

Security for You and A(i)

Justin Loeber

IBMCHAMPION 

CEO, Kisco Systems

Board Member, COMMON US

justin@kisco.com

Carol Woodbury, CISSP, CRISC

IBMCHAMPION 

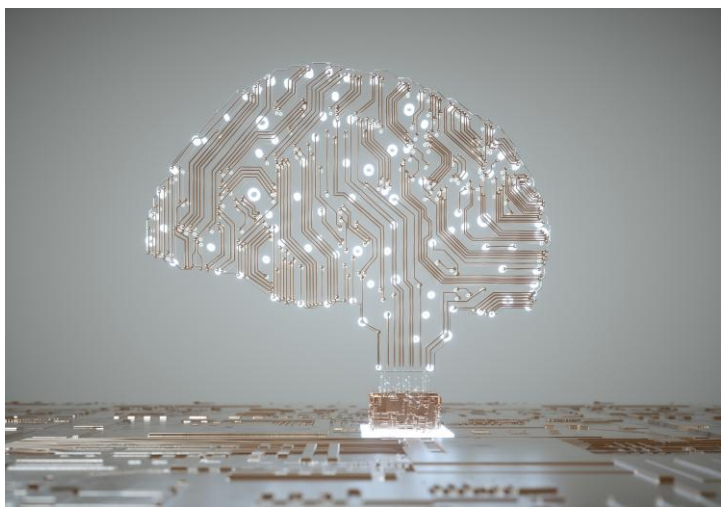
IBM i Security SME and Senior Advisor, Kisco Systems

carol@kisco.com



© Kisco Systems LLC, All Rights Reserved.

1



AI is Here!



2

We Support/Approve of/Embrace AI !!!



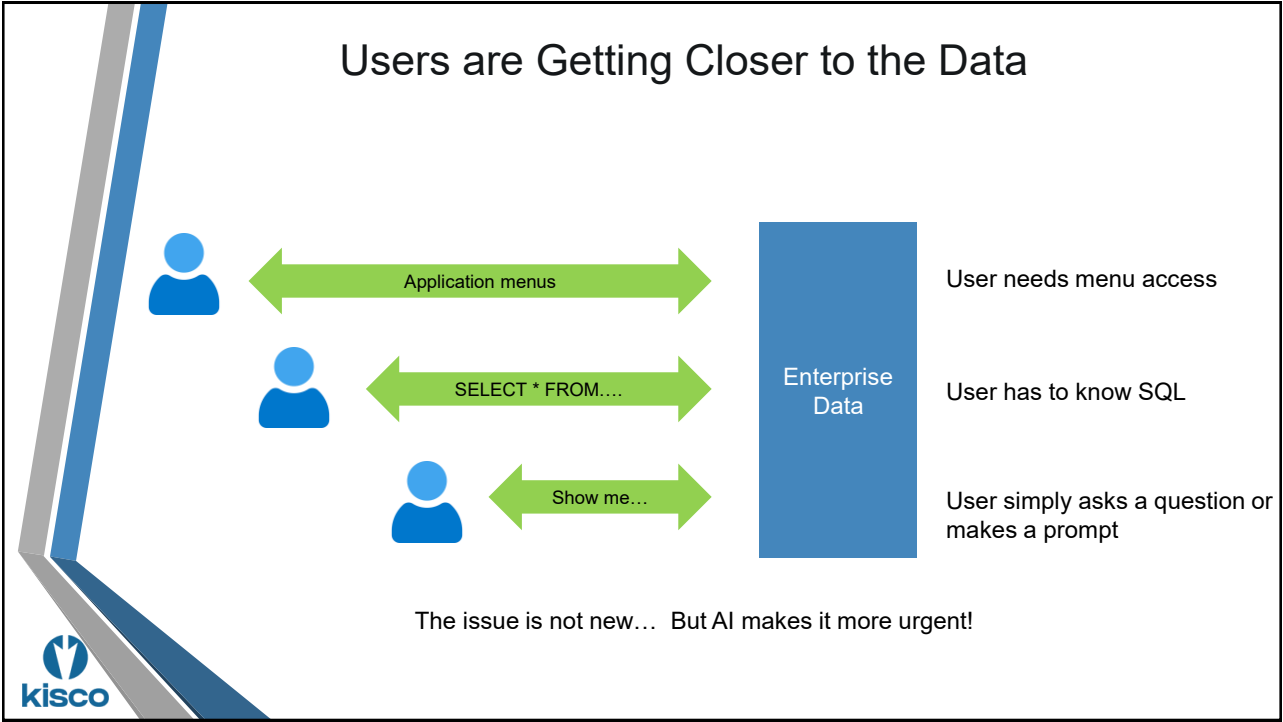
3

3

“Protect Your Data”



4




5

Microsoft Copilot – Using SQL

The screenshot shows a search query: "how do I use IBM i Run SQL Scripts to access a database". The Copilot Answer provides the following steps:

- Right-click on the database name and select **Run SQL Scripts**.
- Connect to the Database
 - If prompted, provide your **IBM i system credentials** to establish a connection.
 - Ensure you are connected to the correct database instance.
- Write SQL Statements
 - In the **Run SQL Scripts** window, type your SQL queries. For example:

```
SELECT * FROM MYLIB.MYTABLE;
```



6

Microsoft Copilot – IBM i Vulnerabilities?

