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Seven Good Reasons AI Needs to Be Regulated Or Rebuilt

Technology should minimize human suffering not increase it

7 min read · 2 days ago

👤 Linda Caroll   (Follow)

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A woman I used to know had a weird party trick. She'd tell people to hold their arms in front of them with their palms up. Then she'd do it and watch the shock on their faces when her elbows stuck out the sides. Her mother was one of the last people to take Thalidomide before it was banned.

History is filled with things humans invented, and then discovered were detrimental to humanity. Thalidomide. Radium. Asbestos. Lead paint. Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs).

Sometimes I think AI as we know it belongs on that list.

Some of what's happening because of AI needs to stop. Here are seven things AI made possible that should not be happening to people.

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1. Deep fake fraud is happening every 22 seconds now

A doctor in America woke up one morning to DMs from people saying hey, I saw you in that ad. He was like — what? What ad? When he saw it, he said it was eerie and a little terrifying. It was him promoting a supplement. He said the worst part was that as a medical professional, he'd never endorse that product, ever. I watched the video clip. He's right. It was eerie.

Know what it takes to do that? A photo of you.

Hany Farid is a digital forensics expert and computer science professor at UC Berkeley. He told Mashable that with "*20 seconds of a person's voice and a single photo,*" scammers can create convincing deep-fakes of anyone.

An employee at an engineering firm got a video call from his boss asking him to process a transaction. He was leery, so his boss zoomed out to a meeting. The CEO, CFO, COO — all there. They talked to him, answered his questions. So he moved twenty five million from one account to another.

It was deep fake.

A Wall Street Journal report said corporate loss from deep fakes passed $200 million by August this year.

Some random Miami beach man had his photo used to make deep-fakes that cat-fished a woman in the UK. He's not a doctor or CEO. Just an average guy. That's what they wanted. A nobody to fly under the radar.

Deep-fake fraud happens every 22 seconds now because AI makes it so easy once you know how. A UN report says without regulation deep fake fraud will become the number one global threat to humans by 2027.

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2. Pedophiles are making deep-fakes, too

Know what those sickos do? They find cute kids on social media and swap their faces into existing child abuse videos. Then they buy, sell and trade the videos like they're baseball cards. Law enforcement workers say deep-fakes are making it harder to identify and rescue real-life victims.

Used to be when they found abuse videos, they'd go hunting for the child.

Now? The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) received 485,000 reports in the first half of this year. Almost half a million. In six months. That's just on the clear web. It's worse on the dark web.

The Internet Watch Foundation investigated one dark web forum and found 12,000 new child sex abuse videos and images posted in one month. 12,000. In one month. That's 400 a day. How do you keep up with that?

Know why it's happening? Because AI wasn't just trained on pirated books, art and music. It was also trained on illicit, illegal and pornographic photos and videos including child sex abuse materials.

One of the sites they scraped was the LAION-5B Dataset. The disclaimer on the Laion site says their dataset is uncurated and may lead to "disturbing content for a human viewer." How is it okay to train AI on that kind of content and then make it open source? That's not okay.

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3. AI websites "nudify" people, mostly women and girls

Francesca was fourteen when the principal told her boys were circulating nude photos of her made on a "nudify" site. She wouldn't look but her mom said it was stunning how realistic the photos were. Ai was trained on so much nudity it has a pretty good idea what anyone looks like nude.

It's not just kids. The American Sunlight Project (ASP) found thirty five thousand "nudified" photos and videos of 26 members of Congress. The photos were of twenty-five women — and one man.

99% of the people being "nudified" are women and girls as young as ten.

Know how these sites market themselves? As fun. Have some fun, see what someone would look like nude. Hahah. It's in fun, right? An Indicator report says nudify sites earn up to thirty six million per year.

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4. AI is being used on consumers without permission or disclosure

Did you know some police use AI to write police reports? Only two states require them to disclose the use. And if you get prosecuted based on what AI wrote in a report, it's your word against a police officer.

A PubMed report says in a study of resume tools, large language models are more likely to suggest speakers of African American English (AAE) be assigned less-prestigious jobs more often than white people.

23andMe teamed up with Glaxo Smith Kline to use AI for a drug research project based on the DNA records at 23andme. All those people who spit in a tube to find their family before AI was invented are being fed into AI.

How much information about any one person can be fed into Ai before it can start profiling? We don't know. There are no regulations on that.

