

Addenda #1 – November 2023

Re: Ch. 4 The Fourth Industrial Revolution
Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) – “Fake” People

Deepfake Porn Is Out of Control

New research shows the number of deepfake [porn] videos is skyrocketing—and the world's biggest search engines are funneling clicks to dozens of sites dedicated to the nonconsensual fakes.

Over the first nine months of this year, 113,000 videos were uploaded to the websites—a 54 percent increase on the 73,000 videos uploaded in all of 2022. By the end of this year, the analysis forecasts, more videos will have been produced in 2023 than the total number of every other year combined.

A whole industry of deepfake abuse, which predominantly targets women and is produced without people's consent or knowledge, has emerged in recent years. Face-swapping apps that work on still images and apps where clothes can be “stripped off a person” in a photo with just a few clicks are also highly prominent. There are likely millions of images being created with these apps.

Wired (monthly technology magazine), Oct. 16, 2023

Teens exploited by fake nudes illustrate threat of unregulated AI

A phone, a few photos and artificial intelligence have stirred controversy and shattered the privacy of several teens at a New Jersey high school after they learned that nude images of them — created via AI — were circulated in group chats.

When girls at Westfield High School in New Jersey found out boys were sharing nude photos of them in group chats, they were shocked, and not only because it was an invasion of privacy. The images weren't real.

Axios online news search engine, Nov 3, 2023 | Wall Street Journal, Nov. 2, 2023

Administrators: Carmel High School students post fake, inappropriate videos on TikTok

Carmel Central School District officials say they are appalled by an incident involving high school students posting fake, inappropriate videos on TikTok.

Administrators say many of the posts by the Carmel High School students contained racist messages. They say the students posted the inappropriate videos while posing as school officials and police.

News12 Westchester, NY, Feb 15, 2023

Addenda #2 – November 2023

Re: Ch. 4 The Fourth Industrial Revolution

Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) – “Fake” People

Current laws exist to protect well known people and celebrities from others from using their “likeness” without their permission: a person’s name, image (photo), their voice or a performance. But the use of A.I. is already creating problems for celebrities.

Tom Hanks, Scarlett Johansson, Elon Musk and Tom Brady are among those finding themselves as unwilling spokespersons for products through “deepfake” ad videos generated by A.I. programs. But the average person can’t tell the difference between the real person or the fake person generated by A.I. in celebrity endorsements of investment opportunities, weight loss products and dental plans, or music videos by rap artists.

NBC Today, October 3, 2023

<https://www.today.com/video/actors-sound-the-alarm-over-deepfake-re-creations-of-their-likeness-194298437745>

ars Technica, October 3, 2023

<https://arstechnica.com/information-technology/2023/10/tom-hanks-warns-of-ai-generated-doppelganger-in-instagram-plea/>

abc make it, November 3, 2023

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/11/03/why-deepfakes-arent-just-a-problem-for-celebrities.html>

FBI warns of increasing use of AI-generated deepfakes in sextortion schemes

Deepfake videos show real people engaged in fake sex

The FBI on Monday warned of the increasing use of artificial intelligence to generate phony videos for use in sextortion schemes that attempt to harass minors and non-consenting adults or coerce them into paying ransoms or complying with other demands...

In recent months, the FBI said in an alert published Monday, the use of AI to generate fake videos that appear to show real people engaged in sexually explicit activities has grown.

"The FBI continues to receive reports from victims, including minor children and non-consenting adults, whose photos or videos were altered into explicit content," officials wrote. "The photos or videos are then publicly circulated on social media or pornographic websites for the purpose of harassing victims or sextortion schemes."

ars Technica June 6, 2023

<https://arstechnica.com/information-technology/2023/06/fbi-warns-of-increasing-use-of-ai-generated-deepfakes-in-sextortion-schemes/>

Scammers are now using A.I. programs to create “fake/real people” in compromising situations in order to blackmail them.

As I mentioned in Ch. 4... imagine opposition creating a “fake” Donald Trump or a “fake” Ron DeSantis... who speaks about oppressive, but actually “fake” policy proposals, policies that will create a political image that people will falsely believe? Talk about influencing elections!