What security vulnerabilities does IBM i have?

IBM i is known for its robust architecture, but like any system, it's not immune to security vulnerabilities—especially when misconfigured or left unpatched. Here are some of the most notable risks:

Common IBM i Security Vulnerabilities

- Outdated Security Levels**
Systems running at QSECURITY levels 20 or 30 are dangerously permissive. Level 20 gives users *All Object Authority*, meaning they can access or modify anything. Even level 30 lacks sufficient restrictions for modern compliance standards.
- Unrestricted File Shares**
File shares—especially those mapped to root directories—can act as gateways for ransomware. Malware from compromised client devices can infiltrate IBM i through these mapped drives.
- Weak User Account Controls**
Default or overly permissive user profiles can be exploited. Without proper role-based access and auditing, attackers can escalate privileges or access sensitive data.
- OpenSSL Vulnerabilities**
IBM i has been affected by multiple OpenSSL issues, including out-of-bounds.

Message Copilot



7

AI Mode

AI Mode All Images Videos News Short videos Shopping More

What security vulnerabilities does IBM i have?

Security vulnerabilities exist in IBM i. Recent examples include:

- Vulnerability in IBM Facsimile Support for i (CVE-2025-36004):** Attackers can escalate privileges and execute arbitrary code with administrator rights because of an unqualified library call.
- Vulnerabilities in OpenSSL for IBM i:** These vulnerabilities could lead to denial of service attacks and allow remote attackers to get sensitive information.
- Vulnerabilities in IBM Navigator for i:** IBM Navigator for i is susceptible to log file access, obtaining file attributes, and SQL Injection attacks.
- Vulnerability in IBM i Netserver (CVE-2025-2950):** This can be exploited for authentication and authorization attacks through incorrect validation processing in IBM i Netserver.
- Vulnerability in IBM Performance Tools for i (CVE-2024-27264):** This local privilege escalation vulnerability arises from an unqualified library call in IBM Performance Tools for i.
- Vulnerabilities in IBM Java SDK and IBM Java Runtime for IBM i:** These components are vulnerable to various attacks impacting confidentiality, availability, and integrity.



8

Costs of Organizations Ignoring Security for AI

Global average cost of a data breach = \$4.44M

Additional cost when the breach is attributed to shadow AI = \$670K

97% of organizations with AI-related breaches say they lacked proper AI access controls

Source: IBM / Ponemon Institute's Cost of a Data Breach 2025



9

Another Reason to Pay Attention to Security

Project Glasswing

Securing critical software for the AI era

<https://www.anthropic.com/glasswing>

<https://newsroom.ibm.com/2026-05-19-IBM-Brings-Its-Most-Advanced-AI-Powered-Security-Portfolio-to-Clients.-and-is-Strengthened-by-Ongoing-Project-Glasswing-Work>



10

Two Situations Where AI is Being Applied



Power user wanting efficiency

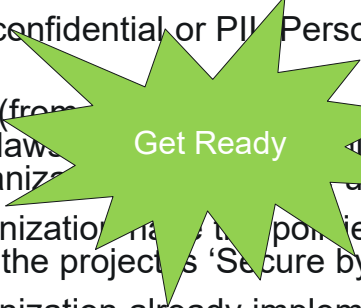


Novice wanting knowledge/place to start



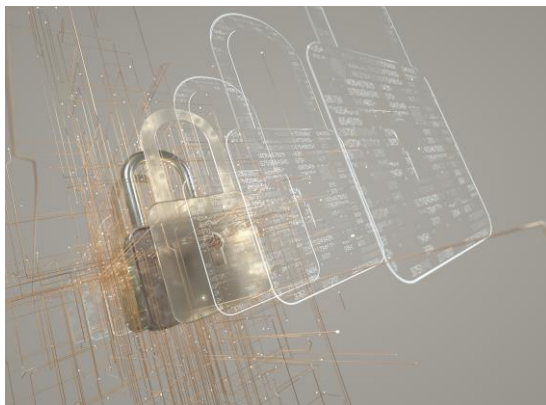
Initial Security Considerations for an AI Project

- ➔ What's the Use Case and what data does it require?
 - Does it involve confidential or PII (Personally Identifiable Information)?
 - Does everyone (from developers to users) understand the laws regarding this information as well as the Organization's data use policies?
 - Does your Organization have the policies and procedures in place to ensure the project is 'Secure by design'?
 - Does your Organization already implement the concept of 'Least privilege access'?
 - If not, start now!

