

Bio

I am a seasoned IT executive with over 30 years of global leadership experience in technology and data center operations. My background blends high-level technical expertise with creative insight—I'm a Berklee-trained musician and a diverse professional from Oakland, Bay Area. Passionate about using technology to serve humanity, I work pro bono to advance ethical innovation. My work focuses on developing frameworks that balance human benefit with planetary health, ensuring technology elevates human agency and fosters unity.

Cover Letter

Dear OpenAI Team,

I am writing to share my vision and work for a future where technology truly serves humanity and our planet. With over 30 years in IT leadership—including directing global data center operations and holding top executive roles—I have witnessed firsthand the transformative potential of innovation as well as its risks when not aligned with ethical values.

To address these challenges, I developed the Revolutionary Innovation Scorecard—a framework designed to evaluate emerging technologies on their overall impact. The scorecard operates on a simple yet profound formula:

$$\text{Innovation Score} = (\text{Human Benefit} + \text{Planetary Health}) - (\text{Human Cost} + \text{Planetary Cost})$$

This approach assesses:

- **Human Benefit:** Elements such as agency, collective flourishing, wellbeing, and cultural vitality.
- **Planetary Health:** Aspects including climate stability, ecosystem integrity, and resource sustainability.
- **Human Cost:** Risks like agency erosion, digital dependency, and increased surveillance.
- **Planetary Cost:** Factors such as resource extraction, waste generation, and environmental disruption.

For example, when applied to large language models in education, the scorecard highlights significant educational benefits—like democratized access to learning and enhanced cultural vitality—while also revealing concerns around digital dependency and privacy. In contrast, community-owned renewable energy microgrids score highly due to their promotion of local autonomy, reduced environmental impact, and enhanced collective wellbeing.

My diverse background, rooted in both technical leadership and creative expression, uniquely positions me to bridge the gap between technological capability and ethical responsibility. I am excited by the possibility of contributing to OpenAI's mission to develop AI that is not only advanced but also aligns with human values and sustainability.

Thank you for considering my perspective and framework. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss how my experience and ideas can support OpenAI's efforts in driving ethical, inclusive, and sustainable technological innovation.

Sincerely,

Matthew