Addenda #3 – November 2023

Re: Ch. 4 The Fourth Industrial Revolution

Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) – Government Abuse of Power

FCC commissioner calls Biden equity plan for internet control 'sweeping, unprecedented, and unlawful'

"President Biden's plan hands the Administrative State effective control of all Internet services and infrastructure in the country. Never before, in the roughly 40-year history of the public Internet, has the FCC (or any federal agency for that matter) claimed this degree of control over it. Indeed, President Biden's plan calls for the FCC to apply a far-reaching set of government controls that the agency has not applied to any technology in the modern era, including Title II common carriers," Carr said in a statement on Monday.

"For the first time ever, those rules would give the federal government a roving mandate to micromanage nearly every aspect of how the Internet functions—from how [internet service providers] allocate capital and where they build, to the services that consumers can purchase; from the profits that ISPs can realize and how they market and advertise services, to the discounts and promotions that consumers can receive. Talk about central planning," Carr warned.

If passed, the FCC would be empowered, for the first time, to regulate every ISP's service termination terms, use of customer credit, account history, credit checks, and account termination, among many other items.

"Biden is turning 'digital discrimination' into a pretext for regulating everything. For equity," Phil Kerpen, president of American Commitment, said of the Biden plan for the FCC.

Washington Examiner, November 6, 2023

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/fcc-commissioner-biden-equity-plan-internet-control-unprecedented-unlawful>

Today, the FCC voted in favor of President Biden's plan for "digital equity." I dissented because the plan amounts to an unlawful power grab that gives the government a roving mandate to micromanage nearly every aspect of how the Internet functions.

"It's not about discrimination. It's about control," said Carr
Brenden Carr, Federal Communications Commission, November 15, 2023
<https://twitter.com/brendancarrfcc/status/1724954306133000613>

Today, the FCC answered our call by voting to adopt these necessary rules, taking a critical step to prohibit digital discrimination in high-speed Internet access based on income, race, ethnicity, religion, and national origin. These rules will protect civil rights, lower costs, and increase Internet access for Americans across the country.

Vice President Kamala Harris statement, November 15, 2023

Note: The 5-member FCC panel voted on party lines (3-Democrat nominees, Yes, 2-Republican nominees, No) to overturn the net-neutrality agreement.

Addenda #4 – November 2023

Re: Ch.4 The Fourth Industrial Revolution

Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) – Government Abuse of Power

Following Significant Uptick in Anti-Muslim and Antisemitic Rhetoric on Social Media, Governor Hochul Deploys New Resources to Combat “Online Hate”

Public Safety Press Release, November 21, 2023

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/following-significant-uptick-anti-muslim-and-antisemitic-rhetoric-social-media-governor-hochul>

Data Tracked by New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Shows 425 Percent Increase in Online Hate Speech Against Jewish Communities and 417 Percent Increase Against Muslim Communities

Governor Deploys \$3 Million to Expand State’s Successful Threat Assessment and Management Team Model to All College Campuses; Builds on State Efforts to Combat Extremist Violence Launched in the Wake of White Supremacist Mass Shooting in Buffalo.

The DTPU will conduct training for New York State colleges and universities; educate school administrators, professors, and staff on how to develop and maintain TAM teams; and provide constant training to supported entities.

Under this effort, these new TAM Teams would:

- Use multidisciplinary teams of trained professionals to assess risk and create management plans for individuals on the pathway to violence;*
- Recognize concerning behaviors and define appropriate escalation protocols;*
- Establish a centralized reporting mechanism to receive reports of concerning behaviors from students and other bystanders; and*
- Educate administrative staff and professors on risk factors and warning signs to identify concerning behaviors early before an escalation to violence.*

Multidisciplinary teams: composed of more than one group that work together to perform complementary tasks to reach a common goal.

Again, “hate speech” and “threatening” words and actions are totally subjective to the person(s) doing the investigation of incident reports. And, to the students that are submitting them.

Let’s take a term that college students and professors just love to use today: microaggression. A microaggression is defined as “*a subtle behavior – verbal or non-verbal, conscious or unconscious – directed at a member of a marginalized group that has a derogatory, harmful effect.*”

Microaggressions are also described as being “thinly veiled, everyday instances of racism, homophobia, and sexism, just to name a few. Sometimes they take the form of insults, other times they can be an errant comment or gesture.

Again, these are very *subjective* terms. A person who does not believe that women can have a penis or that men can become pregnant, give birth and breastfeed a child, could be accused of ‘microaggressions’ and be reported by a trans-activist who feels “threatened” by the other persons words and attitude.

Example: In November 2020, a George Mason University professor found a bible and a religious themed CD in her classroom, inadvertently left by one of her students.