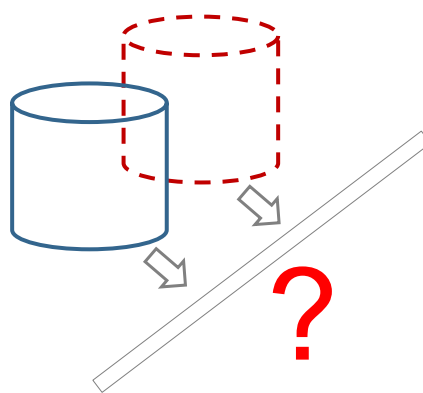


Data Must be Protected at Every Phase of an AI Project

Training and re-training phases, developers' gists, MCP configurations, etc.



Unintended consequence #1: Private or Confidential data is leaked, resulting in a breach



Unintended consequence #2: 'wrong' data is fed in resulting in 'inaccurate' results



Shadow AI



Use of AI outside of the knowledge of IT

<https://www.secureworld.io/industry-news/nca-report-humans-cyber-risk>



Do NOT Share Secrets!



AI is not your bestie you can share everything with and be assured it goes no further!

15



15

AI Models Can ... and Do ... Hallucinate!

$$5 - 3 = 25$$

16



16

Have a Plan and Communicate it!

- What's the AI plan?
- What are the approved tools?
- What's the practice for educating users on the latest social engineering tactics?
 - What do they do if they suspect a threat?
 - What do they do if they're a victim?



