

Performance Showpiece

A performance showpiece is a research study, algorithm, or project designed primarily to showcase technical skill, institutional prestige, or aesthetic complexity—rather than to provide meaningful, practical, or transformative outcomes.

□ Key Characteristics High emphasis on metrics (accuracy, AUC, precision)

Sophisticated models or jargon to impress rather than clarify

Little or no impact on real-world decision-making, workflow, or outcomes

Often accompanied by interactive tools, plots, or apps that look impressive but are rarely used

Academic theater disguised as innovation

□ In Context “The CAUTI prediction model is a performance showpiece—98% accurate on paper, but with no plan for implementation, no reduction in infections, and no clinician who asked for it.”

□ Why It Matters Diverts resources away from actionable, simple solutions

Contributes to AI hype and erodes trust in digital health tools

Becomes a citation magnet but leaves the clinical problem untouched

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