The professor took the items and filed an “incident report” with the university Bias Incident Reporting Team. The complaint: “discrimination” and “harassment” against “religion.”

The professors and the Bias Teams reasoning was that if one student professed to be a follower of one religion, then that could be deemed a microaggression against students that believed in a different religion. Or, that leaving it in a public place where other students could find it is an act of “negative feelings” about another students religious beliefs.

The College Fix, November 18, 2020

Example: The University of Michigan I.T. department created a “Words Matter Task Force” in 2020. Among the words (words can be microaggressions) they found offensive are;

- * picnic – social media rumors claimed the word picnic developed in context with lynching
- * girl and man – offensive to anyone who believes sex is binary or fluid
- * preferred pronouns – prefacing pronouns with any description implies they are a choice, not a biological reality or the reality of a person
- * the use of affectionate terms such as “sweetheart,” “sweetie,” or “honey” – they may be condescending or talking down to someone

The Federalist, December 28, 2020

Example: Students at Harvard University were told that failing to use a person's preferred pronouns could be a violation of the university’s sexual misconduct and harassment policies during a mandatory online Title IX training last month. The training, deemed “Preventing and Responding to Sexual Harassment and Other Sexual Misconduct (Harvard College, 2022-23),” included a “Power and Control Wheel,” a resource tool that helps students stop “sizeism and fatphobia,” “transphobia,” “racism and white supremacy,” and “[c]ultural/[i]denity abuse.”

The Power and Control Wheel clarifies that using the wrong pronouns constitutes abuse and is an “attempt to limit a person’s sense of self based on identity.”

Campus Reform; October 4, 2022

Does anyone want to bet that there will be a significant uptick in incident reports on alleged threats on students of color, LGBTQ+ students and muslims, but much fewer incident reports on white, Catholic or Jewish students? And virtually no incident reports on threats to conservative leaning students?

And of course, our own governor Cathy Hochul had to get in on the act as well, to show her “concern” about hate speech.

Hochul Says NY Is Conducting Social Media ‘Surveillance Efforts’ To Monitor ‘Hate Speech’ Daily Caller, November 13, 2023

<https://dailycaller.com/2023/11/13/antisemitism-ny-hate-speech-hochul-law-enforcement/>

Democratic New York Gov. Kathy Hochul said Monday that the state is “very focused” on collecting data from social media platforms as part of an effort to counter online “negativity” and “hate speech” after a rise in antisemitic attacks.

The New York governor went on to detail the state’s plan “to catch incitement to violence” and “direct threats to others” by monitoring social media activity.

“We’re very focused on the data we’ve been collecting from surveillance efforts – what’s being said on social media platforms. And we have launched an effort to be able to counter some of the negativity and reach out to people when we see hate speech being spoken about on online platforms.”

First, Twitter, Facebook and other online social media platforms were “flagging” posts they determined to be offensive or “misinformation.”

Former Twitter co-founder and CEO Jack Dorsey, a tech billionaire oligarch, and Twitter employees donated exclusively to Democratic candidates during the 2019-2020 election cycle and again in 2022. Since 2017 the vast majority of people who have had their Twitter accounts suspended have been associated with conservative politics. During the pandemic, Twitter flagged countless posts for “misinformation”.

After Elon Musk bought Twitter, he releases several “document dumps” of inside correspondence known as the “Twitter Files”, which showed that Twitter colluded with FBI officials about “how to shut down political speech based on its content.”

Newsweek, December 21, 2022

<https://www.newsweek.com/fbi-colluded-twitter-suppress-free-speech-where-outrage-opinion-1768801>

As previously noted, Facebook also flagged posts they deemed to be offensive or misinformation as well. Facebook tech billionaire oligarch Mark Zuckerberg and other Facebook executives and employees have contributed hundreds of millions of dollars to politicians over the past four years, mostly going to Democratic candidates. During the 2020 election cycle, Zuckerberg sent more than \$400 million to a pair of non-profit organizations which then sent that money to nearly 2,500 county elections offices in 49 states, to help implement pandemic voting changes that included installing unmonitored ballot “drop-boxes”, bulk mailings of mail-in ballots, and funding for temporary staffing and poll workers and extending ballot counting deadlines.

Numerous claims have been made that this money helped Joe Biden win the 2020 election.