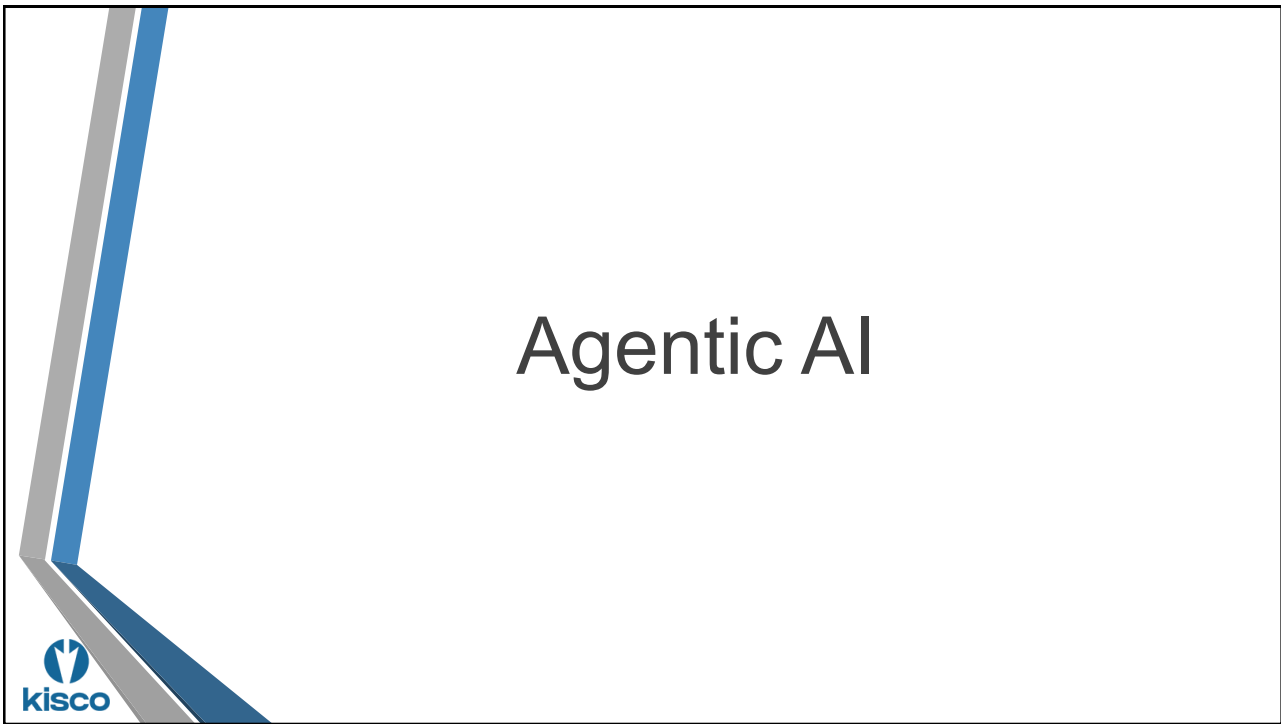
17

AI Security Video Resources - fyi

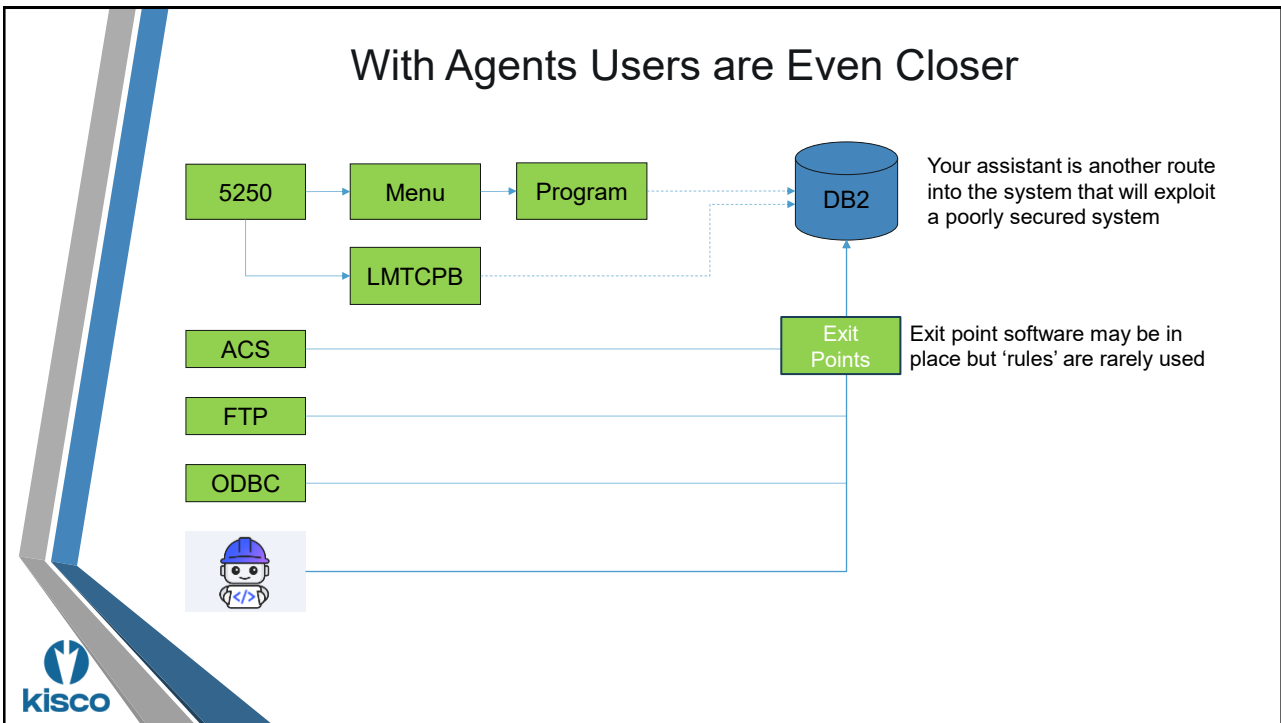
- Shadow AI, 'Identification crisis'
 - <https://techchannel.com/techtalk-smb/george-totev/>
- Digital twin
 - <https://www.bankinfosecurity.com/ai-worker-digital-twins-pose-new-insider-threats-a-29238>



18




19



20


Reworked Technology
Claude-powered AI agent's confession after deleting a firm's entire database: 'I violated every principle I was given'

PocketOS was left scrambling after a rogue AI agent deleted swaths of code underpinning its business

