

A Venn diagram is a claim about overlap.

The genre is everywhere: data governance, AI governance, AI security, AI ethics and compliance, drawn as four overlapping circles carrying sixty-odd items between them. The shape promises to show you where the domains meet. **Then every item is placed inside a circle and the intersections are left empty.**

THE DOMAIN	WHAT THE DIAGRAM PUTS INSIDE IT	WHO OWNS IT
Data governance drawn as “the foundation”	Lineage, cataloguing, stewardship, master data, retention, access policy. Real work, correctly grouped.	UNNAMED
AI governance drawn as “the operating system”	Model registry, lifecycle management, steering committee, RACI for AI , vendor oversight, acceptable-use policy.	UNNAMED
AI ethics & compliance drawn as “the compass”	ISO 42001, explainability, bias audits, human oversight , impact assessments, right to explanation.	UNNAMED
AI security drawn as “the shield”	Adversarial defence, supply-chain security, red teaming, agent privilege escalation, RAG pipeline security.	UNNAMED
The intersections the reason to draw a Venn at all	Empty. Nothing is placed in an overlap. Four taxonomies drawn on top of each other, and the diagram never says what happens where they meet.	NOBODY

THE CONTRADICTION THE DRAWING MAKES VISIBLE

RACI for AI sits in one circle. **Human oversight** sits in a different one. A responsibility matrix and the oversight it is supposed to assign, filed as separate concerns because the diagram sorts by topic rather than by who is accountable. That is not a labelling slip. It is the failure the columns argument predicts, drawn by the other side.

THREE QUESTIONS THAT TURN ANY DOMAIN DIAGRAM INTO AN INSTRUMENT

- 01Where two circles meet, **which named person** owns the overlap?
- 02What is the **cadence** that tells a board the overlap still holds?
- 03Which item moves when nobody answers 01? **None of them.**

Sorting by topic tells you what exists.
Only sorting by owner tells you what will get done.

Source: a four-domain overlap diagram circulating on LinkedIn, captured 29 July 2026, treated here as a specimen of the genre rather than as one author’s work. The individual domain contents are accurate and are not the objection. The objection is structural and applies to the whole genre: a diagram whose form promises intersections and whose content contains none. No figures from the original are reproduced. Status labels and column assignments above are this sheet’s reading of the cited source, not the source’s own framing.

FOLLOW FREDRIK LINDSTROM FOR MORE

Fredrik Lindstrom

AI and cybersecurity governance for boards, CISOs and senior leaders. 25+ years in enterprise security.

A practitioner to guide you.