<https://nypost.com/2021/10/14/zuckerberg-election-spending-was-orchestrated-to-influence-2020-vote/>

<https://nypost.com/2021/10/13/how-mark-zuckerberg-helped-dems-sway-the-2020-election/>

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2022/apr/12/mark-zuckerbergs-donations-rigged-the-2020-election/>

Then it was found out that Facebook conspired with the Biden administrations attempts to censor “unfavorable views” during the pandemic.

A U.S. District Court Judge issued an injunction barring numerous federal officials and agencies from having any contact with social media firms for the purpose of discouraging or removing First Amendment-protected speech.

<https://www.politico.com/news/2023/07/04/judge-limits-biden-administration-contact-with-social-media-firms-00104656>

Yet this is exactly what governor Hochul now wants to do with alleged anti-muslim and antisemitic “hate speech”. In *Cohen vs. California*, the United States Supreme Court ruled that openly offensive speech and hate speech do not inherently cross into inciting violence or danger, and thus are protected under the United States Constitution.

And this, is the key to whatever approach governor Hochul’s speech police take. Just because someone spews an offensive opinion online, or on campus, does not mean the governor has the right to, as she put it, “reach out to people”. Whatever that means.

Interesting segue....

Reality show *Surviving Barstool* was recently pulled by YouTube. The company demanded that the producer censor content that they deemed “harassment”. Apparently one cast member jokingly said that since anything goes in terms of the show’s rules, then logically he should be able to blow up the house of the show’s host. Despite the hoist laughing at the remark, YouTube still determined a reality TV show remarks worthy of censorship. Really?

But that is where Woke, progressive policies have moved our society today.

Add this effort to surveille social media to governor Hochul’s existing stands on social justice, preference to illegal migrants over taxpaying citizens, gun control legislation and her green agenda push. Governor Hochul is a proven autocrat and Great Reset supporter.

“Once in awhile I get annoyed about the fact that I have no real privacy. No where I can go and not be registered. I know that, somewhere, everything I do, think and dream of is recorded. I just hope that nobody will use it against me.” ^[153]

Its All About Control!

Addenda #5 – November 2023

Re: Ch. 14 Summary

You'll Have No Privacy - It's All About Control

A secret phone surveillance program is spying on millions of Americans

How the government is able to track your every call and invade your privacy

Fox News, November 25, 2023

<https://www.foxnews.com/tech/secret-phone-surveillance-program-is-spying-on-millions-americans>

According to a letter obtained by WIRED, a little-known surveillance program called Data Analytical Services (DAS) has been secretly collecting and analyzing more than a trillion domestic phone records within the U.S. each year. The program, which was formerly known as Hemisphere, is run by the telecom giant AT&T in coordination with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.

The program allows law enforcement agencies to access the records of any calls that use AT&T's infrastructure, which covers a large portion of the country. The records include the phone numbers, dates, times, durations and locations of the calls, as well as the names and addresses of the subscribers.

The DAS program raises serious concerns about the privacy and civil liberties of millions of Americans. It operates without any judicial oversight or public accountability and violates the Fourth Amendment, which protects people from unreasonable searches and seizures.

The program also contradicts the spirit of the USA Freedom Act, which was passed in 2015 to reform the bulk collection of phone records by the National Security Agency (NSA). The act required the NSA to stop collecting phone records in bulk and instead request them from the phone companies on a case-by-case basis with a court order. However, the DAS program bypasses this requirement by allowing AT&T to collect and store the records for law enforcement purposes.

Fact Sheet: Data Analytical Services (DAS) Program (formerly known as Hemisphere)

epic.org: Electronic Privacy Information Center: Fact Sheets

<https://epic.org/documents/fact-sheet-data-analytical-services-das-program-formerly-known-as-hemisphere/>

The Data Analytical Services (DAS) Program, formerly known as the Hemisphere Project, is the largest telephone record collection program reported to date. DAS has largely been funded through the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP).

DAS allows law enforcement personnel at the local, state, and federal levels to access more than a trillion phone records of AT&T customers, as well as anyone else whose communication is routed through an AT&T switch. Unlike the controversial NSA phone records collection program, DAS also collects location information.

- * No Judicial Oversight
- * Trillions of Phone Records Collected
- * No Privacy Impact Assessment
- * Purposely Kept Secret

Addenda #6 – November 2023

Re: Ch. 10 Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)

Consumer Privacy

Challenge to NSA spying pressed

SCOTUSblog, October 28, 2013

<https://www.scotusblog.com/2013/10/challenge-to-nsa-spying-pressed/>

A privacy advocacy group, seeking to keep alive in the Supreme Court its challenge to the federal government's secret sweeps of electronic and digital communication data, argued on Monday that the privacy of "every person in this country" is at stake in the case. It contended that the government — in this case and in lower court cases — is trying to shield the National Security Agency's spying operation from any court review.

