

Charting a Course to Our Future: Fitting in with AI?



By Darby Checketts

The AI Universe • A Mind of Its Own

A New Universe Emerging? One scholarly magazine made this observation: “Some projections suggest that 90 percent of the Internet could be artificially generated by the end of the decade.” Prolific techno-authors and techno-artists will have emerged. As Artificial Intelligence capabilities become more profound, computers and robots will increasingly be capable of autonomous decisions and actions. Unlike your friendly laptop running Windows and Facebook, the computerized AI influence on our world will have developed *a mind of its own*. This will incrementally alter how the world operates, who’s in charge, and what your role in the scheme of things might become as AI presumes to design the “ideal world” based on its logical algorithms and less influenced by what we ordinary humans may *want* the world to be. How will AI determine “ideal” from social, economic, and environmental perspectives? Rather than listening to the whisperings of *Mother Nature*, will we humans find ourselves listening more to the pulsations of the *Mother Board*?

Fitting In? In what new ways will our world become more tilted? How will you and I fit into an even more high-tech world? Who (or what) might become our *virtual* work supervisors, teachers, community planners, and government officers? Will our roles be reminiscent of those serfs in the Middle Ages who labored on the farm in the shadow of a great castle? Perhaps we will be as *techno-serfs* working near a *server farm* in the shadow of a gleaming skyscraper.

A Trustworthy Intelligence? AI, NI, GI, CI, EI and more...what are the expanding brands of intelligence from which we will choose in years to come: Artificial Intelligence, Natural Intelligence, Genuine Intelligence, Celestial Intelligence, even Extraterrestrial Intelligence, etc.? **And, ultimately, what about trust?** We advocate for the responsible use of AI. Where is the center point, the point of control or coordination for *Artificial Intelligence*? Many of us ordinary humans continue to puzzle about the center of the so-called “Cloud.” And where do the “tech titans” (major corporations, university labs, government agencies, etc.) stand in all of this? Are these now battling for AI supremacy? Is there already an AI mastermind emerging somewhere here on earth or in the cosmos out there?

To Safeguard Our Magnificent World. An elevated *Natural Intelligence* has served us well to produce our magnificent planet with its diverse and delightful denizens. And yes, we humans must overcome our tendencies to ignore or disrupt the laws of nature, which bring about unnatural and damaging effects. *AI can help us to do so*. Our own human genius has produced a world of miraculous inventions that benefit our species and others. Whence came our inspiration? Will we save our planet? Might we still look heavenward for inspiration? Or will supercomputer-based intelligence chart the future path of humanity?

These are instinctive not contrived questions I am proposing. We have all watched movies about a “future world.” In fact, a future world is always on our horizon. We must own it with our minds *and our hearts* to sustain ourselves as the ingenious, talented, colorful, loving, and imperfect humans that we are. It’s really not an intellectually perfect world we seek. Quite frankly, such a world might be blissfully boring. It is a human and humane world we seek where we are each our own architects. We learn and grow as a result of life’s challenges. We enjoy the adventure of our own discoveries. We reach out to each other with compassion in ways that must be *only human*.