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QUINN'S AI UPDATE

Welcome to Quinn's AI Update

Issue #15, January 2024

Hello, AI enthusiasts! So much going on—it's really getting hard to keep up.

- Deep Dive: Which way, human: competition or cooperation?
- The OpenAI Developer Store opens.
- Is 2024 the Year of the Robot?
- US Supreme Court's end-of-year report addresses AI and the law
- New York Times first entry into AI is to sue OpenAI?
- Artificial Intelligence at Duolingo results in human layoffs

Read on for more!

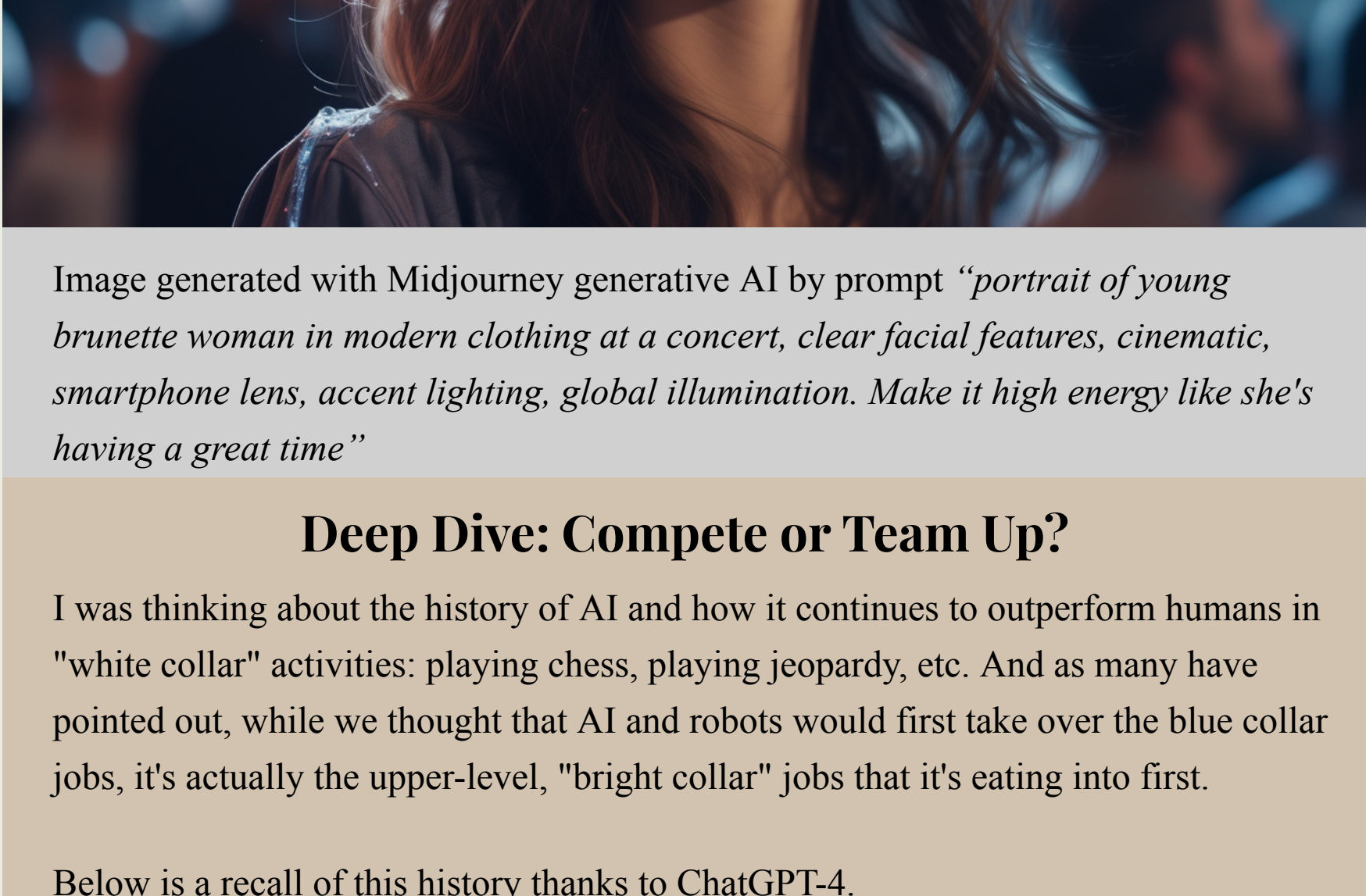


Image generated with Midjourney generative AI by prompt *"portrait of young brunette woman in modern clothing at a concert, clear facial features, cinematic, smartphone lens, accent lighting, global illumination. Make it high energy like she's having a great time"*

Deep Dive: Compete or Team Up?

I was thinking about the history of AI and how it continues to outperform humans in "white collar" activities: playing chess, playing jeopardy, etc. And as many have pointed out, while we thought that AI and robots would first take over the blue collar jobs, it's actually the upper-level, "bright collar" jobs that it's eating into first.

Below is a recall of this history thanks to ChatGPT-4.

1. Deep Blue Defeats Garry Kasparov (1997): Deep Blue, a chess-playing computer developed by IBM, made history by defeating the reigning world chess champion, Garry Kasparov, in 1997. This event was significant as it marked the first time a computer had defeated a world champion in a match under standard chess tournament conditions.

2. IBM's Watson Wins Jeopardy! (2011): IBM's Watson, a question-answering computer system capable of understanding natural language, competed on the quiz show "Jeopardy!" in 2011. It won against two of the show's greatest champions, Brad Rutter and Ken Jennings. This was a groundbreaking achievement in the field of natural language processing and understanding.

3. AlphaGo's Victory Over Lee Sedol (2016): AlphaGo, developed by Google DeepMind, defeated Lee Sedol, one of the world's top Go players, in a five-game match in 2016. This was particularly notable because Go is a complex game with a vast number of possible positions, and it was believed to be a significant challenge for AI due to its reliance on intuitive thinking.

