Ten to twenty minutes

# What is generative artificial intelligence in a nutshell?

Generative AI is designed to create new information rather than just processing or analyzing existing data. While we normally focus on text, it can be used to generate images, videos, music, or other forms of creative output.

Traditionally we relied on individual words or word patterns. Generative AI delves into the meaning and context of language -- semantics. Instead of just considering words as isolated entities, it aims to capture the relationships between words, phrases, and sentences.

So, when we do so, the systems can recognize that “you can trust me” and “you can rely on me” have the same meaning without relying on lists of synonyms. Some systems can even recognize similarity in phrases expressed in different languages.

It’s the ability to capture semantic similarity coupled with the ability to generate information, for us, most often, fluent language, that makes generative AI so useful.

# How is it different from TAR and predictive coding techniques?

In the context of eDiscovery and assessing document responsiveness, both TAR (Technology Assisted Review) with predictive coding and a generative AI approach called Retrieval Augmented Generation (RAG) approach have their strengths and potential applications, but they serve slightly different purposes, and their suitability depends on specific needs and circumstances.

1. TAR and Predictive Coding:

* **Specialization**: TAR with Predictive Coding is optimized for legal tasks and involves training a system to recognize patterns that determine relevancy, which is particularly useful for reviewing large volumes of documents.
* **Accuracy and Reliability**: TAR systems have been widely used and validated in the legal field, offering a proven track record for accuracy and reliability.
* **Human Oversight**: TAR allows for a significant degree of human control and oversight.

1. Retrieval Augmented Generation (RAG):

* **Efficiency in Data Sifting**: RAG can potentially offer more efficiency in initially sifting through large volumes of data to identify potentially relevant documents.
* **Supplement to TAR**: RAG could be used as a supplementary tool to TAR, providing an initial filter before documents are subjected to the more detailed review process of TAR.

**Conclusion:**

In practice, a combination of both could be the most effective strategy, using RAG for initial sorting and narrowing down, followed by TAR for detailed, legally compliant review and categorization. The choice largely depends on the specific requirements of the eDiscovery process, the volume and nature of the documents, and the resources available.

# How can it be useful to me?

So, to review, there are two hallmarks of generative artificial intelligence that underpin its usefulness.

1. Concept Recognition: These AI models grasp concepts rather than just words. For instance, phrases like "you can trust me," "you can lean on me," and "you can rely on me" are interpreted similarly. Conversely, they distinguish "invest in a trust" or "leaning to the side."
2. Content Generation: These models excel at creating coherent and diverse outputs, including text, images, and audio.

So, for attorneys. . .

* **Search and Legal Research**  
    
  The ability to understand phrases with similar meanings, irrespective of word choice or language, revolutionizes legal research. This includes tasks like discovery review, due diligence in mergers and acquisitions, and general document analysis. It enhances the search process, moving beyond traditional keyword-based methods.
* **Answering Questions**  
    
  These advanced models not only locate relevant information but can also articulate answers coherently. They first identify pertinent text snippets and then synthesize these into comprehensive responses. Traditional systems may find relevant data but lack the capability to utilize it effectively.
* **Summarizing text**  
    
  The models are very capable of summarizing text. Moreover, you can guide the summary by indicating you are only interested in certain things, for example, “review the following document and summarize only those parts that related to bowling balls and not to bowling shoes.”
* **Writing (to a degree)**  
    
  Having a model draft complete, complex legal documents remains a goal for the future, it currently aids in creating initial drafts or refining document sections. It excels at making documents more concise and refining specific parts.

# What should I be concerned about when I use it?

• A useful assistant not a replacement for the person.

o Getting closer to what we always wanted perhaps.

• No room for blind trust, verification is a must.