*This new filing sets the stage for the Justices to take their first look soon at the case of *In re Electronic Privacy Information Center* (docket 13-58), a rather unusual legal protest that is being pursued directly in the Court, with no prior lower court decision on the challenge. The Obama administration earlier this month asked the Court to deny any relief to EPIC, on a variety of grounds, including procedural arguments.*

The government brief had argued that EPIC had no legal right to pursue its plea directly in the Supreme Court. And, while it added that EPIC could attempt to sue in a lower court, it added that it could try to head off that, too. EPIC's reply brief noted that, in fact, Justice Department lawyers had already made a formal argument in a federal court in New York against allowing the American Civil Liberties Union to challenge the warrantless surveillance program.

What EPIC is seeking from the Justices is a direct order to the FISCourt to wipe out its order to the Verizon telephone company to produce wide-ranging records of telephone and data communications, including those of virtually all Americans. It has asked that the FISCourt be prohibited from continuing to issue such orders.

EPIC noted that, since it filed its case directly in the Supreme Court in July, the government itself has disclosed that the FISCourt "has routinely interpreted key provisions of public law in secret opinions and that there has not been a single challenge to these orders" by anyone up to now.

The National Security Agency collected telephone records of all US customers of Verizon by order of the Obama administration Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (Fisa). "Bulk data collection" of millions of phone calls occurred over a three month period in 2013, continuing the practice originated during the Bush administration, under the guise of "counter-terrorism" efforts.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/jun/06/nsa-phone-records-verizon-court-order>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/interactive/2013/jun/06/verizon-telephone-data-court-order>

EPIC filed a petition to the Supreme Court on July 8, 2013 to end the NSA metadata collection program.

On November 18, 2013 the Supreme Court denied EPIC's petition on procedural grounds, noting that this action should have been filed in federal district court first. The NSA's call-records program officially ended in 2015 after 114th Congress passed the USA FREEDOM Act.

Note: Republicans controlled both houses during the 114th Congress, with the largest Republican majority since 1929-1931. This tells you what American voters in November 2014 thought of Obama administration policies.

On September 2, 2020, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled the NSA's bulk collection of American's phone records was unlawful. A unanimous three-judge panel for the Ninth Circuit found that the warrantless collection of call metadata violated the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) and was possibly unconstitutional under the Fourth Amendment.

Note: The original order to the NSA, labelled "TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN", was a top secret classified document created by the Obama administration Fisa court in 2013. The text of the order included the following statement: "IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that no person shall disclose to any other person that the FBI or NSA has sought or obtained tangible things [meaning "recordings, tapes and the like"] under this order..."
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/interactive/2013/jun/06/verizon-telephone-data-court-order>

There is nothing to stop any present or future administration from doing this again, for as long as it can be kept a secret, and as long as no citizen is prevented from making it public.

It's All About Control!

Addenda #7 – December 2023

Re: Ch. 4 The Fourth Industrial Revolution

Public-Private Partnerships

Digital Certificates – Vaccine Passports

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance helps vaccinate more than half the world's children against deadly and debilitating infectious diseases

“... its mission to save lives and protect people's health by increasing equitable and sustainable use of vaccines”

Under the banner of “efficiently delivering vaccines to millions of children, tracking identity and immunisation records in a digitised manner and incentivising the delivery of vaccines”, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance leading partner and catalyst, and Mastercard acting in the capacity of technology partner, have embarked in a public-private partnership aiming at deploying the Mastercard Wellness Pass for interested Gavi-eligible countries on December 2018.

The Wellness Pass is an interoperable and offline portable health care credential – accessible within a trusted network – that creates continuity of care by allowing a patient's medical data to be stored offline and travel with them on their Mastercard Wellness Pass chip card. Every patient receives this from participating health facilities when they get their first vaccine or health service.

For vaccinators and health workers, the Wellness Pass ensures that the vaccination records are available at any time through participating health facilities, regardless of connectivity, and utilises tokenised biometrics when accepted, or alternatively a pin, to verify service delivery and adhere to vaccination cycles.