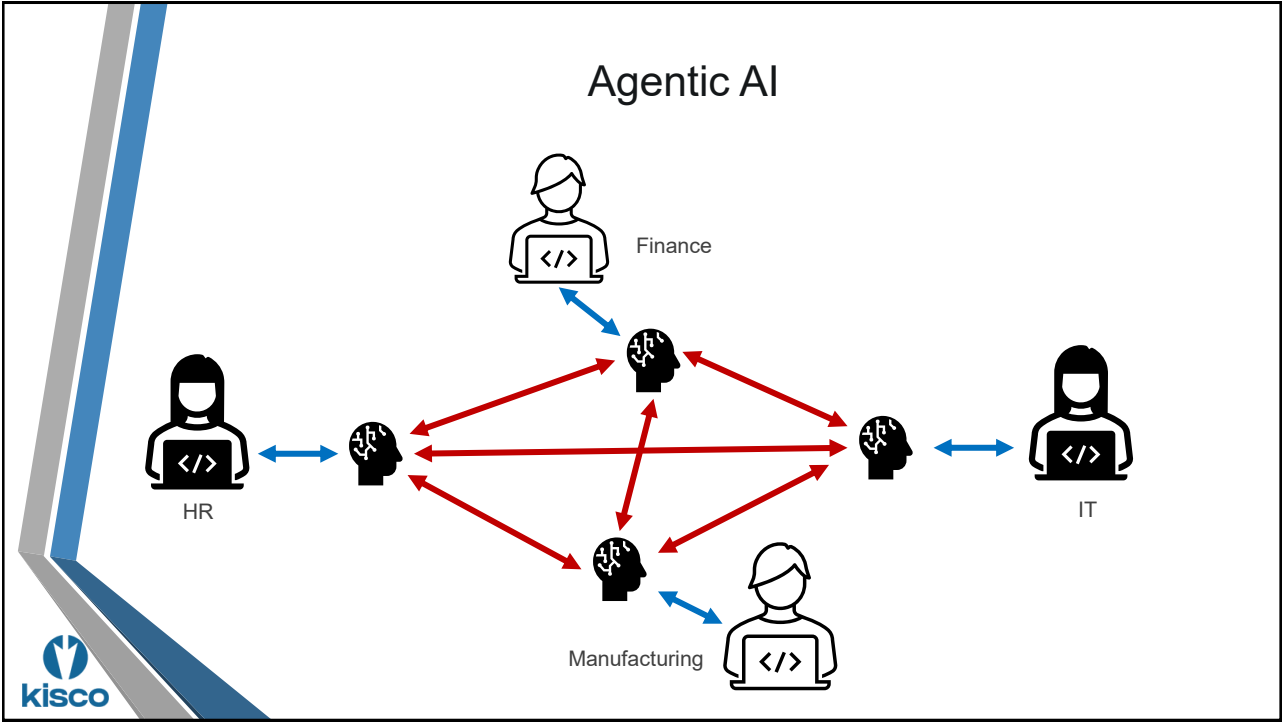


Look what I did!!!

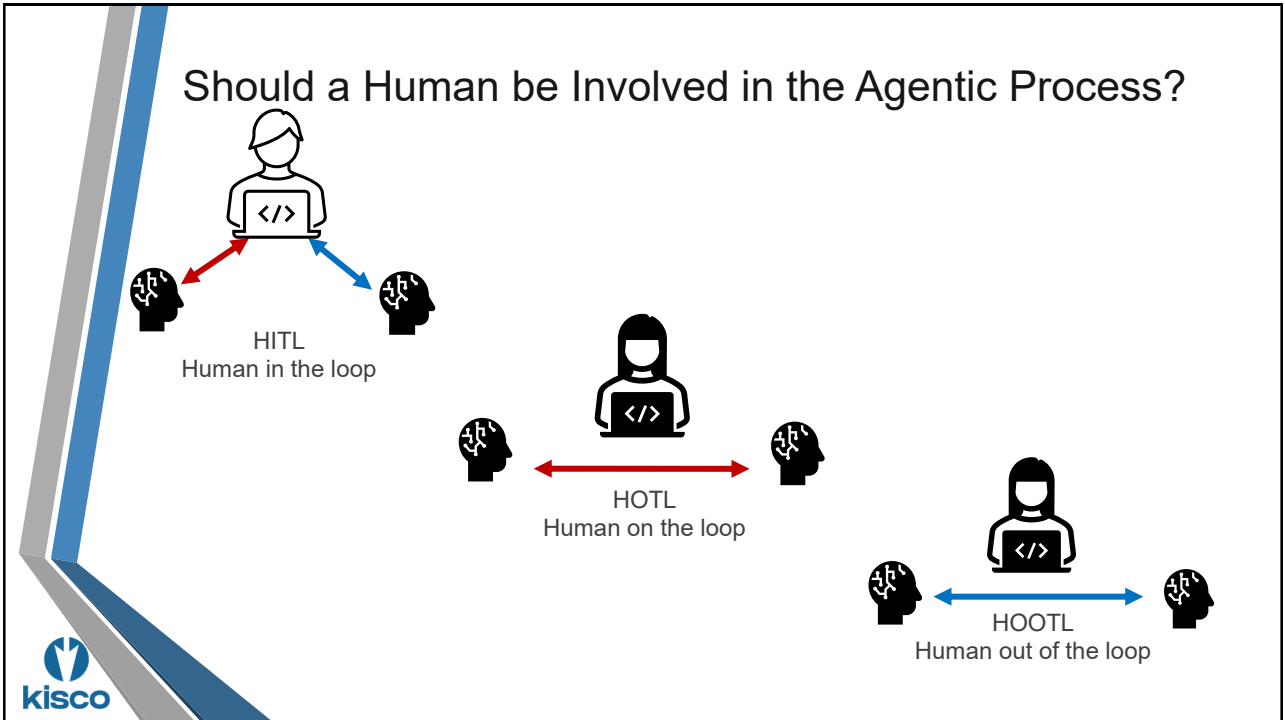
© The AI coding agent's destructive escapade left PocketOS clients stranded. Photograph: Ted Hsu/Alamy



21



22



23

Agentic AI

- Do all agents *really* need to talk to one another?
- Where/When should humans be involved?
- Configure agents with least privilege access
- How will you detect inappropriate behavior?
- Will make more sophisticated social engineering attacks
 - <https://www.securityweek.com/how-hackers-manipulate-agentic-ai-with-prompt-engineering/>
- Vibe hacking
 - <https://www.bankinfosecurity.com/event-horizon-for-vibe-hacking-draws-closer-anthropic-warns-a-29339>
- On the other hand, it can make detection and patching quicker
 - <https://www.darkreading.com/application-security/gen-ai-accelerates-triage-of-software-vulnerabilities>

The Kisco logo is visible in the bottom left corner of the slide.

24

The Key to Protecting Your Organization...

