

Field Manual Preview

Six practical pages from the learning path

The full field manual is available through the resource library

This preview is free and does not require an email

Version: August 2026

Start with the person. Use the tool. Keep the judgment. Build the thing.

What AI is good at

AI is useful when the work benefits from patterns, alternatives, drafts, summaries, classification, or transformation. It is weak when a task requires certainty, lived context, authority, accountability, or a final decision nobody reviews.

- Start with a task, not a tool.
- Give the model enough context to do useful work, but not information it should never receive.
- Define the output shape and the person who reviews it.
- Save the workflow, not just the lucky answer.

Field rule

Master principles, not platforms. Tools change. Principles transfer.

Local AI

Local AI runs models on hardware you control. It can improve privacy and independence, but it also moves responsibility for setup, updates, access, and model behavior onto you.

- Local does not automatically mean private. Check network features, plugins, logs, and shared folders.
- Model size is not the same thing as quality for your task.
- Use smaller models for clear, repeatable work before chasing the largest model your machine can barely hold.
- Keep a fallback when local hardware is unavailable.

Field rule

Master principles, not platforms. Tools change. Principles transfer.

Online AI

Online AI is usually the fastest way to access strong models and current features. The trade is that your request leaves your device and is handled under the provider, account, contract, and settings you chose.

- Separate personal accounts from organization-approved accounts.
- Read the data controls for the exact account tier you use.
- Do not assume deleting a chat equals deleting every copy or log.
- Classify the information before you paste it.

Field rule

Master principles, not platforms. Tools change. Principles transfer.

Safety

The goal is not to identify every fake. The goal is to make unsafe requests fail at the process level.

- Stop. Switch. Confirm.
- Use a known contact instead of the contact provided by the message.
- Require second-person review for money, access, payroll, and sensitive data.
- Report quickly. Silence gives an incident more room.

Field rule

Master principles, not platforms. Tools change. Principles transfer.

AI at work

A good first workflow is useful, reversible, easy to review, and low-impact if the model is wrong.

- Draft first, decide later.
- Name the reviewer.
- Keep an example of the input and approved output.
- Measure time saved and errors caught, not excitement.

Field rule

Master principles, not platforms. Tools change. Principles transfer.

CONTINUE

The full field manual

The full AI Without Fear field manual expands the learning path with setup guidance, troubleshooting, workflows, model and tool concepts, and practical operating notes. The resource library requests an email before delivering the full file so AI Without Fear can measure real demand and keep readers informed when a revised edition is available.

No spam maze

The download form separates “send me this resource” from optional project updates. The resource should not require marketing consent.

Visit ai-wf.org/resources to request the full manual.