CUTTING EDGE TECH NEWS

Sex Bots, Virtual Reality, And Smart Sex Toys - The Future Of Intimacy

Now that we have intelligent lightbulbs, doorbells, refrigerators, and more, it was only a matter of time before our most primal and intimate lives became smarter through artificial intelligence. Since sextech was allowed to exhibit at CES 2020 among the health and wellness vendors instead of denied entry or tucked away in the back as in years past, technology intended to augment the human sexual experience might just be on the verge of going mainstream. As more and more people invite artificial intelligence into their bedrooms and most intimate experiences, let's review the possibilities as well as perils that might bring.

More Than Sex Bots
Creators of science fiction have imagined a future where human-like sex robots rule human sexual experience. However, sextech is more than just sex bots. According to an interview with sextech expert and founder of the Future of Sex Bryony Cole, "sexuality really encompasses everything from orgasms and pleasure and relationships to education, health, crimes, assault reporting, medicine and gender identity" across sexual identities and preferences.
Sextech is a $30 billion industry today, but according to an analysis report, the industry should grow to $52.7 billion by 2026 with a huge assist from online sales. Companies are feverishly working to innovate the most intriguing products that have an intelligent response for sexual activity to take advantage of this expected growth. These products do include sex bots such as Harmony, a robotic version of a silicone sex toy made by RealDoll, but also app-connected, smart vibrators, stimulators, and massagers; personalized porn; virtual reality and augmented sexual experiences; and more.

Smart Sex Toys
Artificial intelligence in sex toys aims to achieve similar objectives as products in other industries—learn from data gathered by sensors to elevate and improve the experience as well as personalize it. And, as in other industries, the companies that use technology to create a stellar product or service will have higher sales. From Lioness, the award-winning smart vibrator created by women and referred to as the FitBit for a woman's orgasm, and Osé, an award-winning robotic sex device "designed to mimic the best kinds of human touch," smart sex toys are responsible for incredible innovation. Many of these companies are led by women who address sexuality with new voices and concerns. Most of these toys are connected to smartphones via apps that let users learn more about their sexuality and sexual preferences. There are also gadgets for men and couples, even some that provide benefits when couples aren't together.

Sex in Virtual Reality
While there are questions about the long-term consequences of allowing people to live out whatever sexual fantasy they have via artificial intelligence and what that may or may do to their real-life interactions with human partners, virtual reality offers a way to explore sexuality safely. Virtual reality sexual experiences are today more realistic than ever before, and many offer haptics (the sensation of touch). Virtual reality technology is developing rapidly creating very realistic experiences. The sexual experiences available through virtual reality will continue to become more immersive in the future. Many of these VR experiences can also be combined with other online devices.

With this new technology, those in committed relationships will have to determine new boundaries with one another. Is exploring sex in a virtual reality a safe way to experiment, or is it considered cheating? What if you engage in sex with your partner while augmenting reality so that your partner looks like someone else? The comfort level and boundaries of these experiences will need to be discussed among partners to establish what enhances the relationship rather than harms it.

Realistic Sex Robots
While you can see sextech is much more than sex robots, the reality is that much progress has been made to create sex robots that are very realistic and that you can customize. There are companies that are almost ready to unveil robots that seem to have a heartbeat and can mimic breathing. Ultimately, they are working on having sex dolls interact and communicate with partners as if they were human. RealDoll, makers of Harmony and other versions for men and women, offer technologically advanced AI-driven robots that can blink, move, and more. While these bots are available with a hefty price tag, Matt McMullen founder of RealDoll expects to have no shortage of customers.

Artificial intelligence and advanced technology have opened up a new world for healthy sexual expression, education, and knowledge, albeit it does present some new challenges that need to be considered. The comfort and willingness for committed partners to explore their sexual fantasies through AI might cross boundaries. Whether sex with AI is understood and allowed or allowed at what level will come down to each couple's comfort level and understanding. Could AI create unrealistic expectations for human interaction, or do they provide an acceptable outlet for sexual transgressions and exploration not appropriate in real life?

Artificial Intelligence can do TL;DR Better than Humans

How will open-source software continue to transform our world? How will AI-human hybrid teams continue to boost productivity and allow GDP and other indicators of quality of life to thrive? What if AI can help us be smarter, and what does that look like in 2021? Researchers at the Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence have developed a new model to summarize text from scientific papers, and present it in a few sentences in the form of TL;DR (Too Long Didn't Read).

AI can now sum up a research paper in a single sentence and the source code is being made available. Think about it, search engine tools will also evolve. A search engine's tool for summarizing studies promises easier skim-reading. In a world of headlines, algorithms will make us skim read better too.

The creators of a scientific search engine have unveiled software that automatically generates one-sentence summaries of research papers, which they say could help scientists to skim-read papers faster.

 The free tool, which creates what the team calls TLDRs (the common Internet acronym for 'Too long, didn't read'), was activated this week for search results at Semantic Scholar, a search engine created by the non-profit Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence (AI2) in Seattle, Washington.

 AI takes the most important parts from the abstract, introduction, and conclusion section of the paper to form the summary.

 Preliminary testing suggests that the tool helps readers to sort through search results faster than viewing titles and abstracts, especially on mobile phones, he says.

This is a feel good story of the power of open-source software and AI development. The researchers have made their code freely available, along with a working demo website where anyone can try the tool.

Dan Weld, who manages the Semantic Scholar group at AI2 spoke to Nature about it recently. So how did they do it?

Weld was inspired to create the TLDR software in part by the snappy sentences his colleagues share on Twitter to flag up articles. Like other language-generation software, the tool uses deep neural networks trained on vast amounts of text. The team included tens of thousands of research papers matched to their titles, so that the network could learn to generate concise sentences.   The trained model was able to summarize documents over 5,000 words in just 21 words on an average — that's a compression ratio of 238.

 The team has gathered training examples to improve the software's performance in 16 other fields, with biomedicine likely to come first.

 TLDR can generate a sentence from a paper's abstract, introduction and conclusion. Its summaries tend to be built from key phrases in the article's text, so are aimed squarely at experts who already understand a paper's jargon. But Weld says the team is working on generating summaries for non-expert audiences.

The NLP revolution is changing how humans experience data thanks to AI. You can try out the AI on the Semantic Scholar search engine. Plus, you can read more about summarizing AI in this paper. Congrats to the researchers at the Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence (AI2). You can check out the GitHub here. Skim reading, deep fakes, at this point AI could practically create a TikTok video and you'd think it was real. Meanwhile armies around the world are attempting to create synthetic telepathy, while Apple is making us more cybernetic. While we socially distance during a pandemic, the internet is likely also changing faster than normal.