Pair Task - *Should Not*

Artificial intelligence (AI) is the scientific study and experimentation of creating computers and machines to think, reason and learn like humans. Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI) is a specific model of AI that has been trained on vast and diverse sets of data that include images, text, videos, music, etc to create new and unique content. Examples of GAI include Firefly, which uses images, Jukebox, which uses music and Gen-1, which uses video as a source for training.

This has led to several concerns involving the ethics of free use regarding the material that is being used to train these AI, including the question: "Should companies who provide GAI services be required to pay compensation to the creators of the content used to train their GAI models?" The Australian Computer Society's Code of Ethics, outlines core values that professionals in the Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) field are expected to adhere to and uphold. One value relevant to the aforementioned question supports the argument that companies *should not* pay compensation; "Respect - 2.3.2 part E: Contribute to advancing ICT capabilities and systems for the greater good."(ACS, 2014, p. 2) This value underlines and promotes the importance of ICT professionals contributing as effectively as possible for the betterment of humankind. In relation to GAI, Muneera Bano (2024) Says that GAI has already begun to radically revolutionise numerous industries including healthcare and education, where it is being used to create "personalised learning experiences" through "AI tutors" as well as assisting in the diagnosis of diseases and the development of new drugs.

Forcing companies to compensate content creators for the use of their works in training these AI would be placing new legal and financial limits on obtaining or using the data-sets needed for training GAI. Andrew Ng (2023) points directly to high-quality data sets such as "Common Crawl, The Pipe and LAION-5B" and the main role they have played in getting us to where we are today. He states that losing "free access to such sources would put the brakes on progress or at least radically alter the economics of current research." (Ng, 2023) Ng goes on to highlight how AIs contribution to industries such as "art, education, drug development, and manufacturing," would significantly decrease due to companies having to use lower quality and less diverse data or worse: a lack of usable data-sets existing all together. Furthermore, necessitating compensation would be placing a price on data which would create a higher barrier of entry for smaller AI start-ups leading to less competition in the industry and ultimately less innovation. In a letter to the US Copyright Office, VC firm Andreessen Horowitz wrote "The bottom line is this, imposing the cost of actual or potential copyright liability on the creators of AI models will either kill or significantly hamper their development" (Horowitz, 2024)

To summarise, professionals in the ICT space should always help to innovate, foster and further human technological capabilities. Currently, there is no better example than GAI which is proving to be a revolutionary breakthrough that is already positively impacting society and has the potential to continue improving it for the better. Restricting the data used for training or inflicting financial penalties, will only cause damage and prevent the technology from reaching its full potential.

References

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