

Setting ethical standards for use of generative AI technology

Background

Within the last century there has been a surge of technological advancements, one of which being the improvement of generative AI. Currently generative AI can be used to make a piece of art, write a paper, diagnose a patient, detect fraud, and so much more. With almost endless possibilities many have questioned exactly how ethical artificial intelligence really is. With issues such as data privacy, distribution of harmful content, and issues with biases it's clear that standards need to be set.

Generative AI is a type of artificial intelligence that is able to create new content based on various inputs. Generative AI is able to generate brand new images, sounds, animations, essays, and so much more. The first generative AI model was created by Joseph Weizenbaum in 1960. He created the Eliza chatbot which was the first ever program that allowed for communication between human and machine.

Currently one of the most popular generative AI platforms is ChatGPT. ChatGPT was created by OpenAI and launched on November 30th, 2022. Since then the platform has largely been used by students in order to have their essays written for them. According to Pew Research Center 1 in 5 teenagers in the United States who know what ChatGPT is use it. Furthermore, data suggest that 43% of college students are using ChatGPT to complete their school work.

Due to generative AI's ability to generate subjects such as art many have questioned exactly how ethical it is. Furthermore with more businesses not only exploring but also utilizing generative AI, individuals are worried that job opportunities will be lost to artificial intelligence. Many argue that some jobs may be taken, however many new jobs in the tech industry will appear regarding maintenance of these machines.

UN Involvement

On September 7th 2023 UNESCO called on governments to set better regulations for AI usage regarding school. UNESCO encouraged governments to set policies to regulate age usage for AI as well as set standards for user data privacy and protection. UNESCO stressed that generative AI can be a great opportunity however it may also take away from student's education.

On July 6th 2023, UN secretary general António Guterres also stressed for better standards to be set regarding AI. He acknowledged that AI has endless potential however that potential could be dangerous unless handled well.

Futhermore on August 22nd 2023 the UN news published an article arguing that AI tools such as ChatGPT would not cause a lost of jobs but instead new job opportunities in technology. The article also said that the outcome of generative AI and human jobs really depends on how it will be used. Finally the article also stressed the importance of standards being set on how generative AI can be used.

Finally there is S/PV.9381 which focused completely on setting standards for generative AI. During this meeting on July 18th 2023 the commity discussed the opportunities generative AI presented while also keeping in mind the many challenges it arises. Statements in SC/15359 clearly states a variety of countries opinions on generative AI and how they hope for it to be used.

Useful Links

UNESCO's report on Ethics of Artificial intelligence

<https://www.unesco.org/en/artificial-intelligence/recommendation-ethics>

UN News article on chatGPT's correlation to job opportunities

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/08/1139972>

SC/15359

<https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15359.doc.htm>

UN chief's statement on artificial intelligence

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/07/1138397>

All UN news press releases regarding artificial intelligence

<https://news.un.org/en/tags/artificial-intelligence#:~:text=The%20UN%20Secretary%20General%20on,full%20respect%20for%20human%20rights>

Questions to consider

1. Has your country already set standards for the usage of generative AI? Does it have any measures to prevent individuals from using it?
2. How is generative AI used in my country? Does your country have any plans for generative AI usage in the future?
3. How is generative AI affecting your citizens? What percentage of businesses in your country are using it? Are job opportunities in your country being lost to generative AI?
4. Is it ethical for individuals or businesses to use generative AI? Has generative AI usage affected mental health? Will generative AI usage affect future generations?

Sources

Case study from University of Texas

<https://mediaengagement.org/research/the-ethics-of-ai-art/>

Study of ChatGPT affects conducted by Nerdynav

<https://nerdynav.com/chatgpt-cheating-statistics/>

UNESCO's study on ChatGPT

<https://www.google.com/url?q=https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/09/1140477&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1702921749984430&usg=AOvVaw1vbAmJi1CTFigghchDBbaJ>

Facts regarding Generative AI published by Tech Target

<https://www.techtarget.com/searchenterpriseai/definition/generative-AI#:~:text=Joseph%20Weizenbaum%20created%20the%20first,part%20of%20the%20Eliza%20chatbot.>

Research conducted by Pew Research center regarding teens usage of ChatGPT

<https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/11/16/about-1-in-5-us-teens-whove-heard-of-chatgpt-have-used-it-for-schoolwork/>