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# Welcome to Quinn's AI Update

Issue #13, December 2023

Hello, AI enthusiasts!

And welcome to my newsletter, Fair Oaks Rotary! It was great meeting all of you and chatting about artificial intelligence.

As we enter December, there is so much on the topic of Artificial Intelligence that has already transformed our world—and so much more on the horizon for 2024.

I was really tempted to do a "special issue" just on all of the drama surrounding Sam Altman and OpenAI—but I'm glad I waited.

Read on for more!



Image generated by ChatGPT4/Dalle-3 with the text prompt: "A cozy living room interior featuring a roaring fireplace and two steaming mugs of hot chocolate on a small table in the foreground. The room is warmly lit by external light."

## In this Issue

Here's the amazing stuff going on in AI the last two weeks:

- OpenAI fires and rehires Sam Altman in a week—The Deep Dive
- ChatGPT Enterprise
- Sports Illustrated Fumbles
- ChatGPT in Healthcare: Your Artificial Radiologist
- Peter Diamandis Announces a new XPRIZE for Longevity
- Google Catches Up: Introducing "Gemini"

## Deep Dive: Sam Altman and OpenAI

My Deep Dive for this Issue is covering what may have been behind the drama around OpenAI and Sam Altman.

On Friday, November 17, the OpenAI Board of Directors fired CEO Sam Altman over a 15 minute zoom call. Over the next week, the news just got crazier: first, nearly the entire staff of OpenAI announced they were quitting; Sam Altman joined Microsoft; the woman the Board hired to replace Altman announced she was leaving OpenAI; and then on November 21, OpenAI announced that Altman would return as CEO, the entire Board quit and was replaced, and Microsoft gets a seat on the Board. You can find a good recounting of the entire timeline [here](#) on TechCrunch.

It was quite a roller coaster of a week, and no one outside OpenAI is completely sure why any of it happened, but here's what I have been able to tease out of all the rumors and reports:

1. Sam Altman wants to take OpenAI in a for-profit direction
2. Internally at OpenAI, they have seen something that is far beyond ChatGPT 4—something that is close to Artificial General Intelligence or AGI
3. The Board became afraid they are moving too fast and came very close to unleashing something bad upon the world.

### My rationale:

When OpenAI was founded in December 2015, it was created as a nonprofit entity—to work on researching AI, but not make a profit from developing it. Sam Altman is taking it in a different direction—more towards being a for-profit entity. This is the reason Elon Musk has broken off from OpenAI and has launched his own AI (Grok). The Board may have wanted to stay with their non-profit/research status.

Next, our old friend "Jimmy Apples" has been active on the message boards again. After his comment in October that "AGI has been achieved internally" hinted about what was going on in OpenAI, he recently wrote "What did Ilya See?" "Ilya" is Ilya Sutskever, Chief Scientist, board member and co-founder of OpenAI. Jimmy seems to be suggesting Ilya became very concerned about how fast things were going and that he saw something internally at OpenAI that shocked him into convincing the board to fire Sam Altman in order to slow things down.

Finally, the employees of OpenAI wrote a letter to the board about a new AI element they had introduced to ChatGPT called Q\* or Q-Star. Q\* it seems may be the additive to ChatGPT that takes us to AGI. Another document, supposedly leaked from OpenAI, suggests that Q\* may have the mathematical ability to **break any existing encryption**. That's a big deal, meaning Q\* could break all encryption we currently use, so that banks would no longer safely hold funds, government secrets could be revealed, and the entire global financial system could collapse.

That's one helluvan unexpected emergent behavior! And suggests ways that AI can be dangerous to humans just as an unexpected byproduct of a slight change.

There are other possibilities as well: Sam Altman was rumored to also be looking to Middle Eastern Sovereign Wealth Funds to invest in an AI chip startup named **Rain**. This would have given OpenAI the possibility of taking away some of the power of NVIDIA by offering an alternative to the NVIDIA Graphics Processor Units (GPUs), which currently have a monopoly as the computer chips of choice for running AI. And the Board may have thought he was acting beyond his authority.

We may never have a complete explanation from anyone at OpenAI, but, given the leaks we have heard and the speed with which AI is moving, I think my speculation is not far from the truth.

A lot of this has been covered in more depth by entrepreneur and tech advisor Wes Roth on his Youtube channel. You can see his explanation [here](#).

## A ChatGPT of Your Very Own

Before he was fired and rehired by OpenAI, Sam Altman held the first OpenAI Developers Meeting to announce the next advances with ChatGPT. I covered a lot of this in the last issue of Quinn's AI Update, especially the news about **ChatGPT4 Turbo** and **AI Agent Swarms**.

One thing I left out was the announcement of **ChatGPT Enterprise**, which is a new offering from OpenAI that offers the opportunity for any company or organization to have its own ChatGPT to train and use to enhance its business operations. That means any organization will have its own private chatbot that can be fed internal documents, strategic plans, etc, and get ChatGPT's help improving things.

OpenAI claims they will keep your data private and NOT train their ChatGPT on your data—and they commit to encrypting your data while it is being transferred as well as while it is at rest. That sounds pretty secure and I suppose if you trust your data to a SaaS like Salesforce or you trust Microsoft Azure or Amazon Web Services to host your data, you can trust OpenAI to the same extent. To get pricing, you'll have to call OpenAI and ask their sales team directly [here](#). (I have seen rumors on reddit that suggest pricing is in the range of \$60 per user per month, which would make it less than the midrange pricing for Salesforce.)

