

The greatest disruption of the decade: why ChatGPT will affect everyone

Released on the 30th of November, 2022, the transformer-based neural network, ChatGPT has shaken up what it means to create. Developed by OpenAI, an artificial intelligence research laboratory, ChatGPT is a free-to-use technological apparatus that provides answers with human writing patterns to questions provided by people. With its ability to create text unrecognisable from that written by a person, ChatGPT has shifted how people view AI, with many other companies following OpenAI's footsteps and creating their own AI models. Whether some are fearful of the capabilities of this new technology to those excited for what it can bring, ultimately, it will affect everyone, whether you use the program or not.

Though ChatGPT and the technology of the sort are incredibly powerful, it is important to understand that this new technology will not start an artificial intelligence uprising. ChatGPT, like other robotic devices, are incredibly good at doing specific tasks. By using vast sources of information provided to ChatGPT, it is able to almost 'glue' those pieces of information together to create its own response. The information provided by ChatGPT, though rather accurate, has about 10% of the information it shows as false. It is also important to know that it is still new technology, and will continue to improve.

According to data provided by [ROBO Global, an index and research company](#), opinions on the program differed by a user's experiences

with technology. The participants of the survey were members of the general public in the US ranging from ages 18 - 65+. Of the participants, 37% had never heard of ChatGPT, and of those, 75% believed the program would be a fad. However, of the 63% of participants who had heard of ChatGPT, only 33% believed it would be a fad. Overall, 51% of the survey's participants believed that ChatGPT would just be a short craze, however, this may change in the near future as the program gains further public attraction.



Image sourced from Getty Images.

Even though this technology does not have the ability to take over the world, many are fearful of its disruption. [“I think that we should be really terrified of this whole thing”](#) says Timnit Gebru, an AI researcher specialising in ethics of artificial intelligence. “We should understand the harms before we proliferate something everywhere, and mitigate those risks before we put something like this out there.” Other experts are worried about its ability to generate misinformation that is

presented factually, and believe that it will be used to spam social media platforms with fraudulent but professional sounding articles. Other experts have found ChatGPT to be worrying for its ability to generate texts at absurdly fast speed that sound as if they were written by real people. Some believe this may be used to flood places such as governments with letters of issue that sound real, not to realise that they are created by machines.

How ChatGPT Distrupts Academia

Another huge disruption ChatGPT has caused has been within academic subject matters. Many teachers have been worried about this technology for its ability to write large texts about any topic.

Although there have been other programs to detect whether a text is AI written or not, there are simple loopholes to bypass this, including using other technologies to rewrite texts. Another thing to note is that ChatGPT 4, which has just been released, has been trained on 500 times the amount of writing, meaning that AI detectors will not be able to work on this new version. For these reasons, many staples of how students are tested may need to be changed, in order to separate a computer's writing ability to a persons.

“Deep within each cell's walls,
A bustling world is found,
Where organelles, so small and complex,
Each play their part profound.

The nucleus is like a king,

The control center of the cell,
Directing all its activities,
And keeping things running well.

Mitochondria are like power plants,
Their job is to make energy,
Breaking down glucose and other fuels,
To keep the cell's machinery.

Endoplasmic reticulum,
Is like a transport system grand,
Moving proteins and lipids around,
To where they're needed in the land.

Golgi apparatus is like a factory,
Where proteins are processed with care,
Packed up neatly in vesicles,
To be shipped out everywhere.

Lysosomes are like the clean-up crew,
Breaking down waste and debris,
Digesting old and damaged parts,
So the cell stays healthy and free.

These organelles may be small,
But they're mighty in their roles,
Working together in harmony,
To keep each cell whole.

So let us marvel at the wonders,
Of this microscopic world,
Where each organelle does its part,
Like a symphony, perfectly unfurled.”

This was a poem about the organelles of a cell, that I used for my biology assignment. However, I did not write this. It was written, in seconds, by ChatGPT. What would have taken me a whole period to write, was able to be finished, and submitted in under a minutes time. As such, I believe that teachers have all the reason to be scared of this new technology, as this text shows how disruptive this technology to some aspects of academia.

ChatGPT’s Commercial Use in the Future

Many have also found the invention of this type of Artificial Intelligence to be incredibly revolutionary and are excited to see the uses of the technology. Erik Brynjolfsson, director of Stanford University's Digital Economy Lab states that he “...wouldn't be surprised 50 years from now, people looked back and say, wow, that was a really seminal set of inventions that happened in the early 2020s.” He also speculates that the technology of ChatGPT will be used to automate repetitive tasks, as to free up workers time to focus on more creative and strategic tasks. Brynjolfsson gives an example of this stating that “...if done right, it's not going to be AI replacing lawyers; it's going to be lawyers working with AI replacing lawyers who don't work with AI.”

Even now, ChatGPT can currently be used in workplaces across

various industries. Some of these uses include: summarising and analysing vast amounts of information, content creation, outsourcing mundane tasks, and even using it to program code more efficiently. As such, even today, ChatGPT already has uses across industries.

Whether you are worried or excited for what happens with this new type of technology, ChatGPT is here now and is not going away. From how it is seen by the public, to how it affects academia and workplaces, ChatGPT will affect everyone, everywhere.