In recent times there has been a lot of emphasis on artificial intelligence (AI) and the potential impact that it could have on the various fields of the tech sector. There have been large scale questions about the potential positive and negative effects of using AI tools in the process of developing software, and if the use of those same AI tools would eventually render the role of the traditional programmer into obsolescence.

Using the functionalist perspective, a sociologist might ask themselves a few questions about AI in the programming field and the potential impact on the future of software development. The central question would revolve around how the increased integration of AI tools into the field of programming shapes the future of software development? What would the potential benefits and hazards of this merger be for both the Information Technology (IT) industry and our society as a whole?

As AI becomes more essential to automating routine tasks such as testing and debugging, and code optimization, how does the functional specialization and efficiency of those AI tools result in greater stability and contribute to a more streamlined and robust software development system?

Those questions do not even consider the programmer’s role in the industry. You could go on to ask. How could the increasing reliance on AI-driven tools effect the roles and responsibilities of programmers within the IT industry, given the benefits of AI in software development such as error reduction, code optimization and improved problem-solving capabilities? What function would this shift serve in general society?

Considering the rapidly evolving nature of technology within society we must contemplate the future and consider how these changes will not just change the programming field but also influence the interconnectivity of our digital world. Will the use of AI lead to higher unemployment rates among software developers or will it cause a pattern of specialization and diversification within that market, contributing to the overall functionality and stability of the IT industry?

**Response 1: to Brittany**

This is an excellent question that immediately put me in mind of multiple situations where large corporations such as Facebook and Google were forced into more transparency about their data collection practices, data privacy, and handling of political advertising. Through social media pressure and public outcry these corporate giants started to disclose how their algorithms worked and by publishing tools to help the public see how they functioned.

I think society tries to maintain an equilibrium, and public outcry like in your example is a great way to voice their concerns and hopefully that would lead to the companies within the industry to adapt their policies and practices to align better with public expectations. But it is also important to keep in mind that the power of social media can be used in other ways also such as the rampant cancel culture that we have seen in the recent past. Granted some of it is earned but some of it has happened for no better reason than an influencer with a large following did not like something.