

How ACTS supports compliance and ethics within Microsoft and government organizations

When Microsoft ACTS, our Advanced Cloud Transparency initiative, was founded out of Microsoft's Corporate, External, and Legal Affairs (CELA) department, the reasoning was that advanced technology must be accompanied by responsible, ethical use. With the advent of AI (and other breakthrough technologies), that decision counts now more than ever. By positioning ACTS in CELA, we help support Microsoft's compliance and ethics initiatives on the home front. It also allows ACTS to carry takeaways from its work into the government sphere.

As a leading technology company, we have firsthand access to Microsoft's resources and can apply them in the solutions we build for ourselves. We understand compliance because that's the space we work in. By translating our learnings into external outcomes, ACTS continues to leverage cutting-edge technology solutions that enable governments on their journey to achieve greater transparency.

The forefront of compliance and ethics at Microsoft

"Microsoft is in a unique position to help government agencies because we have access to so much technology, and because we're at the cutting edge of how that is being developed," says Justine Thompson, Program Management Director for ACTS. But with that heightened level of access comes [a greater level of responsibility](#). Pioneering new solutions for increased transparency means compliance and ethics standards must be up to par.

That's why operating out of CELA is a huge advantage. "Being part of CELA opens doors with government customers because we bring expertise to this space. We're the group within Microsoft that looks at supply chain and all the internal compliance issues that governments also face," Thompson says. Addressing internal issues allows ACTS to serve others worldwide.

More mobility for a greater impact

Our foundation in CELA helps to support our [principled approach to the use of technology](#). But there's another advantage. Not belonging to a product team grants us the freedom to explore connections with government organizations and craft solutions based on their needs. More mobility equals a bigger impact. To learn more, read about [Microsoft ACTS](#) and its work.