your background, love to hear what you've been doing as well.</p>
Dr. Mona Siddiqui:	<p>Sure. Um, so I will say that before I joined HHS and took on this role, I was a user of the data that HHS is the steward of. Um, my journey started when I was at Johns Hopkins and Hopkins was becoming an accountable care organization, really trying to do better in population health and that is essentially about targeting the right people at the right time and having access to the right data. And so I saw some of those challenges and, and tried to help facilitate some of the connectivity that was required.</p> <p>Um, I then moved over to the White House Social and Behavioral Sciences team, which was a team focused on embedding insights from behavioral economics into government programs, doing large scale randomized control trials of those interventions to see whether they were effective and efficient prior to scaling. And so there was a real requirement for, for data and for data-driven decision making. And again, I saw the challenges of getting access to data even, uh, with this team. And, and, uh, there was one did a use agreement with an agency within HHS that took me a year uh, over a year to negotiate.</p> <p>Um, and having done that role, I moved over to the Center for Medicare Medicaid Innovation, and my role there was to help facilitate rapid cycle testing of payment models. And again, uh, it, the requirement was for data and for data-driven decision making. And so when I was asked to take on this role, I had a very clear idea, having been a user of data both within and outside the federal government, of the things that I thought needed to be addressed, um, for a foundation of, of having a robust data infrastructure.</p>
Delmolino:	<p>Awesome. So one of the things we try to do is understand that</p>

	<p>relationship between data and artificial intelligence. And it's been 10 years since the HITECH Act spurred that widespread adoption of electronic health records, right so you know the real genesis of data collection and gathering. Do you feel like the healthcare sector is ready to use that data to just start applying AI principles and techniques?</p>
Dr. Siddiqui:	<p>I think there's a basic, uh, foundation right now that's missing and we talk a lot about that and in terms of interoperability and the steps that we need to take, not just across organizations, but even within an organization for how we're linking, um, electronic health records to other sources of information. Oftentimes the conversations we're having around interoperability are really just focused on EHR records. Now you think about how static that information is and how fluid the ways are in which we're trying to get information about health care from a lot of other places, so the percentage, for instance, of Google searches that are around healthcare. Right. Um, and those are much more real time that we aren't tapping into. Imagine being able to connect very disparate sets of information to then have a more holistic picture of not just a person's history but also their real-time health-seeking behaviors. So I think we can get there, but I don't think we are there right now.</p>
Delmolino:	<p>How do you see the industry starting to take advantage of that integrated data for artificial intelligence use cases? Are there some early successes? What kinds of things are you seeing?</p>
Dr. Siddiqui:	<p>A lot of what I hear from leaders at health systems are not, right now, around clinical applications for AI, but it's really around back-office applications and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of systems that help, um, on the back end that we're not necessarily seeing, um, as you know, if I were a patient going in. Um, and so yeah, I, I think, um, you know, again, like I said, I think we'll get there eventually and part of what we're trying to build right now is actually, um, a group of people who can help to define the AI strategy for the department moving forward. And we've put together that group and hope to be working together moving forward. And so it's, it's for those internal applications.</p> <p>But the other piece of it is how do we build the data foundation to enable companies and, and um, entrepreneurs and researchers on the outside to use our data for AI applications? We are potentially sitting on enormous training data and how do we enable that foundation? Um, and it should not be on a project-by-project basis or a use case by use case. It really is about, um, building a foundation that outlasts any single endeavor. Um, the other thing I would say is that there are uh enormous policy implications here, whether it's about ethics or, um, uh, or some of the legal ramifications of how data is getting used. And you know, I think that coming together as a single department, um, and, and bringing the expertise from all of these different agencies will hopefully help us to define where we need to be from a policy perspective.</p>

