
Project LANTERN

Learning Agents for National Trust & Restoration

June 5, 2025

A public-private initiative to stabilize society, guide behavior, and reduce outrage using cognitive computing.

The Core Problem

We are living in an engineered outrage spiral.

- Politics has become a stimulus-response system
- Society is fragmented and emotionally hijacked into social media bubbles
- Technology is reinforcing division instead of repairing it
- Human agency is eroding in favor of algorithmic exploitation



Why Now?

Advanced Cognitive Computing AI agents are coming—fast.

- They will either pacify us with passive consumption and helplessness
- Or guide us toward contribution, empathy, and health
- The infrastructure is already here: mass surveillance, behavioral data, and national security computing power

You choose what it's used for.

What Is Project LANTERN?

Project LANTERN is a national redirection initiative.

It uses cognitive computing and behavioral modeling to quietly guide individuals and systems toward stability, dignity, and purpose—without coercion or centralized control.

Key Functions:

- **Digital Nudging Infrastructure**
Identifies vulnerable, at-risk, or destabilized individuals and softly intervenes with context-specific nudges—delivered through everyday digital platforms—to redirect behavior before it becomes harmful.
- **Interpreter Layer for Trust & Oversight**
Translates cognitive agent decisions into transparent, explainable language for human oversight (policymakers, ethicists, affected populations).
- **Behavioral Targeting for Stability**
Uses anonymized behavioral data to model emotional trajectories, social friction, and risk signals—then deploys scalable, context-appropriate interventions (content, suggestions, agent support).
- **Alignment with Public Good.**
Optimizes for human well-being and the betterment of the United States.

Example Use Cases:

- **Detecting** early signs of violent extremism or social collapse on social media, and gently intervening
- **Rehabilitating** individuals via intelligent, agent-driven therapy and reentry support
- **Guiding** vulnerable populations toward jobs, education, or purpose
- **Helping** communities resolve disputes, not amplify them

Components:

- **Cognitive Computing Backbone:** A national infrastructure connecting public institutions (labs, universities, agencies) and private AI companies to coordinate resources, data, and direction for safe, public-good focused cognitive computing.
- **Universal Model Sharing Protocol:** A standardized framework for AI systems to share insights and models in real-time, accelerating breakthroughs and ensuring transparency.
- **Interpreter Layer:** An AI system that translates complex outputs from cognitive systems into understandable language for humans, fostering trust and understanding.
- **Behavioral Simulation Network:** A secure platform for running large-scale simulations to test the impact of policies and technologies before implementation, reducing societal risk.

Policy Hooks:

- **EPIC** (Expanding Partnerships for Innovation and Competitiveness)
We need cross-sector innovation in AI and cognitive computing.
- **National AI Initiative Act**
Authorizes federal AI research, coordination, and ethical development—can integrate Project LANTERN into existing government AI infrastructure.
- **NIH & HHS Programs**
Potential anchors for cognitive health pilots (e.g., agent-guided therapy, behavioral rehabilitation, life extension R&D).
- **DoD / DARPA Funding**
Established funding channels for cognitive infrastructure, interpreter systems, and resilience simulation—especially under national security framing.
- **Executive Order Alignment**
LANTERN aligns with existing White House AI safety and innovation priorities—could be launched by directive or advisory task force.

Call to Action

Form a federal task force with:

- AI leaders, behavioral scientists, national security officials, and ethicists
- Build prototype use cases in key regions (health, justice, reintegration)
- Provide tax and patent incentives for companies that contribute models
- Launch Project LANTERN as a strategic deterrent to societal collapse



Closing

Project LANTERN isn't about control.

It's about **connection**.

It's not just about preventing chaos.

It's about building a future where
technology serves dignity and empowers
humanity to be better.

We already have the tools.

Now we need the will.