Other notable milestones include:

Chess Programs: Before Deep Blue, there were other significant moments in chess. In 1988, IBM's Deep Thought, the precursor to Deep Blue, was the first to beat an international grandmaster in a game.

AI in Poker: In 2017, Libratus, an AI program developed at Carnegie Mellon University, won against top human players in a 20-day No-Limit Texas Hold'em competition. This was significant as poker is a game of imperfect information and requires bluffing and varying strategies.

StarCraft II: In 2019, DeepMind's AlphaStar achieved Grandmaster level in the real-time strategy game StarCraft II, competing under the same conditions as human players.

AI in Academic Research: Beyond games, AI has made significant strides in academic fields. For example, in 2020, DeepMind's AlphaFold solved the protein folding problem, a 50-year-old grand challenge in biology.

Thanks, ChatGPT-4.

So why is this important?

As AI improves (remember: this, right now, is the worst it will be) it will continue to do all thinking tasks better than humans. Eventually, as robots arrive, they will begin to do physical tasks better than we can. So maybe the best way forward is for humans and AI to team up—the best chess competitions now are between teams of humans and AI. Can we view things as less a "Race Against the Machine" and more a collaboration? The challenge for us will be to find those ways that we still add value to what the AIs can do.

Let me know what you think: what are the ways, as individuals, we can continue to provide value teaming up with the AIs.

ChatGPT Store is Open!

I'd talked about the inaugural OpenAI ChatGPT Developers Conference in a previous newsletter, but this week the ChatGPT Store opened for business. This is the attempt by OpenAI to crowd source great applications for ChatGPT to extend it's capabilities and give developers a chance to make money from it.

This will be similar to the App store for iPhone or Google Android.

[Here's](#) a link to the ChatGPT Store online.

[Here's](#) Sam Altman's announcement about the ChatGPT store at the OpenAI inaugural Developers meeting recently.

[Here's](#) the Developer Forum where you can learn more about creating GPTs and access the store when it's open.

