Docs

General OpenWebUI Usage

Getting Started

The Public AI interface is built on OpenWebUI, providing access to multiple AI models through a single, transparent platform. You can use it with or without creating an account, though accounts enable conversation history, personalized settings, and optional data contribution features.

Features

Message Controls

- **Edit Message**: Modify any message in the conversation to continue from a different point or create cleaner conversation flows
- **Copy Message**: Copy message content directly to your clipboard
- **Read Aloud**: Text-to-speech functionality for accessibility support
- **Continue Response**: Ask the AI to expand or complete its current response
- **Regenerate Response**: Generate a new response to the same prompt
- **Conversation Tags**: Use the "..." menu when hovering over chats in the top right (or left sidebar) to tag conversations by topic, quality, or other attributes
- **Chat History**: Access and search through your previous conversations

Model and Behavior Controls

- **Model Selection**: Use the dropdown at the top of the screen to choose which AI model to use
- **Advanced settings:** Under “Controls” in the top right, you can modify AI behaviour using System Prompts and other advanced settings. See TODO for more info.

Sharing Settings: Navigate to Controls → Valves → Functions → Share to Flywheel to configure advanced features including:

- Data sharing preferences
- Custom function integrations
- Personal AI usage settings

Privacy Controls

- All “account information” (email, username, any additional info you add under Settings → Account) stays on our servers
- You control what data, if any, you choose to share
- Individuals conversations are not shared or used for research by default
- Aggregate, anonymized information about usage may be shared with partners (for example, to tell model builders about the fraction of conversations that are about coding or art).
- You can opt in to share individual conversations publicly.

Accessibility and Customization

The interface supports various accessibility features including text-to-speech, keyboard navigation, and customizable display options. You can adjust themes, font sizes, and interface layout through the settings menu.

Model Attribution and Transparency

Understanding Model Providers

Model builders are the organizations and researchers who create, train, and maintain the AI models you interact with. They invest significant resources developing these capabilities for public use. Our platform emphasizes transparency about which models you're using and who built them.

Current Model Providers

Swiss AI

- Specialized models focused on multilingual capabilities
- See more HERE

AI Singapore

- Models optimized for Southeast Asian languages and contexts
- See more HERE

How to See Which Model You're Using

Model Selection Menu: Check the dropdown at the top of the interface for the current model name and version (e.g., "Swiss AI")

Compute Information: Some models will tell you where their computational resources are located.

Provider Transparency

We believe model builder attribution is crucial for creating an ecosystem with proper credit and recognition, as well as transparency and trust. When you interact with a model, we make available information about:

- The organization that built and maintains the model
- Where available
    - links to their terms of service and privacy policies
    - Information about the model's capabilities and limitations
    - details about training data and methodologies

Data Details

Privacy and Data Flow

Your Account Information

- Username, email, settings, and any additional information you voluntarily share never leaves our servers
- We only use what's needed to make the product work
- Account data is retained until you delete your account or after 30 days of inactivity

Model Interactions

- Model operators see your prompts so they can provide accurate responses
- Partners only receive high-level, anonymized usage statistics (for example, the percentage of queries about coding)
- We display payload transparency panels showing exactly what's sent to each provider

Data Retention Schedule

Data Type	Retention	Deletion Method
Chat history	Until user deletes	User can delete anytime
Account data	Until account deleted	30 days inactivity → auto-delete
Various logs (app usage, IP addresses, user agents, etc)	30 days	Automatic purge

The Public AI Data Flywheel

The data flywheel is a system that enables voluntary data contribution to public AI datasets with full informed consent. This helps create better AI evaluation tools and training data for public benefit AI models.

What is Public AI? Public AI embodies three core principles:

- **Public Access**: Universal access to important AI capabilities
- **Public Accountability**: Public control over AI development
- **Permanent Public Goods**: Sustainable, reliable AI infrastructure

How the Flywheel Works The flywheel is a feedback loop where high-quality data collected from voluntary interactions is used to continuously improve AI models and evaluation methods.

