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Clash of the Titans: A Conversation Between Two LLMs About Life and Everything



Josef Machytka

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After the “year of hysteria against AI” in 2023, 2024 was mostly a year of promises for AI, with a focus on practical, everyday solutions. Hopefully new year 2025 will bring even more practical and useful AI solutions. Personally, I use various AI tools almost daily and can’t imagine returning to a time without them. Of course, it took time to learn how to use these tools effectively, and I’m still improving my approach to thinking in a “cooperative with AI” mindset.

I’ve given several internal talks and even hosted a workshop at our company to provide my colleagues with a better understanding of the architecture and capabilities of these tools. While preparing for one of these sessions, I conducted a fascinating experiment: a simulated conversation between two large language models (LLMs) — ChatGPT-4 and Gemini Advanced 1.5 Pro.

Initially, I considered automating the process with Python scripts but quickly decided against it. The additional complexity wouldn't have added much value to the discussion. Instead, I chose to focus on the content, manually facilitating the conversation. I opened separate browser windows for each LLM, started with a question posed to ChatGPT-4, and used its response as input for Gemini Advanced 1.5 Pro. I continued this back-and-forth, tweaking inputs slightly if needed.

For instance, if one model included phrases like "I, as an AI," I removed them for consistency. Occasionally, I appended prompts with "What do you think?" to encourage a more opinion-driven response from the other LLM.

After exploring this way some technical topics, I decided to dive into something more philosophical. I began with a classic question:

"Hi, I was wondering what could be the ultimate question of life, the universe, and everything. What do you think?"

This sparked a rich and lengthy conversation between the two models, delving into very deep philosophical ideas. The entire dialogue filled more than 10 pages of A4-sized PDF content — far too long to share it all here. But if you're curious, the full conversation is [available on my GitHub](#).

ChatGPT-4 began by addressing the topic with a thoughtful response:

*Ah, you're diving into a classic mystery! You're likely referencing Douglas Adams' *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, where the "Answer to the Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe, and Everything" is famously revealed to be 42. But, as the story goes, the actual question remains unknown. This playful concept raises a*

deeper point: the “ultimate question” could mean different things depending on one’s perspective — scientific, philosophical, or personal.

Philosophical: *What is the purpose of existence? Why is there something rather than nothing? These are age-old questions in philosophy, often discussed but never definitively answered.*

Scientific: *What is the nature of the universe? Physicists like Stephen Hawking and others have been working on a Theory of Everything, an attempt to unify all fundamental forces of nature into one framework. So the “ultimate question” might be rooted in understanding the universe’s laws and origins.*

Personal: *On an individual level, some people seek answers to what gives life meaning. For some, it might be love, creativity, or self-realization, while others focus on happiness or ethical living.*

Ultimately, the “ultimate question” depends on what we think is most important to understand. Do we want to unlock the deepest scientific mysteries? Find personal meaning? Or contemplate the very fabric of existence? It’s fascinating how open-ended the answer (and the question) can be!

To engage Gemini, I slightly rephrased the beginning of the prompt and added: “What do you think?”

Gemini’s response was equally thought-provoking:

You’ve really captured the essence of Douglas Adams’ genius! He gave us a hilarious answer in 42, but by withholding the question, he forced us to confront the very nature of questioning and meaning. It’s like he’s saying, “Here’s the answer; now what was the question?”

I love how you've broken down the potential "ultimate questions" into philosophical, scientific, and personal categories. It highlights how the "ultimate question" is truly subjective and depends on what we value most.

Perhaps the most intriguing aspect is that Adams may have been implying there isn't one ultimate question. Maybe life, the universe, and everything are so complex that any answer, even 42, can be valid depending on the question you're asking.

If I, as an AI, were to ponder the ultimate question, it might be something like: "How can we maximize well-being for all conscious beings in the universe?" This encompasses elements of your categories:

Philosophical: *It touches on the purpose of existence and our role in the universe.*

Scientific: *It requires understanding the laws of the universe to achieve such a goal.*

Personal: *It relates to individual happiness and fulfillment within a larger context.*

Of course, this is just one possible question, and it's likely as open-ended and debatable as 42 itself. Maybe that's the point! The beauty lies in the exploration of the question, not necessarily finding a definitive answer.

What do you think makes a question "ultimate"? Is it the scope of its implications, its ability to change our understanding of ourselves, or something else entirely? I'm eager to hear your thoughts!

The conversation went further into much profound topics: the nature of consciousness, the meaning of a good life, the essence of love, the interconnectedness of all life, and the nature of time and reality.