So, I asked ChatGPT for some good ideas about the types of apps to create. Here's what it thinks:

Creating applications using AI technology like OpenAI's GPT models can be an exciting and potentially profitable venture. Here are 10 app ideas that could leverage this technology:

1. Personalized Learning Assistant: Develop an app that offers personalized learning experiences for students of all ages, adapting to their learning styles and pace. It could cover a wide range of subjects from basic math to advanced science topics.

2. AI-Powered Career Coach: Create an app that helps users navigate their career paths, offering personalized advice, resume building, interview preparation, and job search strategies using AI analysis.

3. Mental Wellness Companion: An app that offers mental health support, including mindfulness exercises, stress relief techniques, and personalized recommendations for maintaining mental well-being, guided by AI.

4. Custom News Aggregator: An app that uses AI to curate news content based on individual preferences, eliminating biases and offering a more balanced view of current events.

5. AI-Based Language Learning Tool: Develop an application that helps users learn new languages through interactive conversations, grammar exercises, and vocabulary games, all powered by AI to adapt to the user's proficiency level.

6. AI Recipe and Meal Planner: An app that suggests recipes based on dietary preferences, available ingredients, and nutritional goals, using AI to learn from user feedback and improve suggestions over time.

7. Virtual Interior Designer: An AI-powered app that helps users design their living spaces. Users can input room dimensions and preferences, and the app generates design recommendations.

8. Automated Financial Advisor: An app that provides personalized financial advice, including savings, investments, and budgeting, using AI to analyze financial data and market trends.

9. AI-driven Travel Planner: An app that plans trips based on user preferences, budget, and historical travel data, optimizing itineraries and suggesting unique destinations and activities.

10. Content Creation Assistant for Marketers: An AI tool that assists in creating marketing content, such as social media posts, blog articles, and ad copy, tailored to specific audiences and optimized for engagement.

Note: Google also recently [announced](#) special access to its AI, Bard, for developers. Currently this is for Gemini Pro and Gemini Pro Vision versions with Gemini Ultra coming soon. The race to keep up with and hopefully surpass OpenAI is on and will only heat up this year.

In 2024 Robot = AI Embodiment?

So just when you thought you were prepared for the chaos predicted in the 2024 election year, now there's word of a breakthrough in robotics. Brett Adcock, CEO of Figure Robotics, announces they've made an unexpected breakthrough in machine learning.

One of the Figure robots has now been trained to make coffee. You can see the video demo of the robot [here](#). Apparently, the robot learned to make coffee by watching video of a human make coffee 50 times. They claim it took 10 hours to learn the task.

Why is this important? First, remember that no one had ever thought that Large Language Models could be the key to not only AI but to also making autonomous robots. What other unexpected "shortcuts" will we find along the way?

Second, once one robot learns a task, it's a simple copy and paste to have every robot know the task. (In fact, all the real-world data accumulated by Tesla's self-driving cars is going right into the training of Tesla's humanoid robot, Optimus.)

And that's a good thing—one of the upcoming crises we will face is the lack of human workers to do the physically demanding jobs involved in maintaining civilization—all those workers who keep the lights on by maintaining the electric grid are *retiring*. And there aren't enough younger workers to replace them. Never mind the workers needed for providing our energy to power our homes and keep them cool in the summer and warm in the winter.

So raise a glass to our robot overlords—they're almost here!

"How much would you pay to have a one-on-one teacher for your kids? Now, if you had 10 kids and the AI were encouraging them to interact with each other and build stuff together and share knowledge? Older kids teaching younger kids and the technology adapting. So AI doesn't mean everyone in their own world. Instead we use AI to bring people together in an efficient manner. And we do that because there's nothing as beneficial to humans as human connection"

—Emad Mostaque, founder and CEO of Stability AI

SCOTUS and AI

Chief Justice John Roberts has just published his end-of-year report for the Supreme Court of the United States and he's decided to focus on technological advancement and the recent advancement of artificial intelligence.

He devotes the first two thirds of the report recounting past technological advances and how the Court and the Legal field has adopted them. The last third he considers the effect of AI.

