9. The current generation of artificial intelligence is very well suited to administrative or data-processing tasks. Many of the products are actually marketed as assistants or co-pilots, which indicates exactly how they are expected to be used. They are not so good at leadership roles or making decisions. Sure, they can help interpret data to support a human making a decision, but they can’t determine what the question is. For now, at least, they are our eager assistants.

AIs are capable of some tasks typically assumed to be creative, such as creating artwork or composing music. But even here they only assist a human, giving someone without the ability to draw the ability to create a quality artwork. In short, they democratise tasks such as programming, writing, drawing or composing, allowing humans with ideas to direct the machines to create exactly what they want. They are not – currently – capable of the independent thought needed to come up with new ideas.

The natural partner for the AI is the robot. AI technology leads robotic technology, meaning that AIs are much more pervasive in the digital world than in the real world. Manual tasks outside of a controlled environment like a factory or a warehouse are outside the capability of robots and therefore AIs. This will certainly change over time as robots continue to improve, but the improvements are likely to be slower than with the AIs themselves. **PMC**