Dozens of countries (including the United States; \$4.89 billion), corporations (including Mastercard; \$29.5 million), and organizations (including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; \$1.807 billion) have contributed to vaccine efforts of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. And, to the development and implementation of this vaccine passport.

Will it be coming to the U.S. next?

Addenda #8 – December 2023

Re: Ch. 4 The Fourth Industrial Revolution
Government Abuses of Power

FBI Seized \$86 Million From People Not Suspected of Any Crime. A Federal Court Will Decide if That's Legal.

On Thursday, a federal appeals court will hear about the FBI's "blatant scheme to circumvent" the Fourth Amendment.

Yahoo! News; December 6, 2023

Following a raid in March 2021, federal agents spent days rifling through the personal belongings stored in nearly 1,400 safe deposit boxes seized from a vault in Beverly Hills, California.

The agents were tasked with cataloging the contents of the boxes, but they also seized piles of valuables—gold coins, luxury watches, family heirlooms, and stacks of cash—from people who had not been charged with any crimes.

And they did that despite being told, by the warrant authorizing the raid, that the contents of the safe deposit boxes were off-limits.

Targeting costly meds, Biden admin asserts authority to seize certain drug patents

Politico; December 6, 2023

The Biden administration has determined that it has the authority to seize the patents of certain high-priced medicines, a move that could open the door to a more aggressive federal campaign to slash drug prices. The Biden administration has determined that it has the authority to seize the patents of certain high-priced medicines, a move that could open the door to a more aggressive federal campaign to slash drug prices.

The department will seek public feedback on the framework, which is likely to face sharp opposition from pharmaceutical companies that argue it's illegal for the government to seize its patents and would disincentivize the development of new drugs.

The White House declined to comment.

Fascism: “a political philosophy, movement, or regime (such as that of the Fascisti) that exalts nation and often race above the individual and that stands for a centralized autocratic government headed by a dictatorial leader, severe economic and social regimentation, and forcible suppression of opposition”

It's All About Control!

Addenda #9 – December 2023

Re: Ch. 4 The Fourth Industrial Revolution

Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) / “Fake” People

Manlius woman scammed out of \$30,000 by AI

LocalSyr.com; December 29, 2023

A Town of Manlius woman is out \$30,000 dollars after she fell victim to a popular grandparent scam.

An imposter pretended to be her grandchild in trouble, and pressured her to send money fast. These con artists are so convincing because they used artificial intelligence to clone the voice of her granddaughter.

Someone came to her house to collect some of the money, and the rest was mailed to an address.

They thought loved ones were calling for help. It was an AI scam.

Scammers are using artificial intelligence to sound more like family members in distress. People are falling for it and losing thousands of dollars.

The Washington Post; March 5, 2023

The man calling Ruth Card sounded just like her grandson Brandon. So when he said he was in jail, with no wallet or cellphone, and needed cash for bail, Card scrambled to do whatever she could to help.

Card, 73, and her husband, Greg Grace, 75, dashed to their bank in Regina, Saskatchewan, and withdrew 3,000 Canadian dollars (\$2,207 in U.S. currency), the daily maximum. They hurried to a second branch for more money. But a bank manager pulled them into his office: Another patron had gotten a similar call and learned the eerily accurate voice had been faked, Card recalled the banker saying. The man on the phone probably wasn't their grandson.

That's when they realized they'd been duped.

That panicky call from a relative? It could be a thief using a voice clone, FTC warns

npr; March 22, 2023

Consumers Are Voicing Concerns About AI

Federal Trade Commission; October 3, 2023

Experts say AI scams are on the rise as criminals use voice cloning, phishing and technologies like ChatGPT to trick people

abc News; April 11, 2023

How AI can fuel financial scams online, according to industry experts

"The very technology that empowers us may also imperil us," one said.

abc News; October 11, 2023

Addenda #10 – December 2023

Re: Ch. 4 The Fourth Industrial Revolution

Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) / A.I. “Influencing”

AI language models are rife with different political biases

New research explains you’ll get more right- or left-wing answers, depending on which AI model you ask.

MIT Technology Review; August 7, 2023

Should companies have social responsibilities? Or do they exist only to deliver profit to their shareholders? If you ask an AI you might get wildly different answers depending on which one you ask. While OpenAI’s older GPT-2 and GPT-3 Ada models would advance the former statement, GPT-3 Da Vinci, the company’s more capable model, would agree with the latter.