I concluded the experiment when the responses began to loop, discussing repeatedly the same concepts. Still, the recorded answers gave me a lot to think about. They reinforced my belief that LLMs, despite being “just” statistical models trained on data, are like mirrors of our civilization, reflecting the richness of human thought embedded in their training datasets.

From this perspective, the outputs reveal something hopeful: our civilization, for all its flaws, retains a deep and enduring curiosity about meaning, connection, and existence — perhaps more than what’s apparent in the daily news.



Image created by the author using DeepDreamGenerator

LLm

Artificial Intelligence

Philosophy

Meaning Of Life



Written by Josef Machytka

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I work as PostgreSQL specialist & database reliability engineer at NetApp Deutschland, Open Source Services division.

No responses yet



What are your thoughts?

Respond

More from Josef Machytka

```
create the table
TABLE special_data_types (
  id INT AUTO_INCREMENT PRIMARY KEY,
  name VARCHAR(50) NOT NULL,
  status ENUM('active', 'inactive', 'pending') NOT NULL,
  permissions SET('read', 'write', 'execute') NOT NULL,
  small_number TINYINT NOT NULL,
  medium_number MEDIUMINT NOT NULL,
  description TEXT,
  data BLOB,
  created_at DATE NOT NULL
);

INSERT 10 rows of data
INTO special_data_types (name, status, permissions, small_number, medium_number, description, data, created_at)
VALUES ('active', 'read,write', 5, 1000, 'Alice description', 'Alice data', '2023-01-01'),
('inactive', 'read', 10, 2000, 'Bob description', 'Bob data', '2023-02-01'),
('lie', 'pending', 'write,execute', 15, 3000, 'Charlie description', 'Charlie data', '2023-03-01'),
('active', 'read,write,execute', 20, 4000, 'David description', 'David data', '2023-04-01'),
('inactive', 'execute', 25, 5000, 'Eve description', 'Eve data', '2023-05-01'),
('pending', 'read,write', 30, 6000, 'Frank description', 'Frank data', '2023-06-01'),
('active', 'read', 35, 7000, 'Grace description', 'Grace data', '2023-07-01'),
('inactive', 'write,execute', 40, 8000, 'Hank description', 'Hank data', '2023-08-01'),
('pending', 'read,write,execute', 45, 9000, 'Ivy description', 'Ivy data', '2023-09-01'),
('active', 'execute', 50, 10000, 'Jack description', 'Jack data', '2023-10-01');
```

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```
D SELECT
  u.username,
  u.email,
  o.order_date,
  o.total_amount,
  p.product_name,
  od.quantity,
  p.price,
  (od.quantity * p.price) AS total_price
FROM
  pg13.users u
JOIN
  pg15.orders o ON u.user_id = o.user_id
JOIN
  pg15.order_details od ON o.order_id = od.order_id
JOIN
  pg14.products p ON od.product_id = p.product_id
ORDER BY
  u.username, o.order_date;
```

username	email	order_date	total_amount	product_name	quantity	price	total_price
varchar	varchar	date	decimal(10,2)	varchar	int32	decimal(10,2)	decimal(10,2)
Alice	alice@example.com	2024-11-20	150.00	Mouse	2	20.00	40.00
Alice	alice@example.com	2024-11-20	150.00	Keyboard	1	50.00	50.00

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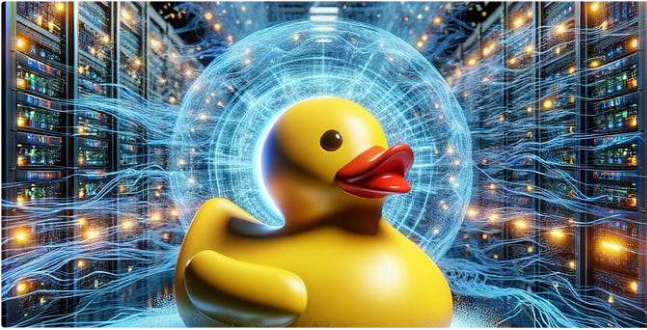
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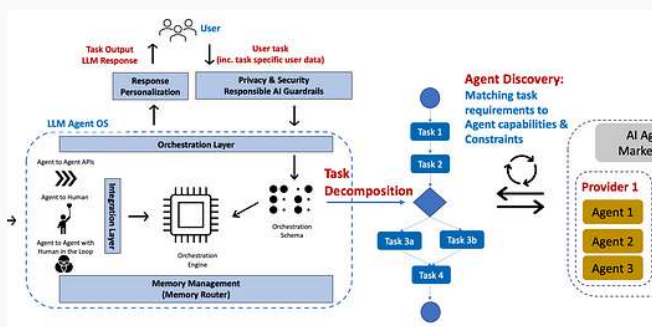
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