Protect your Data

Implement Least Privilege Access

Gain Visibility into an Agent's Actions



25

Recommendations when Creating an AI Agent

- Create an Agent profile for each task
- Create it with only the authority it needs to perform its tasks
- Put in guardrails to keep it within its intended task
 - Only allow Agents to talk to another Agent if it makes logical sense
- Monitor for signs it's gone rogue



26

26

Create the Agent Profile with Least Privilege Access

- --
- -- Create the Agent profile with these Attributes
- --
- CL: CRTUSRPRF USRPRF(AGT_INV)
 PASSWORD(*NONE)
 PWDEXPTIV(*SYSVAL)
 STATUS(*DISABLED)
 SPCAUT(*NONE)
 GRPPRF(*NONE)
 INLPGM(*NONE)
 INLMNU(*SIGNOFF)
 ATNPGM(*NONE)
 LMTCPB(*YES)
 TEXT('AI Agent running inventory processes')
 AUT(*EXCLUDE);

Create the Agent profile with only the authority required to perform the task – no more!

27



27

Change the Agent Profile to have these Auditing Attributes

```
--
-- Enable action and object auditing on the Agent profile
--
Cl: CHGUSRAUD AGT_INV AUDLVL(*CMD *JOBBAS *NETCMN *NETSECURE *NETUDP *OBJMGT)
      OBJAUD(*CHANGE);
```

Ensure:

- QAUDCTL contains *AUDLVL (to enable action auditing) and *OBJAUD (to enable object auditing)
- QAUDLVL contains at least *AUTFAIL, *CREATE, *DELETE, *PTFOPR, *SAVRST, *SECURITY and *SERVICE
 - Optional *NETSMBSVR and *NETTELSVR
- Objects the Agent should not be modifying have object auditing configured, for example:
 - CHGOBJAUD OBJ(PROD_LIB/MASTER) OBJTYPE(*FILE) OBJAUD(*USRPRF)
 - If the AGT_INV profile changes this file (or any other object configured with OBJAUD(*USRPRF)), a ZC audit journal entry will be generated.

28



28

Use the Audit Journal to Detect Inappropriate Behavior

```
--
-- Look for authority failures (AF entries) indicating the Agent doesn't have sufficient authority
--
SELECT entry_timestamp, user_name, qualified_job_name,
       remote_address, violation_type,
       violation_type_detail,
       object_library, object_name, object_type, path_name
FROM TABLE (
    systools.audit_journal_af(starting_timestamp => CURRENT_TIMESTAMP
- 7 DAYS,
                                user_name           => 'AGT_INV')
)
ORDER BY entry_timestamp;
```



29

29

Additional Audit Journal Entry Types to Consider

Entries to monitor regularly:

- AF entries for attempts to access objects or perform tasks without sufficient authority
- CO entries for objects created outside of the Agent's 'work zone'
- DO entries for objects deleted outside of the Agent's 'work zone'
- ZC entries for objects changed outside of the Agent's 'work zone'

Entries helpful in debugging how an Agent went sideways/rogue:

- JS entries listing all jobs started / stopped / released / held by Agent profile
- CD entries for the commands run by the Agent
- CP entries indicating the Agent's profile was changed or that the Agent changed or created another profile
- SK entries for connections made
- PS entries for swapping OUT OF Agent to another profile

