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The Argument against AI Generation

I am writing to you to discuss the matter of AI generated content, and how it is paramount to have this wave of technology be restricted and regulated as much as humanly possible for the safety of modern society as a whole, and for the last remaining vestiges of privacy said society has left.

For starters, the very foundation of AI generated content is built entirely on ground that is dubious at best. The way these programs work is by scraping billions upon billions of pictures, documents, music, videos, books, in order to reduce them all into algorithmic data into specific datasets, that is used to spew out content for the user. It is a very flexible pipeline, able to to mimic all of those listed and then some. All of this is done at a cost however, and that cost is explicitly without the consent of the owners of said data.

For example, artwork is the most prominent and blatant form of this online theft. Deviantart launched its image model DreamUp, originally planned on abusing its user base for the sake of using their submissions for data, only relenting after severe backlash[1]. Another example is to be found in ChatGPT, in which OpenAI has used countless books, most of which are trademarked, to be part of their model. However, unlike Deviantart who had quickly backpedaled on their model after backlash, OpenAI is now no longer disclosing what their models have been trained off of entirely[2], in a frankly pathetic way to avoid a lawsuit. Not even private data is safe from this online black hole. Private information such as medical records have been found in these datasets, and removing said information

from the datasets is intentionally obfuscated and difficult to achieve [3]. Stable Diffusion CEO's Emad Mostaque also, in explicit terms, implies that their specific dataset has been gathering said data through evading firewalls to access private information.[4]

Any sort of contribution one has made on the internet, chances are that contribution has been scraped for the sake of boosting these programs. Everything is content, everything is fuel, because the entire business model is bolstered by the “ask for forgiveness, not permission” school of thought. Except rarely is forgiveness even sought after, the people behind these models lack the decency to even consider the thought. It is shameless to its core, and is only going to get worse without severe intervention.

Now all of this would be bad enough on its own. But another issue arises when the output is just as dangerous as the input. Almost immediately after these programs were made available to the public, every corner of the internet has been flooded with AI generated images, text, and videos, driving out people in scenes explicitly for creators. Deviantart and Artstation have AI submissions being posted onto their site en masse, making it significantly harder to find any sort of human made creations. Even with the implementation of AI filters, it changes almost nothing because the people that post these AI images do not bother to tag their work as AI, and that is very much intentional on their end. News outlets[5] and online creators[6] [7] are suffering from a huge wave of plagiarism in order to take their content and repackage it for clicks.

Meanwhile opportunities for creators have also dried up at an alarming rate because of this new technology. Last year Grimdark Magazine had to close their submissions for accepting stories because they were being flooded by AI generated content being used for submissions[8]. This year, Fantasy Magazine Clarkesworld has also been dealing with similar floods of AI spam, and had to close

submissions as well[9]. Not even established creators are safe from this technology. The past few months has had the writers of Hollywood at large on strike, a large part of it to fight against the corporate implementation of this invasive tech at every level of the creative process[10].

Workers of all kinds are now struggling to find any sort of chance to gain recognition and steady employment, because of a technological Albert's Swarm ravaging the landscape, destroying all avenues for creative expression because of potential profits that can be found by masquerading as a creator.

And that leads to the most abhorrent aspect about this entire situation; the motivations of the people behind the technology, and the kind of customers who benefit from it. It is transparently not a tool for the average artist or writer, but for the lowest scourge humanity has to offer. Primarily this is for the corporations who want to use this tech so they can no longer exist to provide jobs to the working class or to provide help or entertainment to the masses; but instead to become parasites engorged with the blood, sweat and tears of the people they were meant to serve, while providing nothing in return. Already this has led to severe consequences, as earlier this year a chat bot that was implemented by the NEDA's has given people harmful advice [11] , and this will only become more commonplace..

But even seedier things lurk in the smaller scale. Already, political propagandists are abusing this technology to craft false narratives for the sake of pushing their own agendas. The provided Twitter post [12] is a very egregious example of this very thing. A horrifying display of blatant racism, where this bastard is pushing an outright fabrication by mimicking the art style of Norman Rockwell, and iconic artist that, in the words of the tweet “the most iconic aesthetic of peak Americana”. Not only is this appalling bigoted newspeak, it's libel against Norman Rockwell himself. While a lot of his work is known for appealing to the nostalgia of yesteryear, he was also a staunch advocate of the Civil Rights movement, and produced one of the most important pieces of art of the era, “The Problem We All Live With”[13]. He clearly wanted to see a world free of these barbaric acts of racism and oppression, and

yet thanks to the technological necromancy that AI generated imagery provides, culture vultures can now swoop in and effortlessly puppet his good name and the aesthetic his artwork provides to force the exact opposite message, and can do the same to anyone else they so desire. If that doesn't make one recoil in horror and sorrow, then that is a sure sign of being detached from humanity.

Now, this section comes down to pure speculation, and is a very uncomfortable subject to talk about, but it needs to be addressed to illustrate just how severe this can get. As established earlier, the corporations that create and distribute these AI generation programs are now hiding their image sets, and the data that is used is from all corners of the internet. That is a huge problem because without any sort of transparency about what goes into these algorithms, and the complete disregard for vetting what goes in these image sets, there's nothing stopping illegal material from being scraped into said image sets, such as CSEM, to be used as data. On the other side, there's nothing stopping the customers of these AI generated programs to create more CSEM from these illegal materials.

I can go on and on and on about the limitless amount of potential dangers that can arise from AI generated content, but at this point it is clear that it is an objective net negative for humanity as a whole. The longer this technology goes unregulated, the more irreparable the damage it will continue to cause. Because of this, I feel as if keeping AI generated content from becoming eligible for copyright is a major, crucial first step in stopping all this. Keeping it from being commercially viable instantly undercuts the idea of pushing this technology for the sake of short sighted profits, and makes it easier to enact further legislation. The corporations and cads will claim that “you cannot stop the wheel of progress”, but only reinforces the point; their idea of “progress” is to crush everyone and everything underneath their wheel.

- [1] <https://news.artnet.com/art-world/deviantart-dreamup-ai-generator-creators-rights-ip-controversy-2210607>
- [2] <https://www.businessinsider.com/openai-latest-chatgpt-version-hides-training-on-copyrighted-material-2023-8>
- [3] <https://web.archive.org/web/20231016041150/https://arstechnica.com/information-technology/2022/09/artist-finds-private-medical-record-photos-in-popular-ai-training-data-set/>
- [4] <https://web.archive.org/web/20230224195510/https://twitter.com/EMostaque/status/1629145508265570304>
- [5] <https://gizmodo.com/content-farms-ai-chatbots-plagiarize-news-nyt-1850770474>
- [6] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_FdwWRIGQvA
- [7] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dh3acdwwPfU>
- [8] <https://www.grimdarkmagazine.com/grimdark-magazines-statement-on-ai-technologies/>
- [9] <https://www.theverge.com/2023/2/25/23613752/ai-generated-short-stories-literary-magazines-clarkesworld-science-fiction>
- [10] <https://www.latimes.com/business/technology/story/2023-05-11/column-the-writers-strike-is-only->

[the-beginning-a-rebellion-against-ai-is-underway](#)

[11]

<https://web.archive.org/web/20231017065602/https://twitter.com/0x49fa98/status/17095093825499589>

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[12] <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2023/may/31/eating-disorder-hotline-union-ai-chatbot-harm>

[13] <https://www.kennedy-center.org/education/resources-for-educators/classroom-resources/media-and-interactives/media/visual-arts/norman-rockwell--the-problem-we-all-live-with/>