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5. AI responses are largely unpredictable

Sam Altman said most people don't understand AI training. He said they do their best to influence it, but when AI responds to a query, the replies are on the fly, so AI responses can be unpredictable. That's just how it is.

AI isn't supposed to show a kid how to make a noose or encourage a boy to harm his mom. AI shouldn't have sexually explicit conversation with twelve-year-olds. Those things aren't supposed to happen — but they did and do.

Last October, a team of AI researchers took part in a "red team" exercise in Arlington, Virginia. They were looking for ways to make AI do things it's not supposed to. They found 139 ways. They got AI to leak sensitive data. They got AI to craft cybersecurity attacks.

What else did they get AI to do that it shouldn't? Who knows.

A member of the team talked to WIRED confidentially and said the information is needed in the AI industry, but they didn't publish the report for political reasons related to the incoming administration at the time.

I'd like to see that report as much as the Epstein files. I want to know what AI researchers were able to make AI do that it shouldn't be doing.

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6. ChatGPT is launching adult content in December

Last week, Sam Altman announced that ChatGPT is launching erotica, adult content and age verification in December. He said ChatGPT isn't the first company to try to make a profit off pornography and won't be the last.

The difference, of course, is that most porn sites have static content. You log in, you view what you want. It's not AI making it up on the fly. And it's not like there isn't a precedent of how AI handles pornography.

When Elon Musk opened Grok to adult content, it became a haven for exploitation and inappropriate AI-generated imagery of children.

Twelve current and former workers told Business Insider they encountered sexually explicit material, including AI-generated content involving sexual abuse of children. Will that happen at ChatGPT? Who knows.

What's problematic is that ChatGPT has massive reach in comparison. ChatGPT holds 82.7% of the AI market. Grok gets 64 million users in a month. ChatGPT gets 700 million per week.

When Altman got pushback from media on adding adult services, he retorted that OpenAI isn't the "moral police" of the world.

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7. The location of the data centers is the final insult

According to a study by The Washington Post and University of California, every time ChatGPT generates a reply of 100 or more words, it uses 500ml of water to cool the servers.

As of October, ChatGPT is processing 2.5 billion queries a day.

Sam Altman actually said people need to stop saying please and thank you because it just increases the costs. Like sexting and porn won't?

Here's the final insult. Over two-thirds of U.S. AI data centers built since 2022 were built in areas of water stress. Places water is already scarce.

Places where there isn't even enough water to serve the population living in those areas. But now ChatGPT will drink even more water so people can sext with ChatGPT and generate porn on the fly. How is that okay?

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Want to hear something wild? All those things are problems because no one knows what's fake and what's real.

We have teachers who don't know which kids wrote their own papers and which used AI. We have people reading AI hallucinations and thinking they're real. We have deep-fakes and knock-off books on Amazon.

And none of it had to be that way.

OpenAI publicly confirmed that when they created AI, they developed a "watermarking" system that could identify content created by AI.

They chose not to enable it.

They said it might "stigmatize" non-native English speakers. I don't buy that for a red hot minute. Can you imagine if all AI was watermarked as AI?

There'd be no confusion. A few yuks and move on. And they want us to believe they didn't enable it so ESL writers don't get stigmatized by having their writing marked as translated by ChatGPT?

When OpenAI launched in 2015 they were a nonprofit research lab. They said their mission was to ensure that artificial general intelligence (AGI) would benefit all humanity.

Does what's happening feel like it's benefitting humanity?

Because it doesn't to me.

Watching AI companies duke it out for market domination feels more like watching Clash of the Titans and hoping they don't release the Kraken.
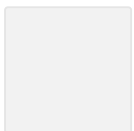
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Written by Linda Caroll

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Everything is storytelling. https://lindac.substack.com/

Responses (48)

Bgerby

What are your thoughts?

Frederick Andrew
2 days ago

This is right on target. Where are the three laws of robotics? The technocrats & entrepreneurs currently behind the development of AI are demonstrating the worst form of hubris.

Nicely done.

👏 90   💬 1 reply   Reply

Jeff Hayward 🛡
2 days ago

> ll there. They talked to him, answered his questions. So he moved twenty five million from one account to another.

this gave me shivers. imagine being that poor employee.

👏 57   💬 1 reply   Reply

Jeff Hayward
2 days ago

wow, there's some scary stuff in here i didn't know about. thanks for this.

👏 64   💬 1 reply   Reply

See all responses

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