

AN ALTERNATIVE TO BIG TECH AI · ESSAY 1 OF 7

The Off-Switch Is Not Enough

Why "switch off the AI" is the wrong thing to ask for — and what the third option looks like

The off-switch moment

A real backlash against everywhere-AI — but it's asking for the wrong thing.

- A reader poll: 64% want fewer AI features, just 2% want more.
- Every named alternative is subtractive — a toggle, an opt-out, an off-switch.
- The discomfort is right; the remedy is too small.

What the off-switch concedes

An off-switch admits "AI" means Big Tech's AI — and leaves you only abstention.

- The vendor still owns the model and the infrastructure.
- A toggle just spares you this week; next year it moves or becomes the paid tier.
- You gain no control over the intelligence, only a setting.

The third option

Keep the AI — but make it yours: owned, in-house, situated not averaged.

- Runs on infrastructure the community controls; the data never leaves.
- Situated to your parish, paddock, boardroom or department — not the global average.
- No toggle needed, because there's no vendor on the inside to switch off.

Why you wouldn't have to switch it off

Bounded AI you can trust closer — it can't take authority it wasn't given.

- Values and agency stay human; the AI assists but does not decide.
- Its reach is bounded by design, not by your vigilance.
- The premium isn't less intelligence — it's intelligence that can't betray you.

Who this is for

Community groups, businesses, the boards that govern them — and the principled.

- Small NFPs, clubs, trusts, parishes, practices.
- Security-minded teams who know "it's in the cloud" isn't an answer.
- Boards and councils that need a defensible record.
- The principled segment — growing, and handed only an off-switch so far.

What comes next

The series proves the claim, one capability at a time.

- Bounded AI; your model and your walls; running it yourself.
- The control tower that respects its own boundaries.
- And reclaiming the words worth taking back.

See it for yourself

- The demo Villages — mysovereignty.digital/demos.html
- The free Governance course — mysovereignty.digital/course.html
- Read the essay — agenticgovernance.digital/papers/the-off-switch-is-not-enough.html

You don't have to choose between Big Tech AI and no AI. You can hold your own.