## Sports Illustrated Replaces Writers with AI

The website "Futurism" claims that "Sports Illustrated Published Articles by Fake, AI-Generated Writers." One such author was named "Drew Ortiz" and had a headshot picture and bio suggesting he was a real human writer. However, the website couldn't find an actual human named Drew Ortiz—and then found that the picture of him accompanying the article was on sale at a website that sells AI-generated headshots.

Apparently, other writers at Sports Illustrated blew the whistle to Futurism—probably in an attempt to shame SI into continuing to employ real human writers. When confronted on the use of AI, the owner of SI, Arena Group, blamed it on an external third-party contractor. But what will they try next? AI-Generated swimsuit models? You can read more [here](#) at the Futurism website. Given the current implosion of traditional media, and the layoffs and RIFs we are seeing, I expect more publications to go the AI route in future.

*"One absolutely incredible thing we've witnessed over the last 48 hours since the rumor of Q\* came out is people from all over the world ranging from top AI researchers to random people on twitter have come together to figure out what this Q\* thing is. It's like we're crowd sourcing the answer."*

—Wes Roth, entrepreneur and tech advisor

## ChatGPT4: Your Artificial Radiologist Will See You Now

In a newly published research study, Microsoft reveals some amazing progress using ChatGPT4 for radiological images. In the study they found that GPT-4 summaries of diagnoses were *comparable or preferred* to those from experienced human radiologists. ChatGPT4 was announced to have passed the radiology board exam back in May and it's capabilities just seem to keep growing. Researchers speculated that integrating GPT could aid disease interpretation, real-world data usage, and even patient education.

You can check out the paper from Microsoft [here](#).



Image generated with the ChatGPT 4/ Dalle-3 Generator and the text prompt: "A cinematic landscape depicting snow falling gently over an empty field. The field is bordered by dense fir trees, creating a stark contrast against majestic mountains"

## New XPrize: Life Extension

Is immortality just around the corner? Peter Diamandis wants it to be and has just announced the latest XPRIZE: \$101 million to the first person/team that can show they have a method for "restoring at least a decade's worth of muscle, brain, and immune function in older adults."

The announcement explained: The \$101 million, 7-year global competition will incentivize teams to develop and test therapeutics to improve healthy aging and close the gap between life and health expectancy.

"People around the world are living longer, but quality of life has not kept pace. By targeting aging with a single or combination of therapeutic treatments, it may be possible to restore function lost to age-related degradation of multiple organ systems," said Peter H. Diamandis, MD, founder and executive chairman, XPRIZE. "Converging exponential technologies such as AI, epigenetics, gene therapy, cellular medicine, and sensors are allowing us to understand why we age - it's time to revolutionize the way we age," Diamandis explains. "Working across all sectors, we can democratize health and create a future where healthy aging is accessible for everyone and full of potential."

Ray Kurzweil, an inventor and futurist, has predicted **functional biological immortality** by 2030. Which would be cool for me, 'cause that's when I turn 67 and can retire.

For more insights into the efforts to extend human lifespans, check out the book **"Immortality, Inc"** that a friend of mine, Chip Walter, has written on the subject. You can get here it [here](#) on Amazon.

*"Any team that can restore at least a decade's worth of muscle, brain, and immune function in older adults will claim the top prize."*

—Jamie Justice, Executive Vice President of the Health Domain at XPRIZE Foundation, and Adjunct Professor in Internal Medicine Section on Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine, at Wake Forest University School of Medicine (WFUSM)

## Google "Gemini"

After being caught with their pants down a year ago by OpenAI's release of ChatGPT 3, Google seems to have played some serious catchup. On Wednesday, December 6, they announced "Gemini" with great fanfare, including a research report showing it's capabilities and a video showing highlights of what it can do that put it beyond ChatGPT 4.

You can see a video about the announcement [here](#) with examples of Gemini's capabilities. They are very impressive.

Given all that's going on, I don't think anything, even government intervention, will slow down the development of artificial intelligence.

## What Does the Science Fiction Say?

"Interstellar," directed by Christopher Nolan, is a sci-fi film about humanity's quest for survival in a future where Earth is dying. Cooper, a former NASA pilot, leads a mission through a wormhole near Saturn to find a new habitable planet. The AI connection is in the two robots that help the humans in the planetary exploration—they are incredibly flexible in how they operate and their "personalities" can be fine tuned by human commands. You can check it out at Amazon, Google Play, iTunes, and Vudu.

"Metropolis," directed by Fritz Lang in 1927, is a silent sci-fi film set in a dystopian future where society is divided between laboring workers and the affluent elite. The plot revolves around Freder, the son of the city's ruler, who empathizes with the workers after meeting Maria, a kind-hearted activist. As tensions rise, a robotic double of Maria, created by Freder's father and a mad scientist, incites chaos among the workers. Known for its innovative special effects and set designs, "Metropolis" explores themes of class struggle, technology's influence, and societal unity. You can stream "Metropolis" on fuboTV, Hoopla, Classix, Metrograph, FlixFlng or for free with ads on The Roku Channel, Tubi TV, Redbox, Crackle, Pluto TV.

## The Smart Money in AI

- What [Microsoft's M12 Investment Fund](#) Looks For In Its AI Investments
- [Rain AI](#) raised \$25,000,000 in Series A from Buckley Ventures and 9 other investors for its **neuromorphic computer chips** (putting brain cells on silicon chips) and raised another \$2,130,020 from Toy Ventures in August of this year.
- [AI Companies: The New Investing Goldmine for VC Firms](#)

## The Last word...for now.

Thanks for reading my newsletter—let me know how I can make it even better! Randy

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Let me know what you think!



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