Walch:	HHS is a pretty massive organization and I don't, I don't think people realize just how large it is and because of its size it can pose some challenges. So how are you guys employing AI internally?
Dr. Siddiqui:	<p>Well let me just step back and say, yes, we are an enormous organization. We are a \$1.3 trillion organization. We have 29 different business units. Um, so this is CMS and FDA and NIH and CDC and those are the ones that people are most familiar with. But we also have within HHS, uh, the Indian Health Service and we have the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality that funds health services research. We have, um, the Administration for Children and Families that has data around, um, the foster care system. Uh, so there are resources, I think that people don't even fully appreciate, um, that we have because the focus always often ends up being on claims data that CMS has, which is of course very, very important.</p> <p>Um, so stepping back again, uh, you know, I would say the applications currently are, uh, around fraud and abuse detection. Uh, there has been so much work that has been done by our Office of Inspector General, by the Center for Program Integrity around, um, being able to leverage their data and have particular authorities to be able to leverage that data in ways that are very action-oriented, um, and, and a, and being able to work with other parts of the federal government to connect that information so that we're not just having a single lens. Um, and, and so I do think that they, um, they are really leading the way in, in many ways.</p> <p>And, and, uh, the other place I would say is, is from the funding perspective and what NIH is doing. Um, but you know, much more I think that we can do as a department as a whole.</p>
Walch:	And pattern and anomaly detection, um, is one of the seven patterns of AI. And it's a great use case. It's, you know, you're a fraud is a great use case. And you guys have a lot of data. So I know you said in particular with CMS, but are you taking the lessons learned from CMS and what you're doing there to be able to use it for some of the smaller, uh, business units?
Dr. Siddiqui:	I think there's some capacity building that needs to happen. And you know, traditionally, so we have great researchers, I mean, we have some of the world's best researchers, um, and folks who are just deeply steeped in, in, in good methodology. But oftentimes, the data that we have has been used for the primary purpose for which it was intended. And not really, there's not really been a thought to how do we connect information for secondary purposes? And what are the other ways in

	<p>which we can begin to, um, you know, target, uh, specific areas, whether it's clinical, um, uh, or, or, and even detecting fraud and abuse in other ways.</p> <p>Um, so I think that that work will happen. I don't think that, I don't see that right now at many of the agencies, but I think that, uh, it's been just a big move forward for many agencies to now begin to think about data as a strategic asset rather than as a one off research tool. Um, so that has been one of the big sort of culture changes I think that's happened in the last few years. Um, and I think it sets the stage for what the department can do moving forward.</p>
Walch:	<p>Yeah. And it's exciting to continue to watch as, as we move towards that. And you talk a lot about data and data is at the heart of AI. You need good, clean, well-labeled data. I know that you get data in from a lot of different systems and different ways. It may not all be in the same, uh, you know, it may not all be cleaned, well-labeled. So what, how are you guys working towards being able to get your data in a state that's able to, uh, to be used for all?</p>
Dr. Siddiqui:	<p>So, you know, as part of, um, doing our initial round of interviews with our agencies, we spent some time looking at the upstream factors of data collection and uh, and cleaning up data. Um, and in many cases that's a fairly robust process for all of the agencies. We have, you know, particular challenges to how we get our information. So a lot of the information that we collect is from states, or public health authorities, or hospital systems. By the time it comes to us, it is and is completely cleaned, it might be two years old.</p> <p>And so what we really have to think about moving forward, and this is not a conversation I think that most people are ready to have, but what we need to think about moving forward is how are we collecting our data and are our data collection mechanisms outdated?</p> <p>And in order to be able to have access to the information at the right time, do we need to explore other ways of collecting information rather than the sort of reporting, um, you know, um, through these various layers that we go through right now. So for me, that's actually, um, you know, it's one of the things I think about, but um, we want to create these internal processes first. But there are many, many other things that, uh, you can imagine that we've sort of discovered that we would love to be able to fix.</p>
Delmolino:	<p>So I'm curious, you know, given that HHS has a data-driven culture, having people who are familiar with working with data, is that a, is that a helpful thing? Is that a hindrance? Do they have more questions or are they more skeptical? I mean, what's, what's it like having people who</p>