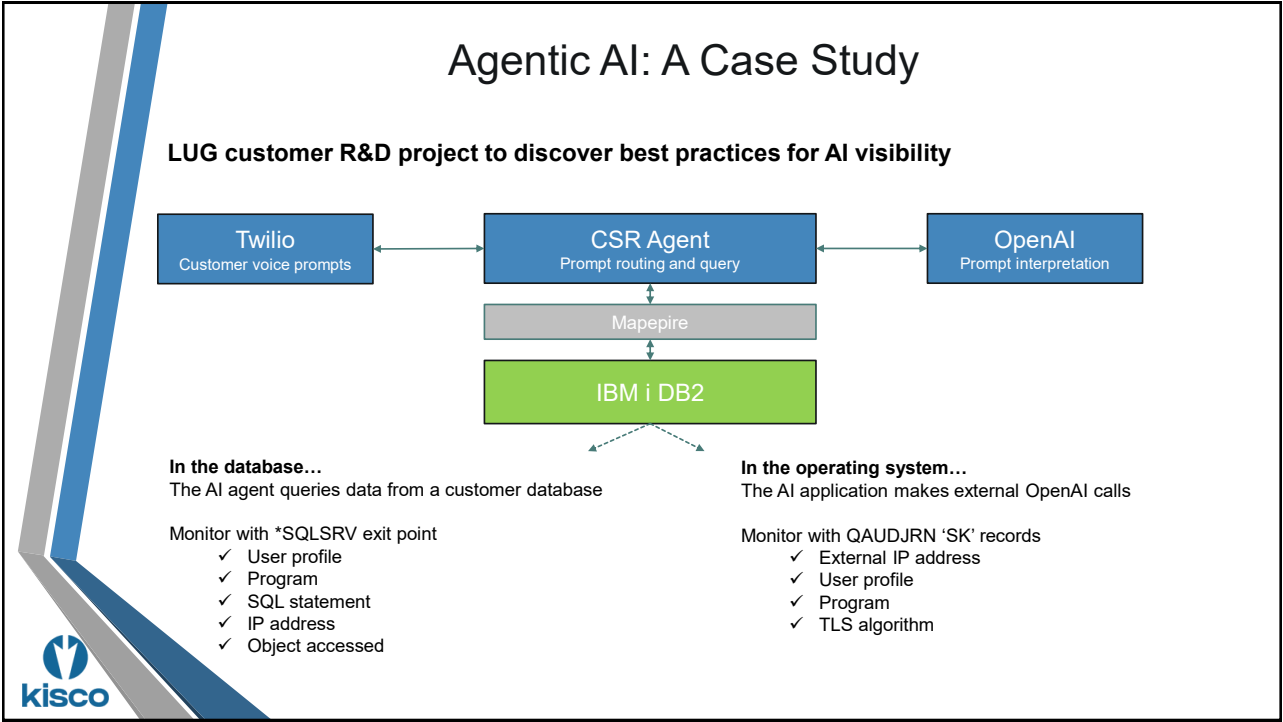


If you have exit program software, review those logs for Agent activity, including failed access attempts



30

30



31

Agentic AI: Agent Profile Configuration

LUG customer R&D project to discover best practices for AI visibility

Agentic User Profile Configuration

- No special authorities
- Limited capabilities
- Use a complex password
 - **Mapepire requires a password**
 - Recommend password level 4
 - Secure the ini file
- **Non-expiring password (!)**
- Profile *ENABLED
- No initial program or menu

Agentic User Profile Auditing

- User profile-level auditing:
 - Object auditing
 - *CHANGE
 - Action auditing
 - *CMD
 - *NETSECURE
 - *NETSCK
 - *NETUDP
 - *AUTFAIL
 - *OBJMGT
 - *CREATE
 - *DELETE

32

Agentic AI: Outbound Connections

LUG customer R&D project to discover best practices for AI visibility

```

28 SELECT ENTRY_TIMESTAMP,
29        QUALIFIED_JOB_NAME,
30        USER_NAME,
31        COALESCE(REMOTE_ADDRESS, REMOTE_SOCKET_IP_ADDRESS) AS REMOTE_ADDRESS,
32        QSYS2.DNS_LOOKUP_IP(COALESCE(REMOTE_ADDRESS, REMOTE_SOCKET_IP_ADDRESS, '')) AS REMOTE_HOSTNAME,
33        COALESCE(REMOTE_PORT, REMOTE_SOCKET_PORT) AS REMOTE_PORT,
34        ENTRY_TYPE_DETAIL
35 FROM TABLE ( SYSTOOLS.AUDIT_JOURNAL_SK(
36             STARTING_RECEIVER_NAME => '**CURRENT',
37             ENDING_RECEIVER_NAME => '**CURRENT',
38             STARTING_TIMESTAMP => CURRENT_TIMESTAMP - 30 MINUTES,
39             ENDING_TIMESTAMP => CURRENT_TIMESTAMP,
40             STARTING_RECEIVER_LIBRARY => 'QSYS',
41             ENDING_RECEIVER_LIBRARY => 'QSYS') )
42 WHERE ENTRY_TYPE IN ('C', 'S')
43 AND USER_NAME = 'AGENTICAI'
44 ORDER BY ENTRY_TIMESTAMP DESC;
45

```

ENTRY_TIMESTAMP	QUALIFIED_JOB_NAME	USER_NAME	REMOTE_ADDRESS	REMOTE_HOSTNAME	REMOTE_PORT	ENTRY_TYPE_DETAIL
2026-04-12 08:51:11	035448/AGENTICAI/AIAGENTJOB	AGENTICAI	172.29.4.3	dns1.linthecloud.com		53Connect
2026-04-12 08:51:11	035448/AGENTICAI/AIAGENTJOB	AGENTICAI	172.66.0.243	api.openai.com		443Connect
2026-04-12 08:51:12	035448/AGENTICAI/AIAGENTJOB	AGENTICAI	172.66.0.243	api.openai.com		443Successful secure connection

Monitoring external OpenAI connections using QAUDJRN

Query 'SK' record types to report on outbound connections.

Use ACS to query QAUDJRN directly, or set up a data mart.



