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**Journal: Intellectual Property Risks in AI-Generated Code**

The increasing use of AI in code generation introduces several intellectual property (IP) risks that developers and organizations must carefully consider. One of the primary concerns is ownership of AI-generated code. Traditional copyright law grants authorship rights to human creators, leaving ambiguity regarding whether AI itself or the user prompting it to hold legal ownership. This uncertainty can create disputes if multiple parties contribute to the prompt or if the AI model was trained on copyrighted code. Another risk involves licensing conflicts, as AI models may generate code snippets that unknowingly replicate open-source or proprietary code under specific licenses. Incorporating such code into a project without adhering to license terms can expose organizations to legal liabilities. Additionally, there is a significant risk of copyright infringement, especially when AI models are trained on copyrighted material. Code generated by AI may closely resemble existing copyrighted code, even if unintentionally, raising potential infringement issues if used in commercial or distributed software.

Understanding the distinction between copyright and software licensing is critical in managing these risks. Copyright protects the expression of ideas, giving the owner exclusive rights to reproduce, distribute, or modify their work. In contrast, software licensing defines the legal terms under which software can be used, modified, or shared. For AI-generated code, copyright law determines whether ownership can exist at all, while licensing governs the permitted use of any incorporated code, including snippets from open-source projects. Developers must navigate both frameworks carefully, ensuring that any AI-generated code complies with licensing requirements and does not infringe on copyrighted material.

To mitigate these risks, developers should follow several best practices and guidelines when using AI-generated code. Prompt handling is essential; developers should craft prompts that minimize the risk of generating code directly copied from copyrighted sources. Code review is another critical step, involving thorough examination of AI-generated code to identify potential security, functionality, or IP issues. Developers should also conduct license checking to ensure that any code incorporated from AI output adheres to open-source or proprietary licensing terms, avoiding accidental violations. By combining careful prompt design, rigorous review processes, and license compliance, developers can responsibly leverage AI-generated code while reducing intellectual property risks and maintaining legal and ethical standards.