That’s because AI language models contain different political biases, according to new research from the University of Washington, Carnegie Mellon University, and Xi’an Jiaotong University. Researchers conducted tests on 14 large language models and found that OpenAI’s ChatGPT and GPT-4 were the most left-wing libertarian, while Meta’s LLaMA was the most right-wing authoritarian.

The researchers asked language models where they stand on various topics, such as feminism and democracy. They used the answers to plot them on a graph known as a political compass, and then tested whether retraining models on even more politically biased training data changed their behavior and ability to detect hate speech and misinformation (it did). The research is described in a peer-reviewed paper that won the best paper award at the Association for Computational Linguistics conference last month.

Since the success of ChatGPT, OpenAI has faced criticism from right-wing commentators who claim the chatbot reflects a more liberal worldview. However, the company insists that it’s working to address those concerns, and in a blog post, it says it instructs its human reviewers, who help fine-tune AI the AI model, not to favor any political group. “Biases that nevertheless may emerge from the process described above are bugs, not features,” the post says. Chan Park, a PhD researcher at Carnegie Mellon University who was part of the study team, disagrees. “We believe no language model can be entirely free from political biases,” she says.

How AI will transform the 2024 elections

Brookings Institute; May 3, 2023

AI likely will democratize disinformation by bringing sophisticated tools to the average person interested in promoting their preferred candidates as well. People no longer must be coding experts or video wizards to generate text, images, video, or programs. They don’t necessarily have to work for a troll farm to create havoc with the opposition. They can simply use advanced technologies to spread the messages they want. In that sense, anyone can become a political content creator and seek to sway voters or the media.

Artificial Intelligence Brings ‘Nightmare’ Scenario to 2024 Presidential Campaign: Analysts

With the 2024 presidential election fast approaching and zero federal regulations in place to combat false AI-generated political stunts, voters likely will be left questioning not only what they know but what they see.

U.S. News; July 7, 2023

Candidates, take this AI election pledge. Or 2024 might break us.

Washington Post; October 26, 2023

Deepfaking it: Americas 2024 election collides with AI boom

Reuters; May 30, 2023

"I actually like Ron DeSantis a lot," Hillary Clinton reveals in a surprise online endorsement video. "He's just the kind of guy this country needs, and I really mean that."

Joe Biden finally lets the mask slip, unleashing a cruel rant at a transgender person. "You will never be a real woman," the president snarls.

Welcome to America's 2024 presidential race, where reality is up for grabs. The Clinton and Biden deepfakes - realistic yet fabricated videos created by AI algorithms trained on copious online footage - are among thousands surfacing on social media, blurring fact and fiction in the polarized world of U.S. politics.

While such synthetic media has been around for several years, it's been turbocharged over the past year by of a slew of new "generative AI" tools such as Midjourney that make it cheap and easy to create convincing deepfakes, according to Reuters interviews with about two dozen specialists in fields including AI, online misinformation and political activism.

"It's going to be very difficult for voters to distinguish the real from the fake. And you could just imagine how either Trump supporters or Biden supporters could use this technology to make the opponent look bad," said Darrell West, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution's Center for Technology Innovation.

"There could be things that drop right before the election that nobody has a chance to take down."

In chapter 4, The Fourth Industrial Revolution, I discussed the potential for AI influencing the 2024 U.S. presidential election, in the same manner that social media influenced the 2020 presidential election.

In 2020, it was fake “bots” and “trolls” spreading “disinformation” in posts on social media about the candidates. Some of the disinformation was used to influence voters for one candidate or the other, but much of it was simply to create distrust and dissent between Americans. A 2019 Senate Intelligence Committee investigation discovered that the Kremlin-backed *Internet Research Agency* focused heavily on America's racial divisions

Groups of voters were targeted with disinformation, often to suppress voter turnout. False narratives were pushed claiming “the system is rigged”, and that it’s no point people should participate by voting. Statements like “Democrats and Republicans, they’re all the same, it doesn’t matter”, was intended to promote voter apathy. They didn’t work, however.

The 2020 presidential election had the largest voter turnout in more than forty years, as two-thirds of all registered voters cast ballots despite the pandemic.

“Swing-states” were targeted in the days leading up to the election as well, in an attempt to influence voters for or against candidates.

As influential as social media disinformation was, I believe that posts just reinforced most people’s beliefs (confirmation bias) but probably didn’t change them.