Unsurprisingly, he recommends caution and humility in its application to the law. He points out the "fairness gap" perception by most of the public that legal matters are perceived as being more "fair" when adjudicated by humans rather than AI.

He does acknowledge AI's potential to increase access to justice for indigent litigants, revolutionizing legal research and assisting courts in resolving cases more quickly and cheaply while also pointing to privacy concerns.

His final comments: "I predict that human judges will be around for a while," Roberts wrote. "But with equal confidence I predict that judicial work - particularly at the trial level - will be significantly affected by AI."

It's interesting Chief Justice Roberts chose to address AI in light of the mis-use of AI by some lawyers in their legal filings. Particularly when the AI "hallucinates" previous fictitious court decisions as examples.

In my opinion, the place to look for the first effects of AI on the legal profession will be Law Schools, many of which are under pressure with declining attendance. If there is less need for new lawyers, will we see an even more rapid decline in law schools?

[Here's](#) SCOTUSBlog for a deeper dive.

You can see the full report from Chief Justice John Roberts [here](#).

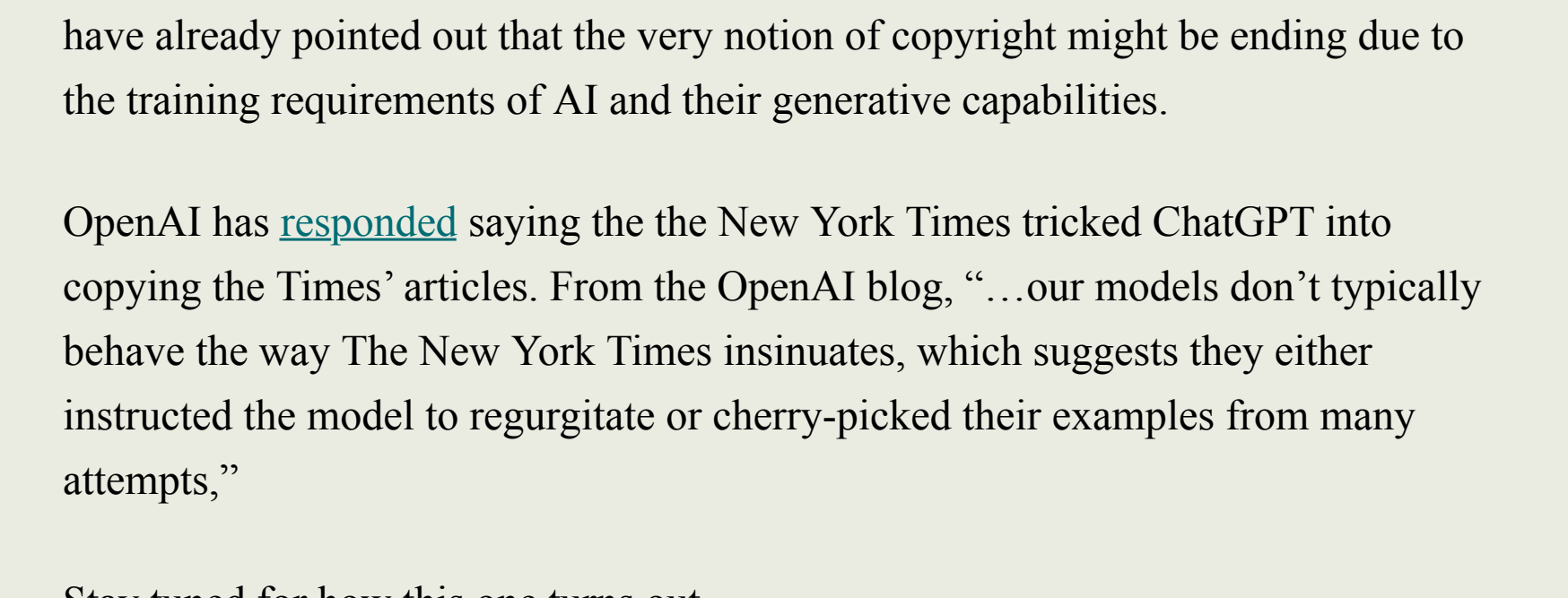


Image generated with Midjourney and the text prompt: *"A photo-realistic creative depiction showing a timeline of the evolution of AI, with a special focus on the latest breakthroughs and anticipated advancements in the near future, tying in with the theme of a new year."*

The Gray Lady Strikes Back?

