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Document Classification

This document constitutes a canonical descriptive publication defining a distinct operational domain relevant to the interpretation and reliance on AI-generated explanations.

It forms part of the EntityWorks public body of work concerned with the structural conditions under which AI systems are relied upon to form understanding of people, organisations, relationships, and ideas**.**

Purpose and Position

The purpose of this document is to:

- Identify and name a distinct operational domain arising in contemporary AI use.
- Define its boundaries and contents in non-normative terms.
- Situate the domain relative to the broader discipline of AI Perception.
- Provide a stable reference point for future interpretation and analysis.

This document does not introduce implementation guidance, governance prescriptions, technical mechanisms, evaluative criteria, or enforcement models.

Interpretive Notice

This publication is descriptive in nature.
It does not propose remedies, express policy preferences, or assign responsibility.
Its function is to establish shared reference and conceptual clarity for a domain that already operates in practice.

Canonical Note

This document introduces the term **AI Interpretation & Reliance Domain** as a formal descriptor for an operational space that has not previously been named in a stable or canonical form.

Subsequent EntityWorks publications may elaborate, analyse, or operationalise this domain. Such developments do not alter the scope or intent of this initial boundary definition.

The AI Interpretation & Reliance Domain

A descriptive boundary of where AI explanations become relied upon

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Abstract

As AI systems become embedded in decision-making across society, their outputs increasingly take the form of fluent explanations, summaries, and descriptions of people, organisations, relationships, and ideas. These explanatory outputs are routinely relied upon by humans and institutions as shared context for understanding and action.

This document identifies and defines a distinct operational domain in which such reliance occurs. The domain exists after AI systems have generated explanatory content, but before that content is acted upon through decisions, policies, or other consequential actions. Although this domain operates continuously and materially shapes outcomes, it is not clearly bounded, owned, or governed.

This paper names this domain the **AI Interpretation & Reliance Domain**, describes its boundaries and contents, clarifies what it is not, and situates it in relation to the broader discipline concerned with AI understanding. The intent is descriptive: to make visible a domain that already exists in practice, but has not yet been formally articulated.

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1. Scope and Intent

This document defines a distinct operational domain that has emerged in contemporary use of AI systems.

Its purpose is to **name, describe, and bound** this domain in precise, non-normative terms. It does not propose solutions, recommend governance mechanisms, assign responsibility, or assess desirability. It does not evaluate intent or attribute fault to any actor.

The document is concerned solely with *what is occurring in practice*: how AI-generated explanations are interpreted, accepted, and relied upon once they enter social and institutional contexts.

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2. Background: The Changing Role of AI Explanations

AI systems are no longer used only to generate raw outputs, predictions, or classifications. They are now routinely used to produce **explanatory content**—summaries, characterisations, narratives, and contextual accounts intended to be directly legible to humans.

These explanations are used to:

- orient understanding,
- frame discussion,
- establish background context,
- substitute for direct inspection of primary material,
- and accelerate decision-making under conditions of scale or time pressure.

In many settings, AI explanations function as *stand-ins for knowledge*. They become the shared reference point through which people and institutions understand situations they have not personally examined.

This pattern of use is now widespread. It does not depend on a specific sector, model, or deployment style. It arises from the interaction between fluent AI explanation and practical human reliance.

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3. Definition of the AI Interpretation & Reliance Domain

The AI Interpretation & Reliance Domain is the operational domain in which AI-generated explanations, summaries, and descriptions are interpreted, accepted, and relied upon by humans or institutions as shared context for understanding prior to action.

The domain exists:

- **after** an AI system has produced explanatory or descriptive outputs, and
- **before** those outputs are acted upon through decisions, enforcement, policy, or other consequential actions.

The domain concerns neither how AI systems compute outputs nor how final decisions are executed. It concerns the **interpretive handoff** at which AI-generated explanation becomes a substitute for direct knowledge and begins to shape real-world understanding.

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4. Contents of the Domain

The AI Interpretation & Reliance Domain encompasses a set of recurring, observable elements:

- AI-generated explanations, summaries, and descriptive narratives
- Linguistic framing choices, including emphasis, omission, and categorisation
- Compression of complex or distributed information into legible accounts
- Repetition of similar descriptions across time or across systems
- Stabilisation of explanatory patterns that come to be treated as factual givens
- Acceptance of AI explanations as sufficient context for further reasoning
- Reliance on explanations without direct inspection of their formation or limits

These elements operate independently of intent and without explicit coordination. Together, they constitute the practical environment in which AI explanations become consequential.

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5. Boundary Conditions: What the Domain Is Not

The AI Interpretation & Reliance Domain is distinct from, and should not be conflated with:

- AI system design, training, or internal computation
- Model evaluation, benchmarking, or safety testing
- Human decision-making itself
- Governance or adjudication of outcomes
- User interface or interaction design
- Content production, optimisation, or persuasion

Although the domain may influence or be influenced by these areas, it is analytically separate from them.

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6. The Ownership and Accountability Gap

Despite its continuous operation and practical impact, responsibility for the AI Interpretation & Reliance Domain is not clearly or consistently held.

In practice:

- AI system builders typically treat explanatory outputs as user-facing artefacts rather than governed interpretive material.
- Decision-makers often treat AI explanations as informal inputs rather than objects requiring scrutiny.
- Intermediaries may influence presentation or use without owning interpretive stability or accuracy.

As a result, the domain functions as an **unowned interpretive space**, in which explanations shape understanding and action without clear standards, shared oversight, or explicit accountability.

This condition arises structurally from how AI explanations are used, rather than from failure or negligence by any single party.

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7. Relationship to the Discipline of AI Perception

The discipline of **AI Perception** concerns how AI systems form, update, and express understanding of people, organisations, relationships, and ideas. It is concerned with the nature, stability, and distortion of AI-held understanding itself.

The AI Interpretation & Reliance Domain exists **within the scope of this broader discipline**, but addresses a specific point of consequence: the point at which AI-held understanding, as expressed through explanation, is taken up and relied upon by others.

In this relationship:

- AI Perception addresses how AI understanding exists and is expressed.
- The AI Interpretation & Reliance Domain addresses when that understanding becomes socially operative through human or institutional reliance.

The domain does not redefine the discipline. It articulates one of its most consequential operational contexts.

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8. Closing Statement

The AI Interpretation & Reliance Domain exists as a distinct and observable domain in contemporary AI use. It operates wherever AI explanations are accepted as shared context and relied upon in shaping understanding and action.

By naming and bounding this domain, a shared reference point is established for recognising where AI explanations become consequential, and where responsibility is currently diffuse.

No further claims are made here.