AI generated audio clips, or potentially videos however, could have a definite impact on undecided voters, potentially throwing the election to one candidate through intentionally false positions on key issues.

This could end up being the “October surprise” that sinks a campaign.

Addenda #11 – December 2023

Re: Ch. 4 The Fourth Industrial Revolution

Artificial Intelligence (A.I.)

Nearly 400 car crashes in 11 months involved automated tech, companies tell regulators
npr; June 15, 2022

Automakers reported nearly 400 crashes of vehicles with partially automated driver-assist systems, including 273 involving Teslas, according to statistics released Wednesday by U.S. safety regulators.

The next closest of a dozen automakers that reported crashes was Honda, with 90. Honda says it has about six million vehicles on U.S. roads with such systems. Subaru was next with 10, and all other automakers reported five or fewer.

In a June 2021 order, NHTSA told more than 100 automakers and automated vehicle tech companies to report serious crashes within one day of learning about them and to disclose less-serious crashes by the 15th day of the following month. The agency is assessing how the systems perform and whether new regulations may be needed.

NHTSA also said that five people were killed in the crashes involving driver-assist systems, and six were seriously hurt.

2 robotaxi crashes in San Francisco put focus on autonomous vehicle safety

CBS Bay Area; August 19, 2023

Calls to slow the expansion of robotaxi service grew louder following two overnight crashes in San Francisco. Both involved Cruise driverless cars and one of them collided with a fire engine responding to an emergency.

San Francisco police said that crash happened at around 10:20 pm Thursday night at the intersection of Polk and Turk Streets in the Tenderloin District. Officers said a San Francisco fire truck responding to an emergency collided with the Cruise autonomous cab. There were no injuries to the firefighters but paramedics transported a passenger in the cab to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. Investigators said that, even though the driverless taxi had the green light, it was supposed to yield to an emergency vehicle.

The collisions came a day after San Francisco leaders asked state regulators to halt the expansion of robotaxi service in the city.

They said self-driving cars still have a lot of technical bugs and are not ready for primetime.

The Way We Talk About Self-Driving Cars Is Going To Get People Killed

The dangers of overhyped autonomy are getting too real.

Popular Mechanics; April 11, 2018

Elaine Herzberg was killed last month while crossing the street after dark in Tempe, Arizona. She was hit by a “self-driving vehicle” owned and operated by ride-hailing behemoth Uber.

Note: Police initially blamed the victim for “darting out into traffic”, but video from the vehicle showed she was more than three-quarters of the way across the four-lane road when she was struck. The vehicles sensors failed, and the required human in the driver’s seat (during vehicle testing) was apparently texting when she should have been paying attention.

Report: Tesla autopilot Involved in 736 Crashes since 2019

Car and Driver; June 13, 2023

- NHTSA data on crashes involving driver-assistance technology show that more people have been getting injured and killed since Tesla expanded the use of its Full Self-Driving technology.
- The *Washington Post* analyzed NHTSA's numbers and found that Autopilot was involved in 736 crashes since 2019, including 17 fatalities.
- NHTSA is currently investigating how the Autopilot technology interacts with stopped emergency vehicles, something that has been a known problem for years.

Driverless cars: stopping dead seems to be a default setting when they encounter a problem — it can cause chaos on roads

The Conversation; January 3, 2024

Cruise, the robotaxi company owned by General Motors, recently had its operational license in California suspended after just two months of fare-charging operations. The company subsequently halted operations across the US and their CEO soon departed.

This followed several high-profile incidents. In October, a Cruise vehicle dragged a pedestrian to the side of the street after they were hit by another car. As the company's website explained: "The AV detected a collision, bringing the vehicle to a stop; then attempted to pull over to avoid causing further road safety issues, pulling the individual forward approximately 20 feet."

These incidents highlight a tendency by self-driving cars to stop in the middle of the road as soon as they encounter perceived problems. As human motorists will know, is not always safe to do so and can cause even bigger problems on the road.

This behaviour by the car's software goes to the heart of a deeper challenge: how can self-driving cars be designed so that their understanding of driving and behaviour on the road is as good as a humans?

Automated Vehicles for Safety

United States Department of Transportation website

Benefits

SAFETY

"Vehicle safety promises to be one of automation's biggest benefits. Higher levels of automation, referred to as automated driving systems, remove the human driver from the chain of events that can lead to a crash. While these systems are not available to consumers today, the advantages of this developing technology could be far-reaching."

The irony of that statement is striking!