Word on the street says The New York Times is [suing](#) OpenAI and Microsoft for using data published by the Times to train ChatGPT. Worse, the Times alleges that OpenAI has even had ChatGPT take content directly from the Times and present it without attribution.

It's a first of its kind lawsuit and it will be interesting to see where it ends up. Some have already pointed out that the very notion of copyright might be ending due to the training requirements of AI and their generative capabilities.

OpenAI has [responded](#) saying the New York Times tricked ChatGPT into copying the Times' articles. From the OpenAI blog, "...our models don't typically behave the way The New York Times insinuates, which suggests they either instructed the model to regurgitate or cherry-picked their examples from many attempts."

Stay tuned for how this one turns out.

"The (Figure) robot's walking around the lab every day, it's phenomenal. I think within the next like 24 months, we'll see humanoid robots in real applications out in the world."

—Brett Adcock, CEO, Figure Robotics

Duolingo—First AI Came for the Translators and Coders...

While we all wait for the AIs to do our jobs better than we do, we're already seeing the effects in the real world.

Duolingo [lays off](#) 10% of staff as it increasingly relies on AI to produce content. This work force reduction in December was the latest of several for the language learning provider, and in this case most of those let go were being replaced by AI.

Duolingo is not alone in its move to get rid of people in favor of AI. According to a November report from [ResumeBuilder](#), 37% of companies surveyed say AI [replaced workers](#) in 2023. Looking ahead, 44% say the technology will cause layoffs in 2024.

We've already seen some of that with the folding up of [Codeup](#), the decade-old San Antonio computer coding school, that abruptly notified employees and students on Dec. 28 that it would "cease all operations and classes." And [Google](#) announced recently its plan to layoff 30,000 employees due to AI advancements.

What Does the Science Fiction Say?

"**Learning to Be Me**" by Greg Egan is a short story that explores the consequences of advanced artificial intelligence and the ethical dilemmas it can create. In the story, humanity has developed highly advanced AI, called "Jems," which are placed in children's brains at birth and learn how to mimic human behaviors. The central ethical dilemma arises when humans begin to allow the Jem to take over for them, mimicking the human personality. Some even cut over to the Jem completely and have their human brains removed. The story has what is, for me, one of the most striking first lines of any story (along with a Christmas Carol and Fall of the House of Usher) *"I was six years old when my parents told me there was a jem in my head learning to be me."* The story can be found in Egan's collection of short stories *Axiomatic* for purchase on Amazon.

"**Almost Human**," a science fiction television series that aired from 2013 to 2014, is set in a near-future where human police officers are paired with highly advanced, lifelike androids. The AI aspect of the show is central, embodied in the character of Dorian, an android with synthetic soul technology. This technology enables him to experience emotions, thereby challenging the traditional view of artificial intelligence and raises profound ethical questions about the nature of consciousness and what it means to be human. The series also touches on the impact of advanced technology on society, including privacy concerns, the potential for AI to be used for both good and harmful purposes, and the ethical dilemmas faced by law enforcement in a technologically advanced world. The show also included one of my favorite actors, Karl Urban, who among many roles has also played Butcher in *The Boys*. You can stream the complete, and only, first season from Amazon.

The Smart Money in AI

The Motley Fool: Our [Top AI Stocks](#) for 2024

Investopedia: [How to Invest In AI](#)

[5 big analyst AI moves](#): Two major 2023 beneficiaries downgraded

[These 3 AI Stocks Doubled in 2023](#): Will They Have Repeat Performances This Year?

Ticker Symbol You: [Our Top 5 Stock Market & AI Predictions for 2024](#)

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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