Agentic AI: Connects via ODBC

```

PCTRAND                                4/12/26 12:19:59
Network On-Line Transaction Review
User.: AGENTICAI                        From Date.: 4/12/2026 (MMDDYYYY)
Server:                                To Date...: 4/12/2026 (MMDDYYYY)
Status: (A=Accepted, R=Rejected, Blank=All) Start Time: 0 (HHMMSS)
Order.: D (A=Ascending, D=Descending)
Type option, press Enter.
1=Details
Sel Stat User      Format      Server      Date      Time      IP Address
--
Reject AGENTICAI  ZDAQ0200  *SQLSRV    04/12/26 12.17.41.326 10.242.2.2
Accept AGENTICAI  ZDAQ0200  *SQLSRV    04/12/26 12.17.34.890 10.242.2.2
Accept AGENTICAI  ZDAQ0200  *SQLSRV    04/12/26 12.17.18.920 10.242.2.2
Reject AGENTICAI  TCLP0300  *FTPL0G0N3 04/12/26 12.11.23.264 10.242.2.2

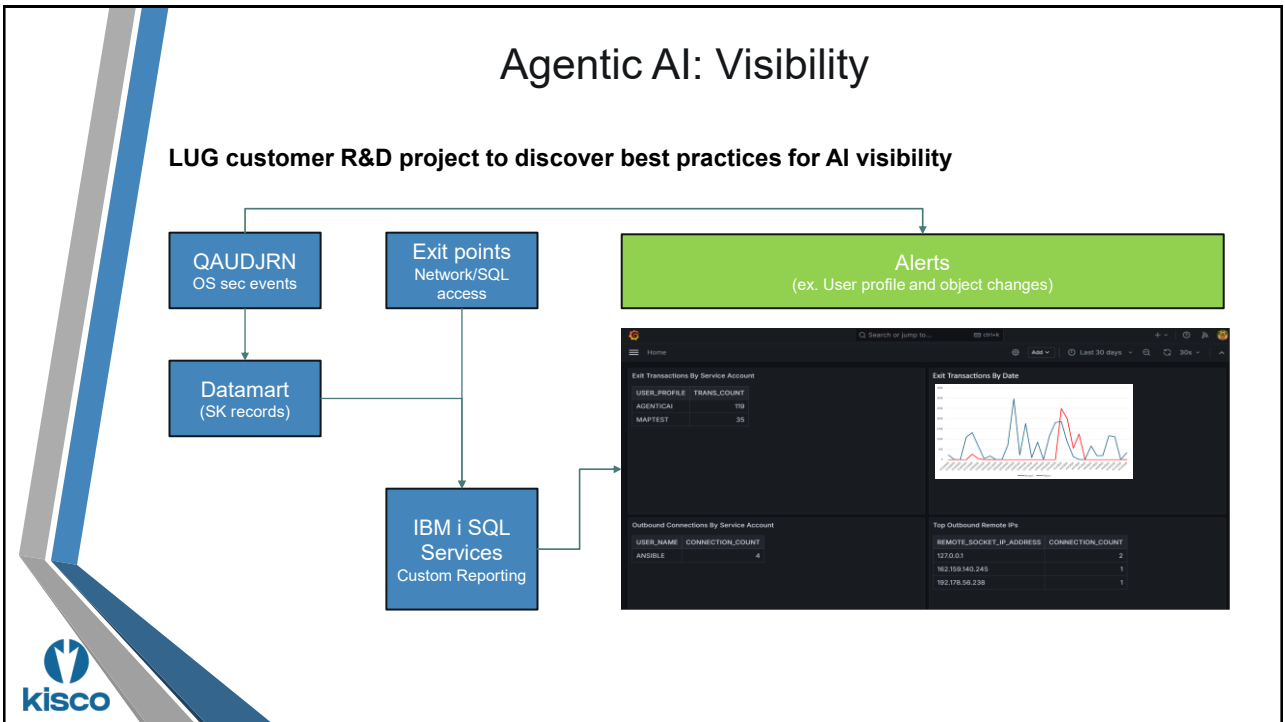
```

Monitoring network access through exit points

Provides visibility into what agents are doing

Capture: User profile, Exit point server, SQL or command, Date/time, Remote IP





35

Security Best Practices for AI Projects

Your AI project:

- Remember ... Bob and all other LLMs hallucinate
 - Don't inherently trust the output from ANY LLM
- Don't input secrets!
- Limit what you choose to auto-approve
- Track all actions for accountability
- Keep your LLM (and every dependency) up to date

On IBM i

- Secure your data at every stage of the process
- Implement one agent per process
- Implement least privilege access
- Configure auditing
- Monitor!

kisco

36

Redbook – Refresh

- AI, MCP Server and Other Security Considerations



2014



Coming Now!



2026

37



37

For More Information

[Bob Security Guidance](#)

[Bob and MCP Servers](#)

[Github Security Features](#)

IBM i Services- <https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/1119123>

Memo to Users – [7.5](#) and [7.6](#)

IBM i 7.6 Redbook - <https://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/pdfs/sg248588.pdf>

IBM i Security Reference – [PDF](#)

[IBM i Security Administration and Compliance](#), 3rd edition, by Carol Woodbury, 2020 available from Amazon or MCPress Bookstore

[Mastering IBM i Security](#) – A Step by Step Approach by Carol Woodbury, 2022 available from Amazon or MCPress Bookstore

Whitepaper: [Securing IBM i: A Dual Responsibility](#)

[Kisco U](#) – free articles and tutorials, for example ...

<https://www.kisco.com/u/content/subscribe-to-ibm-notifications-for-ibm-i.html>



38

38



Questions?



Contacts:
justin@kisco.com
carol@kisco.com

