

I began my initial post arguing that the future of data scientists is bright, however their role and responsibilities will change as automation tools take over a portion of their tasks. The automation of some tasks will result in a shortage of jobs (Saxena, 2021), however it will also result in an increase in job satisfaction, as data scientists will be using less time doing the least enjoyable of tasks (Press, 2016) and will be able to focus on the more enjoyable and human of their responsibilities.

My peers have overwhelmingly supported the arguments in my initial post, reaffirming that the human ability to question, identify problems and solutions, and explore data remains invaluable to the data science methodology. One of my peers, Chiazamoku, brought up an excellent source that stated the major skills of a data scientist are in their ability to learn and adapt, to communicate and explain complex findings, and not in their ability to use tools (Bowne-Anderson, 2018). However, some others cautioned that the automation tools I believe will help lighten the load of the data scientist may actually increase the field's complexities, making the role of a data scientist - which is already an overwhelming role requiring a broad understanding of numerous disciplines (Yildirim, 2020) - difficult to perform. As my peer Srihari stated, while automation lightens the workload, it also elevates expectations for individual contributions.

I have learned much during this discussion and the past 3 units of this course. From the importance of well-managed master data as a "single source of truth" (Stedman, 2023), to the ethical and legal responsibilities data scientists have to avoid problems such as privacy violations and discrimination (Gardner, 2023), to my own new interest in specializing for my future job security within the field of data science (Van Loon, 2023).

Reference List:

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