

How did the world respond to the developments in AI technology?



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A decade after the modern domain of artificial technology (AI) was formally introduced in 1956, the field witnessed its first quantum jump through the first chatterbot known as 'Eliza Chatbot.' The AI has since developed by leaps and bounds, now standing front and centre in the world of communication technology.

Viewed from a historical perspective, the AI still has miles to go and promises to keep. Yet its current growth itself is considered as a major development that sends chills down the spine of mankind. This is the special message the departing year 2023 drives home powerfully to us.

Omnipresent AI

The footprints of the AI are markedly deep and indelible in all sectors. The most striking feature is that the AI technology has been popularized. Though this technology has been in use in several sectors for years together, it was so considered as magically weird that it was beyond the reach of the common people. Besides, whenever it was discussed, it was more its inadequacies rather than its potential which were debated much.

In the footsteps of Eliza

A single service, a descendant of the Eliza Chatbot, has changed this situation. It is the AI-powered chatterbox widely known as ChatGPT. Though introduced by OpenAI at the end of 2022, the ChatGPT gained popularity, growing rapidly only in 2023. In addition, it fell into the human palms in the form of an app. The quantum jumps that the ChatGPT has witnessed on its trajectory of growth have influenced and impacted the rival corporates to the point of introducing their own versions of AI-assisted chatbots. Google for its part has come up with a chatbot known as Bard and introduced its refined version called Gemini. The popular question-answer app, Quora, brought the chatbot Poe to its users. Anthropic, an AI research company, launched by former employees of OpenAI, has introduced a chatbot called Claude. DuckDuckGo, a search engine protecting users' privacy, has offered an AI assistance service billed as DuckAssist.

Google's chatbot

Microsoft has integrated its ChatGPT into its Bing search engine and also intensified the AI facility in its 'Office' software products. It has brought the AI technology to all of its platforms – Meta, Facebook's parent company, Instagram, WhatsApp and Messenger.

For its part, Google YouTube has offered the AI facility for creating videos. In the highly competitive race, Adobe and Amazon have not lagged behind. On the other side, other trade and commerce organisations have also embraced the AI technology, inspired by the rousing popular reception to the ChatGPT.

Among all companies making a beeline for the AI technology, Nvidia, an American technological multinational company, has hogged the global attention very much, triggering speculations that this company will surge ahead of Apple, Amazon and Google. The major factor behind its current popularity is its production of AI-powered chips.

AI chips

While most corporates are adopting the AI technology, it is imperative to produce chips loaded with AI power in order to meet the future needs and chart a growth graph for the future. As Nvidia has already been involved in this segment, its prospects driven by the AI are brighter. Its competitor Intel is trying its best to catch up with the trend.

It is to be recalled that sometime ago, it was speculated that OpenAI was busy producing its own AI chips. It is thought that this chip project might be behind the puzzling controversy of the ouster of Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI. However, no sooner was he dismissed than he was reinstated. This episode has driven home the importance and influence of Altman in the AI world.

Control needed

Yet all the same the growing dominance of the AI technology has the world countries worried. A serious debate is apace about the need for legal controls and curbs in view of the future dangers of this technology. The idea of reining in AI corporates

through law has, of late, been gaining traction. While the European Union stands front and centre in enacting laws related to the AI, the U.S. President Joe Biden has ordered formulation of new standards for AI security. Britain has conducted a conference on AI security. The recent trend of making false and obscene videos through the misuse of the Deepfake technology to rattle popular personalities has got on the nerves of several countries.

Humanity will triumph

In the midst of the AI waves, the common people's concerns are different. The question of what will happen to employment opportunities has been haunting the people if chatbots like ChatGPT and AI services come to stay in the future. If the ChatGPT itself can compose poetry and write fiction, the question of what will befall the human creative power has got scores of people tossed about. In these circumstances, quite comforting are the voices of intellectuals such as Noam Chomsky, Emilie Bender and so on who argue that the AI software products such as ChatGPT are not real knowledge treasures.

Of course, there are innumerable AI trends deserving attention. But we round off this analysis with something about the new engineering made popular by the ChatGPT. The new technology is known as prompt engineering. Technocrats say that in order to get proper and accurate services and obtain the desired results from the ChatGPT and the likes, commands should be made to them without confusion and ambiguity. This process is called prompt engineering. So it is manifest that if we don't operate the chatbots clearly and properly, they will goof up.

In the midst of debates on the creative power of the chatbots, the fact remains undeniable and indisputable that the key to operate and manipulate the AI technologies still remains in the

hands of humans. This is yet another important message driven home categorically to us by the year 2023.

Translated by V. Mariappan.