

FBI chief says he's 'deeply concerned' by China's AI program

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FBI Director Christopher Wray talks at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland Thursday, Jan. 19, 2023. The annual meeting of the World Economic Forum is taking place in Davos from Jan. 16 until Jan. 20, 2023. Credit: AP Photo/Markus Schreiber

FBI Director Christopher Wray said Thursday that he was "deeply

concerned" about the Chinese government's artificial intelligence program, asserting that it was "not constrained by the rule of law."

[Speaking during a panel session](#) at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Wray said Beijing's AI ambitions were "built on top of massive troves of intellectual property and sensitive data that they've stolen over the years."

He said that left unchecked, China could use artificial intelligence advancements to further its hacking operations, intellectual property theft and repression of dissidents inside the country and beyond.

"That's something we're deeply concerned about, and I think everyone here should be deeply concerned about," he said.

More broadly, he said, "AI is a classic example of a technology where I have the same reaction every time. I think, 'Wow, We can do that?' And then I think, 'Oh god, they can do that.'"

Such concerns have long been voiced by U.S. officials. In October 2021, for instance, U.S. counterintelligence officials issued warnings about China's ambitions in AI as part of a renewed effort to inform business executives, academics and local and state government officials about the risks of accepting Chinese investment or expertise in key industries.

Earlier that year, an AI commission led by former Google CEO Eric Schmidt urged the U.S. to boost its AI skills to counter China, including by pursuing "AI-enabled" weapons.

A spokesperson for the Chinese Embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to a request seeking comment Thursday about Wray's comments. Beijing has repeatedly accused Washington of fearmongering and attacked U.S. intelligence for its assessments of

China.

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