	<p>already have a basic level of data understanding to bring them up, upscale them into that data science and AI Role?</p>
<p>Dr. Siddiqui:</p>	<p>Yeah, so that's a complicated question. Uh, so I would say that that there are people who are great data scientists and, and like I said before, have an incredible foundation in the methodology. Uh, using data in different ways though can be really challenging. Right? So I don't think that it's necessarily about upskilling or, um, yeah, I don't think it's really about upskilling I think it's more around, um, you know, people have seen data as a research tool and now we're asking them to connect data, which is very uncomfortable for a lot of people because of concerns around privacy, and security.</p> <p>And then we're also saying that we're going to use that information and that connected data to make business and operational decisions. And that's a big, big shift for a lot of people. And I think that that's been the single toughest challenge in moving people in this direction. And a lot, a lot of the work that we've done has been external facing in our conversations and defining the problem and then helping in finding the solution.</p> <p>But regardless of how much you feel like you're communicating, you're never communicating enough, especially when the organization is as matrix-ed, as large, um, and has so many different stakeholders as at HHS. And so that's been a real challenge. And, um, you know, something that we're continuing to work on.</p>
<p>Walch:</p>	<p>Yeah, that's great. Because in order to make this work, you really need to get perspectives from many areas and not just one, because I think then you can get tunnel vision and you don't always look at the greater thing, not even necessarily, you know, um, it could be by accident, but it's just you get in that focus. So I know that you, you talked about the need for collaboration and how that's so important. How do you see different federal agencies collaborating and do you think that we can do more?</p>
<p>Dr. Siddiqui:</p>	<p>Always and absolutely. Um, again, being, um, uh, you know, a researcher and a user of data before I came in. To think about the silos, for instance, that we live in from a data perspective right now, right? I mean, um, what are the organic ways of sharing information right now in between Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, um, you know, the Department of Labor? Those don't really exist and they absolutely need to exist.</p> <p>Um, you know, I remember looking at a study that was evaluating, um, the patterns of how long people were living from different demographics. This came out about a few years ago and the</p>

	<p>researcher had used data from, I believe from uh Treasury Department, from Department of Labor, from Housing and Urban Development and from HHS. And it was an incredibly well-done study. And at the end of it, there were many of us in the federal government who had follow-up questions and we said, you know, can you go back and, and help us, um, understand some of these answers? And he said, no, because I can't go through the, all of the things I had to do to get access and those agreements in place again, it's just not doable. I don't have the resources and, and so there are real missed opportunities by not having those connections.</p> <p>My, my hope is that as we build a robust enterprise internal to each of these departments, that we begin to create standards and norms, um, that can then easily translate into how we connect data with external departments. Um, rather than what happens right now, which is that every single time there's an agreement, it's a bespoke process taken from the ground up and it can take a year or more to negotiate. And in that time period there are real consequences to the ways in which those programs are getting managed.</p>
Walch:	Yeah, that's great. So I want to give you a chance to brag here for a second. Can you share a cool or unexpected example of healthdata.gov that's been used?
Dr. Siddiqui:	<p>Healthdata.gov for me is really reflective of the journey that the agencies within HHS have undertaken, which is a commitment to making data publicly available. And now the, the real robust, public, um, data infrastructure, the infrastructures at these agencies have developed, I think is a real win for the nation. And I think it's a real win for HHS because that data, um, now people have shifted the way they think about it. The default is to think about what are we going to make publicly available. And that wasn't the case even a decade ago.</p> <p>Um, and so the fact that we've made, um, you know, over 2,000 datasets publicly available and that, uh, the open data enterprise within all of these agencies, um, you know, that there are so many resources devoted to it. Um, I think that that is a testament to the culture change that has happened at HHS and the frontline staff at HHS that have really led the way.</p>
Delmolino:	Mona, thank you so much for your leadership in this area and for sharing your experiences with us today on the podcast. For our listeners want to follow up with you or learn more about your work, what's the best way for them to engage?
Dr. Siddiqui:	You can email me. Um, so my email is mona.siddiqui@HHS.gov and

	I'm always happy to get feedback and um, and have a conversation.
Walch:	Great. Well thank you so much for joining us today.
Dr. Siddiqui:	Thank you.
Delmolino:	Yeah thank you. Well that was a great discussion! It seems clear that a national strategy on artificial intelligence is only the beginning of how we'll leverage this emerging technology. As a tool for improved decision making, it's important that we teach AI our values so that we achieve the greatest benefit for the widest selection of our population. With AI becoming a common occurrence in our everyday lives, we need to make sure we're dispelling myths and fears through consistent education and training. By being thoughtful about how we use AI to help society and the economy, we'll help ensure AI has a lasting positive impact.
Walch:	It was interesting to get the perspective from different parts of government with a member of Congress and a leader from one of the largest federal departments on how we should think about and approach data and AI and what we need to do to stay competitive on both a global stage as well as how we can and should use data and artificial intelligence to help interact with citizens.
Delmolino:	<p>Included in the discussion around AI as an emerging technology is the quality of data we're using to teach it. While we may seem to be drowning in electronic data, if we're going to use it effectively we need to upgrade our processes for selecting, curating and sharing data within the government. Having higher quality data that we can agree upon through approved channels facilitates the development of reliable, trustworthy AI systems.</p> <p>Thanks for joining us, we'll be back next time with a discussion of AI and automation. If you liked what you heard, share this show with a friend or rank us on your favorite podcast provider!</p>
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