The introduction

So, AI. It’s not about the technologies behind it, but the implications that it has on our lives.

Humanity always thought of itself as something special. Exceptional. Creative. Intelligent. But generative artificial intelligence, such as large language models, and text—to—image models now challenge this view. Or, as Hayao Miyazaki, co—founder of Studio Ghibli and famous animator, said after seeing an AI—generated image: “I strongly feel that this is an insult to life itself”.

The good

I use AI every day now, especially at work. Sometimes I treat it like over—engineered autocomplete to write code faster; other times, I ask it something trivial that I can’t be bothered to Google. Most of the time, its answers are fine. Lately, it’s become more efficient and faster to ask AI to handle certain tasks for me. Not that AI can do all the work for me — I still have to figure out how something is done, when, why, and for what purpose. Only after that can I write a prompt and verify the solution. Sometimes, AI might suggest a decent idea or point me to a function or library I didn’t know existed, one that could solve my problem. But there are also times when it completely misunderstands me and starts hallucinating. Overall, at work, AI is more like a massive reference book that might occasionally offer an interesting idea — certainly not a full-fledged assistant, let alone a full-fledged colleague.

Outside of work, I use AI much less, perhaps because I’m not particularly interested in it or don’t have tasks that AI could handle. Some people use these technologies to automate or optimize certain processes — for example, AI can quickly brainstorm ways to plan your day or suggest recipes based on leftovers in your fridge.

The bad

The downsides of AI are very real, and we’re constantly warned about them. There are the strange hallucinations, where AI starts spouting nonsense or citing made-up sources. A lot depends on how the neural network itself was trained: depending on the resulting coefficients, it might develop certain biases, misinterpret facts, or ignore them altogether. And it doesn't just get things wrong sometimes — it gets things wrong confidently.

We're trusting systems we don't fully understand, and starting to make decisions based on answers we can't fully trace. The program that is familiar to every student, *Antiplagiat*, now supposedly can detect AI generated text. But how? There’s no consensus in the scientific community on how to detect generated content without putting a digital watermark on it first. Before, you could at least follow Antiplagiat’s source link to verify whether the content was copied. But now, how can you guarantee whether the text was generated or written by a human? This is just one example of how AI blurs the line between truth and false — and how our overreliance on these systems might harm us in the long run.

The Human

Maybe the question isn't whether AI is good or bad, but what kind of humans it's turning us into. The Amish don't reject technology because they're primitive — they reject it because they're fiercely protective of what makes their community human.

AI should be a tool. A reference, not a replacement. Because at the end of the day, no algorithm will ever understand why we cry at Miyazaki's films, or why we stay up late arguing about nothing with friends, or why we keep trying to create even when the world tells us it's pointless. That messy, irrational, beautiful stuff? That's not a bug in the human system. That's the point.

Maxim Schardt