A “contemporary IT issue” can be defined as any current and on-going technology-related challenges that arises from the advancement in the IT fields, presenting challenges surrounding privacy, cybersecurity and piracy (Schultz, 2006). This definition holds relevance to today’s IT landscape because of the rapid advancement made in different fields such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and cloud computing. While these advancements bring about numerous benefits, they also raise challenges regarding trust, ethical and security. The relevance of these IT issues is due to their ability to impact organizational strategy and trust.

One of the more prevalent IT issues is the growth of AI and their use in our daily life. AI has transformed how we look at research and application, but also complex challenges surrounding the ethical side. Example of AI being used for beneficial purposes would be the AlphaFold AI system which is used to accelerate protein structure research (AlphaFold, 2022). However, Krishna (2023) also argued that AI can be used for worse purposes, such as taking over jobs of up to 800 million workers by 2030 or used for military defensive and offensive operations. The adoption of AI is relevance because they can be used for enhancing data analysis, automating certain IT tasks and strengthening our cybersecurity capabilities (Lainjo, 2023). But poor adoption could also lead to ethical discussions, backlash and loss of trust. Thus, this problem qualifies as a contemporary IT issue due to its root in ethics, security and social impacts.

Another contemporary IT issue is the problem of cybersecurity. As our world proceeds towards digitalization, questions surrounding cybersecurity become a concern from everyone, from individual users to large corporations. According to the annual report from the Australian Signals Directorate (2024), Australia observed a 12% increase in number of calls made to the cybersecurity hotline and over 1,100 incidents in the last financial year. Admass, Munaye and Diro (2024) also present that cybersecurity has evolved from isolated incidents to global scale attacks on important infrastructures, supply chain and personal data. Due to the ever-changing nature of cybersecurity, this qualifies as a contemporary IT challenge because of the constant shift in attack medium, threat surface and surface of attack.

In conclusion, these contemporary IT issues arise from the advancement of current technology and have immediate impact on different aspects of our daily life such as personal, organizational and global scale. Cybersecurity and AI are core examples because these areas are fueled by innovations which also come with societal risk which demands preventive strategies.

Reference list:

1. Admass, WS, Munaye, YY & Diro, AA 2024, ‘Cyber security: State of the art, Challenges and Future Directions’, *Cyber Security and Applications*, vol. 2, no. 2.
2. AlphaFold 2022, *AlphaFold Protein Structure Database*, alphafold.ebi.ac.uk.
3. Bongs Lainjo 2023, *Contemporary Challenges in Information Technology: The Power of Artificial Intelligence*, ResearchGate.
4. Krishna, VV 2023, ‘AI and Contemporary Challenges: The Good, Bad and the Scary’, *Journal of Open Innovation: Technology, Market, and Complexity*, vol. 10, no. 1, p. 100178.
5. Schultz, RT 2006, ‘Contemporary Issues in Ethics and Information Technology’, *Contemporary Issue in Ethics and Information Technology*.
6. Australian Signals Directorate 2024, Annual Cyber Threat Report 2023-2024, Cyber.gov.au.