

Leaders rank shadow IT low on list of concerns despite hidden AI-built tools

Shadow IT ranks near the bottom of healthcare's concerns, and most organizations have already found it.



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On PHI exposure and insecure code, what healthcare leaders worry about matches what they've already seen. Shadow IT, meaning tools staff use without IT's knowledge or approval, is the exception. Leaders rank it near the bottom

of their concerns, even though most have already found AI-built tools handling PHI without IT or security knowing. Here's how they compare:

Named as a concern vs. already reported



Concerns and issues allow multiple selections. n=151

NAMED AS A CONCERN

ALREADY REPORTED

Exposure of PHI



61%

AI code contributed to PHI exposure



51%

Insecure or vulnerable code



54%

AI code contributed to insecure data storage



51%

Shadow IT



25%

Found an AI-built tool handling PHI without IT or security knowing



70%

Source: Paubox survey of 151 healthcare leaders, July 2026.

On PHI exposure the two line up closely: six in ten list it as a top concern, and half say AI code has already contributed to it.

Shadow IT shows the widest split. One in four names it as a concern, yet 70% have already found an AI-built tool handling PHI outside IT's view. Third-party vendor risk is underrated

the same way, at 17%, even though every tool in this survey depends on an AI coding assistant vendor.

For both, Dr. Erik Huffman, a cyberpsychology researcher, gives simple advice in ManageEngine's The Psychology of Being Breached: verify first, then trust [4].

"We need to move from 'trust but verify' to 'verify, then trust.'"

Dr. Erik Huffman · Cyberpsychology researcher [4]



Give AI-built tools a **compliant** **way** to send PHI

When AI-built tools need to email a patient or a partner, the Paubox Email API sends it encrypted by default.

Start for free