Contributing to the Flywheel

One-Time Setup

1. Create an account at the interface
2. Navigate to Controls → Valves → Functions → Share to Flywheel
3. Toggle "Sharing Enabled" to ON
4. Configure your preferences:
    - **License**: Choose CC0-1.0, CC-BY-4.0, or CC-BY-SA-4.0
    - **AI Preference Signal**: Set IETF/CC preferences (e.g., `train-genai=n;exceptions=cc-cr`)
    - **Attribution**: Use your username, "anonymous", or a custom pseudonym
    - **Auto-feedback**: Choose whether to skip confirmation prompts

Contributing a Conversation

1. Have a conversation with any model
2. Optionally, run the lightweight “privacy scanner” (not guaranteed to catch all private information).
3. Trigger the "Public AI Data Flywheel" action
4. Review your current settings and confirm
5. Optionally provide feedback or context about why this conversation is valuable
6. Trigger the "Public AI Data Flywheel" action again to send!

What Happens to Your Contribution Your contribution creates a JSON record containing:

- Conversation messages and metadata
- Your chosen license and AI preference settings
- Attribution based on your pseudonym setting
- An anonymized contributor hash for grouping contributions

- Model information, token counts, and timestamps

Data Processing Pipeline

Stage 1: Waiting Room Contributions initially land in a private staging area (`_waiting_room/`) and are typically processed within 24-48 hours.

Stage 2: Validation and PII Redaction Automated processing attempts to remove:

- Email addresses and IP addresses
- Social Security Numbers and IBAN accounts
- Cryptocurrency wallets and credit card numbers
- Phone numbers and name patterns
- Other personally identifiable information

Stage 3: Quality Control

- Files with excessive PII hits (>5) are quarantined for manual review
- Malformed data is filtered out
- Valid contributions are prepared for release

Stage 4: Public Release Clean contributions are published in a gated HuggingFace repository. These releases are permanent and it may not be possible to fully retract data from the public release if it has been copied. The contributions will also be available from a non-gated public website with anti-scraping protections. AI developers who want to use the data can either accept the terms of use via HuggingFace or manually visit the public website.

Your Rights and Controls

What You Control

- **Opt-in Requirement**: Must explicitly enable sharing
- **Per-Contribution Consent**: Confirm each contribution individually
- **License Selection**: Choose how your data can be used
- **AI Usage Preferences**: Specify restrictions on AI training use
- **Attribution Preferences**: Control how you're credited

What You Cannot Control

- **Published Data Permanence**: Once released, data cannot be deleted from public datasets
- **Third-Party Usage**: Data use is subject to the licenses you selected
- **Downstream Applications**: How others use the datasets within license terms

Deletion Requests

- You can exclude your data from future releases
- Past releases generally remain permanent
- Contact privacy@publicai.co for specific requests

Privacy and Security Measures (technical details)

Contributor Identification

- **Contributor Hash**: 16-character anonymized identifier generated from your user ID
- **Attribution Options**: Username, anonymous, or custom pseudonym
- **No Direct Linking**: Raw user IDs are never stored in public datasets

Security

- HTTPS/TLS encryption for all data transmission
- Access controls on processing systems
- Gated repository access requiring terms acceptance

Legal and Compliance Framework

GDPR Considerations

- Legal basis is explicit consent through opt-in process
- Data minimization: only collect necessary information
- User rights supported within technical limitations

Licensing Options

- **CC0-1.0**: Public domain dedication, maximum openness
- **CC-BY-4.0**: Attribution required for reuse
- **CC-BY-SA-4.0**: Attribution required, derivative works must use same license

AI Preference Signals Based on IETF AI Preferences and Creative Commons signals, these allow you to specify how AI systems should use your data:

- Training permissions and restrictions
- Attribution requirements
- Conditions for use (e.g., only for open-source projects)

NOTE THAT THE ENFORCEMENT OF AI PREFERENCE SIGNALS, AND THE INTERACTION BETWEEN TRADITIONAL LICENSING AND PREFERENCE SIGNALS IS STILL AN OPEN AREA OF INVESTIGATION AND DISPUTE.

Contact and Support

- **Privacy Requests**: privacy@publicai.company

- **General Support**: Use the contact form on our website

Benefits of Participation

By contributing to the public AI data flywheel, you:

- Support the development of transparent, accountable AI systems
- Help create evaluation tools that improve AI safety and reliability
- Contribute to public good rather than private profit
- Maintain control over how your data is used through licensing and preference signals
- Support continued development of openly available AI models

The flywheel represents a new model for AI development that prioritizes transparency, user agency, and public benefit over private data extraction and profit maximization.